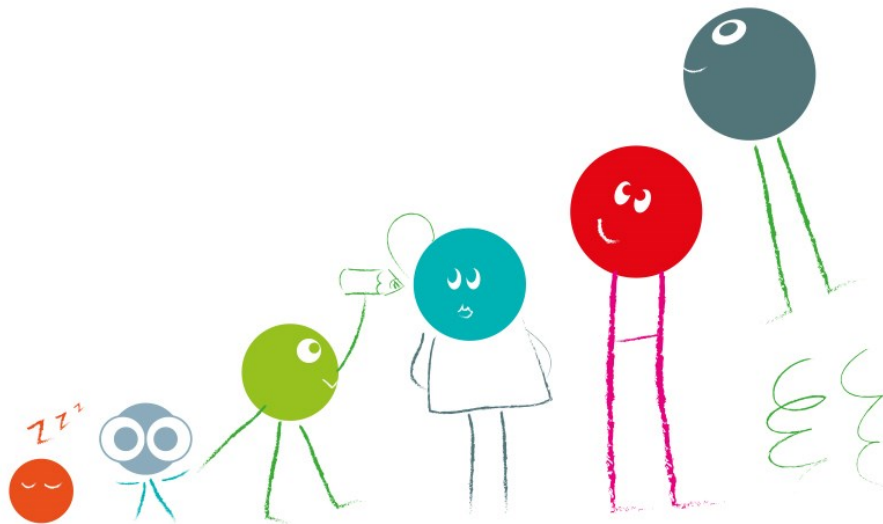




Early Years and Childcare Excellence

Early Years and Childcare Bulletin

July 2017



Kent County Council

Early Years and Childcare Service

Contents

Page 2	Welcome and Introduction Alex Gamby
Page 3	News and Updates
Page 8	Threads of Success Training and Services
Page 11	Contact Us

Welcome and Introduction Alex Gamby, Head of Early Years and Childcare

Welcome to the Term Six edition of the Early Years and Childcare Bulletin. I am pleased to bring you headline news in relation to our Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning (EFICL) Toolkit and Threads of Success and an update on Kent's new Education Services Company.

EFICL Wins a Second Award

We are delighted to announce that our EFICL Toolkit has won a second prestigious award, the maximum five star rated 'Early Years Excellence Award in the CPD Resource category. Judges were impressed by the 'diverse, practical and 'hands-on' nature of the toolkit'.

Threads of Success

We are pleased to be able to feedback the outcomes of our recent review of Threads of Success which includes a refresh and also some reductions in prices. Please see page 8 of this bulletin for details. Thank you to those who took part in focus groups and responded to the survey.

Education Services Company Update

Appointment of an Interim Chief Executive

We continue to make progress in setting up our new Education Services Company. This involves setting up the Company Board and recruiting to the new executive posts. We expect the Company to go live early in 2018.

Whilst we progress the recruitment of the permanent executive team, Graham Willett, Interim Director of Education Quality and Standards is acting as the interim Chief Executive for the company.

Interim Chair and Non-Executive Directors for the Company Board

As we take steps to set up the Company Board we will be operating with an interim Chair and identifying its non-executive directors (NEDs).

Tim Byles will act as the interim Chair of the Company Board and offers extensive experience of the commercial and public sectors and leadership expertise. Tim is currently Chief Executive of Cornerstone Assets, a social investment company, and was previously Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools. Prior to this, Tim was Chief Executive at Norfolk County Council.

As interim Chair, Tim's role will include setting up the interim board and being involved in the appointment of the CEO, Finance Director and the NEDs. He will be acting as a critical friend of the Company's strategic objectives and providing appropriate challenge to the interim executive team. The Chair must also provide advice in relation to business development and growth and act as an ambassador for the Company by promoting it externally.

We are still in the process of identifying independent NEDs which will include representation from Early Years and Childcare providers.

Whilst the interim executive team is already meeting, it is our intention for the interim Company Board to start meeting in September. We expect to have a name and brand agreed by late July and at that point we will register the company. We are making good progress.

