

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Schools urged to sign up for breakfast clubs

The Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi has urged schools to sign up for breakfast clubs. As well as the social benefits, clubs can indirectly benefit children's reading, writing and maths results.

**Source:** The *i* paper, page 4, 2 November 18.

### Shared reading activities: new free resources from LuCiD

LuCiD (the ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development) has produced a range of new free resources aimed at parents, caregivers and early years practitioners to help support families with shared reading activities. The resources can be accessed at <http://www.lucid.ac.uk/resources/for-practitioners/supporting-families-with-shared-reading-activity-in-the-home/>.

**Have your say on Monitoring Language Development:** LuCiD is also running a survey aimed at early years professionals, helping to understand how different settings monitor children's language development. You can access the survey here

[https://livpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dm2Mp8IEDXu85iR](https://livpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm2Mp8IEDXu85iR).

### Multi-million investment to support children's early communication skills

DFE is seeking national and regional training providers to improve children's early language and literacy, and boost home learning, as part of a new project. Organisations will get a share of the funding to boost parents' confidence with learning at home, drawing on data that shows a lack of skill or fear of embarrassment can discourage them from interacting in this way. Grants will also go towards improving the training available for professionals working with young children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

**Find out more:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-investment-to-support-childrens-early-communication-skills> and <https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/news/supporting-home-learning/>.

### *Prevention is better than cure* – a vision for health

A new policy document from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) looks at factors in childhood affecting health outcomes in later life, and outlines government action to improve health outcomes, through pregnancy, childbirth, and childhood. The goal is to improve healthy life expectancy by at least 5 extra years, by 2035, and to close the gap between the richest and poorest.

**More information:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/753688/Prevention\\_is\\_better\\_than\\_cure\\_5-11.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/753688/Prevention_is_better_than_cure_5-11.pdf).

**Source:** Early Childhood Unit (ECU) Bulletin, November 2018.

## Early years provision: LGA survey results June 2018

The Local Government Association has published local authority survey responses on recent central government changes to funding and policy in the early years sector. The survey focused on the 5% cap on central spend, maintained nursery schools, early years entitlements, provision for disadvantaged children and early years practitioners. The results can be found at

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/FINAL%20Early%20Years%20Survey%20report.pdf>.

**Source:** Early Childhood Unit (ECU) Bulletin, November 2018.

**Link:** <https://www.local.gov.uk/early-years-provision-survey-results-june-2018>.

## A crying shame: a report on vulnerable babies in England

Nearly 20,000 children under one year old were identified as “in need” according to local authority data in March 2017. This report from the Children’s Commissioner for England looks at the implications, risks and issues of this sobering statistic.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-Crying-Shame.pdf>.

**Source:** Early Childhood Unit (ECU) Bulletin, November 2018.

## Changes to Education Inspection Framework announced

Amanda Spielman, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector, has announced details of planned changes to the way Ofsted inspects schools, colleges, further education institutions and early years settings from September 2019. In January, Ofsted will launch a consultation on the new inspection framework.

Find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chief-inspector-sets-out-vision-for-new-education-inspection-framework>.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Early Years Funding (EYF) consultation 2019-2020

The consultation document outlines the proposals for Early Years Funding, and the accompanying survey will allow you to comment on the proposals. The local authority will use the responses received to adjust the Cambridgeshire Early Years Funding Formula for 2019 – 2020, and will publish the results of the survey and proposed recommendations for final comment in advance of presenting the final recommendations to Cambridgeshire Schools Forum in February 2019.

**More information can be found at:** <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/early-years-&-childcare-providers-support/early-years-funding-consultation/>

### SEND review reaches Huntingdonshire

Settings in the Huntingdonshire district may receive a request for a visit as part of the Council’s SEND review project. Experienced staff from the Cambridge Early Years Teaching School will be visiting settings rated “good” and “outstanding” in the area to talk to you about SEN provision, use of funding and other aspects of supporting