News and Updates

A MUST READ reminder from the Safeguarding in Education Team

As the children in settings leave to start in their new schools, please do not forget about the importance of transferring welfare records with them.

The statutory guidance for schools, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016, which the EYFS 2017 advises is also helpful for settings, reminds us that child protection files should be "*transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained*".

Understanding the importance of good record keeping, including the transferral of files, is a key responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in your setting and something Ofsted will consider in an inspection. It may be useful to ask, "Would I want to know the history of a child when they join my setting?" to remind yourself of why transferring records to the new school is so important.

Further guidance on maintaining good record keeping systems can be found [here](#) on KELSI.

Useful Website

[Let's Talk About It](#) is a new website which is a very good resource to dispel myths and rumours relating to Prevent and Channel particularly given the recent tragic terrorist incidents. The website has been developed by Luton Local Authority and is supported by the Home Office.

Management Information 30 Hours Update

The KCC Management Information Unit is currently working on the process for September 2017. We will send out emails to all providers as soon as we have further information on how the funding should be claimed.

If your web contact email address has changed recently and you have not informed us please email eyfe@kent.gov.uk so we can amend your information and ensure that you all receive the updates.

Disability Access Fund (DAF): Information for Early Years Providers:

From April 2017 the Government has introduced new funding for Early Years providers, the **Disability Access Fund** (DAF), to support children with disabilities or special educational needs.

The DAF aids access to Early Years places, for example, by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision.

Eligibility for Disability Access Fund (DAF)

Three and four year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria: the child is in receipt of child **Disability Living Allowance** (DLA) and the child receives universal or extended free early education and childcare entitlement.

Identifying eligible children

Early Years providers are responsible for identifying eligible children by talking to parents in order to find out who is eligible for the DAF.

Funding is paid at £615 per year and is paid to **one childcare provider** nominated by the parent.

For more details and to download a claim form, please click here: [DAF Claim Form](#).

SEN Inclusion Fund - SENIF (formerly SCARF)

From April 2017 it is now a **statutory** requirement for all local authorities to provide additional top up support for settings supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be known as the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) from term 6 and will replace SCARF.

With the implementation of the extended entitlement (30 Hours), there will be a considerable impact on the budget allocated for SENIF which will not be increased.

Feedback from the Early Years and Childcare Service – the Equality and Inclusion Questionnaire, the STLS EY Questionnaire,

shaped the new proposal that was shared with the Kent SEND Review 0-5 that took place on April 4th 2017.

The key changes are:

- SENIF funding if agreed will usually be for up to one year and will be paid monthly, directly into setting bank accounts - no need for invoices
- Applications can be made at any time in the year, there will not be any deadline dates. Applications will be considered as they are received
- There will be two different levels of funding depending on need
- A county process will be implemented to decide on the level of support.

KCC has provided **non statutory** funding through SCARF and will continue to fund any agreed support until the end of term 6 this year.

It is non statutory to provide SENIF for two year olds in receipt of Nursery Education Entitlement but Kent will **continue** to fund support for these children up to a maximum of 15 hours.

The new process will take place from September 2017 with agreements made on the new paperwork in term 6.

All forms and guidance will be available on KELSI and must be completed electronically, attached to a secure email and sent to SENIF@kent.gov.uk and copied to the Early Years Specialist Teacher or Portage worker involved with the child.

Egress Secure Email

If a secure email is not available, paperwork must be sent by recorded delivery to the County SENIF Funding Officer and Early Years STLS or Portage. Secure emails can be accessed for free until the end of July through Egress. Email Karen McKinley karen.mckinley@kent.gov.uk

Training sessions have been offered to all settings by District in term 5.

Workforce Development Conference

The Government published its Early Years Workforce Strategy in March 2017. The strategy seeks to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing the Early Years workforce.

KCC's Early Years and Childcare Service is planning to hold a 'Workforce' conference to explore the key elements of the strategy, in addition to a focus on SEN. This will take place in November 2017.

We will be sending out more information on the programme and joining arrangements in due course.



Committee News – Informing Ofsted of Changes to Committee Members

Recent Ofsted inspections of Committee run settings have highlighted the inconsistencies with regard to Committee members' suitability checks. Please ensure that you follow the procedure as outlined below for all new and retiring Committee Members, or contact your Childcare Sufficiency Officer if you require additional support.

Informing Ofsted of ALL changes to committee members (EY3)

Settings must inform Ofsted of new appointments and resignations of all committee members and managers **within 14 days** by telephoning Ofsted directly and following this up with an email or by completing an [EY3 form](#). The nominated individual at the setting should contact Ofsted.

Please note that a registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with these requirements commits an offence.

If the EY3 form is completed, it must be completed by hand (in black ink) or on screen and then posted to Ofsted (the address is provided on page one of the EY3 form) as it cannot yet be submitted through their online services. Please remember to send page one with the rest of the document as this is required for scanning purposes and the information you provide cannot be processed without it. It is advisable that all correspondence sent to Ofsted should be 'signed for' and copies of all documentation and postage receipts kept as proof that you have notified Ofsted.

DBS and EY2 procedure for NEW committee members

For ALL new committee members, the following steps are required:

1. A DBS Disclosure application must be made through the [Ofsted DBS Application Portal](#)
2. As soon as a DBS Certificate number has been issued, join the [DBS Update Service](#) within 19 days of receipt of the DBS
3. The EY2 form must be completed [online](#) (this cannot be done manually so please discard any old forms you may have as they will not be processed)

Committee members are required to pay a small administrative charge for the DBS Disclosure Certificate but they do not pay for the update service which is free to volunteers.

The setting must keep a record of all DBS Disclosure numbers and Ofsted's confirmation of suitability following the EY2 process.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile Moderation Exemplification Materials

The [EYFS Profile Moderation Exemplification](#) materials are a series of materials for practitioners which establish the national standard for the level of learning and development expected at the end of the EYFS. There are materials for each of the 17 Early Learning Goals of the EYFS profile.

Practitioners can use the exemplification materials to ensure their judgements are accurate and consistent by considering each child's learning and development in the light of:

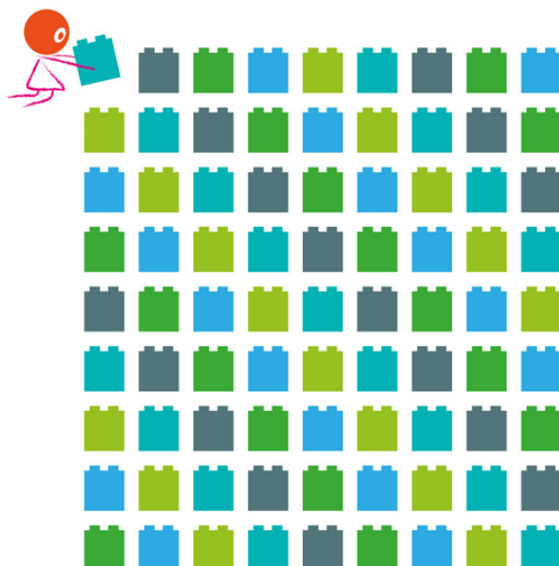
- the area of learning
- the level of development expected at the end of EYFS for each ELG, informed by the exemplification.

Kent Children and Families Information Service How can CFIS help you as a provider?

We can:

- Advertise your setting's details online, via email or through our advice line to families looking for childcare in your area
- Support all childcare providers no matter what the enquiry and offer advice, information and assistance whenever needed

If you need to contact us about any of the above please call 03000 41 23 23 or email us at kentcfis@kent.gov.uk





This summer, libraries everywhere are encouraging children to help solve a mystery. The annual Summer Reading Challenge, for ages 4-11, encourages children to have fun reading over the summer holidays.

**In All Kent Libraries from 15 July – 16 September
It's FREE and it's FUN!**

Children will receive a special folder which introduces the mystery and the Animal Agents who are trying to solve it. The challenge is to read at least 6 books over the summer (whatever children choose) and collect special stickers along the way. The stickers have amazing artwork by Tony Ross - some have scratch and sniff smells too! They fit into the Animal Agents folder, and collecting them all solves the mystery. On finishing, children receive a certificate and a medal (while stocks last). There are other Animal Agents themed incentives and activities as well – check them out at your local library!

Last year nearly 18,000 Kent children got involved in the Summer Reading Challenge.

"I really enjoyed getting my medal. I was leaping around the library. I liked deciding how many stars to give to each book after I read it".

"The incentive of winning a medal really helped motivate my son to get through the books as he often lacks confidence in his ability to read".

Find out more on the website www.animal-agents.org.uk

Contact your [local library](#) for information on local events and activities that support the challenge.

The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge, delivered by libraries, gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to maintain their reading skills and confidence.

**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Threads of Success Training and Services

Threads of Success

As reported at the June Briefing and Networking Sessions our recent review of Threads of Success has prompted some changes which will come into effect shortly. Our products and services will remain as diverse but are being reorganised into a reduced number of Threads as follows:

- Support for New Providers
- A Successful Business
- Leadership and Management
- Early Years Foundation Stage: Enhancing Learning Throughout
- Early Years Foundation Stage: Babies and Under Twos
- Early Years Foundation Stage: Two Year Olds
- Early Years Foundation Stage and beyond: Out of School Provision
- Equality and Inclusion
- Parent and Family Involvement
- Continuous Improvement

We are also pleased to announce that following your feedback, prices will be restructured from 17 July 2017. Full details, terms and conditions will shortly be available on the Threads of Success website.

Improvement and Achievement Award

The Threads of Success Improvement and Achievement Award enables leaders and practitioners to evaluate and reflect on their own practice and to bring about quality improvement in the setting with the aim of improving outcomes for children and strengthening leadership for learning. The scheme enables staff to gain further confidence, motivation, greater knowledge, new skills, recognition and gives the opportunity to work collaboratively.



It is reported that there is a high correlation between settings taking part in the scheme and an improvement in Ofsted judgements. 60% of settings on our 2016-17 cohort received Outstanding judgements while completing the award, the remaining 40% all secured a Good judgement.

“It has been the most rewarding process and inspired staff to continue using the Threads of Success Award format to look at other areas and continue our journey to improve the setting.” Ladybird’s Preschool, Canterbury.

More importantly, the contribution of high quality Early Years experiences is critical to ensure the best outcomes for children as they reach the end of Reception year in school and develop their readiness as lifelong learners. The scheme aims to improve outcomes for children by increasing their levels of learning and development and by narrowing achievement gaps, so that all children and young people achieve their potential and become motivated learners.

We are currently gathering expressions of interest from settings and Out of School providers to start the award in September 2017. To ensure you select the right level for your setting you are asked to complete a self-evaluation tool to identify the ideal level - developing, establishing or enhancing. The enhancing level would be particularly suited for those providers aiming to secure an Outstanding judgement at their next inspection.

For more information or to join the Award please visit our web page (prices shortly to be updated in line with Threads price review as explained above).

Website

Our website has been in place for almost a year now and we would like to know your thoughts on the site and the service in general. We would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete our survey, so that we can improve and develop the service further.

[Emporium Plus Survey](#)

Reserving Resources

We are pleased to announce that our reservation function is working so please follow the steps below:

1. Click on the picture of the resource you would like and, if you are logged in, this will allow you to click the 'reserve' button.
2. Emporium Plus will then receive notification that you would like this resource and will begin the sourcing process.
3. Once the resource is available, you will receive an email notification to ask if you would still like it.

Delivery will be made at a mutually agreed time.

Please note: the resource you want may be at the other end of the county and, to keep costs low, we may need to collect them when we are next in that area, so you could possibly wait longer than your 10 working days for delivery. You will be notified of this.

Tables and Chairs for Training Events

Are you still sitting on child sized chairs for your training events? At the end of a long day, you want to be more comfortable.

As an Emporium Plus member, you can order up to 6 round tables (for up to 5 people) and up to 30 fold-up chairs for FREE. This does not come off your loan entitlement. All we ask is that you order in plenty of time for your event and that you can store them the day before and until we can arrange a collection. If you are not a member a loan and delivery charge will apply.

Please contact us for more details on 03000 42 23 55 or emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk



Time to Talk Technology 'Exploring Technology in the Early Years'

In Kent we have seen an increase in the number of Ofsted recommendations relating to children's use of technology, with reports highlighting that the lack of technological opportunities is preventing settings gaining an Outstanding judgement. Good Ofsted reports are highlighting the following:

The setting is not yet Outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to extend children's understanding and interest in technology further
- Staff do not give children enough opportunities to build as far as possible on their growing knowledge and understanding of everyday technology
- Opportunities for children to explore technology are not available at times, particularly to build on children's interest and awareness of how things work.

In an analysis of Early Years reports published in the month of May 2017, 24% had recommendations relating to technology. These include:

- increase opportunities for children to experience a greater range of technology during their play
- extend opportunities for children to investigate and learn more about using technology
- enhance the technology resources available for Early Years children, to help them continue developing their knowledge about the world in which they live.

Our new '[Time to Talk Technology - Exploring Technology in the Early Years](#)' workshop will support you in ensuring your provision offers a range of opportunities for children to experience technology, identify how we can use technology to support all areas of learning and development, discuss how to work in partnership with parents to offer balanced learning opportunities, explore what we mean when we talk about technology resources and allow you to explore a number of resources provided by [Emporium Plus](#).

Briefing and Networking Sessions

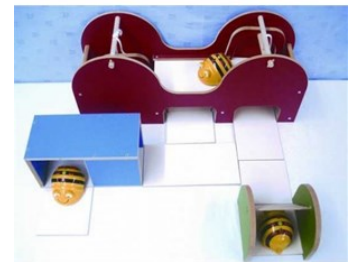
We apologise to those of you who attended the East Kent Briefing at Whitstable Castle for the uncomfortable conditions and the IT issues encountered. We have made the venue aware that we were dissatisfied with the room size allocated for the number of delegates, as well as the lack of ventilation in the room. We will be seeking alternative venues for future sessions.

The slides for the June 2017 sessions are now on [KELSI](#)

October Briefing and Networking dates will shortly be published on KELSI:

EYC 17/165	09/10/17	Oakwood House Hotel
EYC 17/166	11/10/17	The Ark Christian Centre
EYC 17/167	12/10/17	The Coniston Sittingbourne
EYC 17/168	17/10/17	Inn on the Lake

We look forward to seeing you at one of these venues.



Contact Us

Threads of Success	www.ThreadsofSuccess.co.uk ThreadsofSuccess@kent.gov.uk
Sufficiency and Sustainability	Sufficiencyandsustainability@kent.gov.uk
Free for 2 (FF2) Team	Eyfreefor2@kent.gov.uk
30 Hours of Free Childcare	30HoursFreeChildcare@kent.gov.uk
Improvement and Standards	EYCImprovementServices@kent.gov.uk
Equality and Inclusion	EYInclusion@kent.gov.uk
Collaborations	EYCollaborations@kent.gov.uk
Emporium Plus	Emporiumplus@kent.gov.uk
Workforce Development	Earlyyearsworkforce.ask@kent.gov.uk
Kent Children and Families Information Service	Kentcfis@kent.gov.uk
Management Information	eyfe@kent.gov.uk
KELSI	http://www.kelsi.org.uk
Schools e-bulletin	http://www.kelsi.org.uk/ working_in_education/news.aspx

The Early Years and Childcare Bulletin is compiled and edited by Kent County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service. The next issue will be published in term 1.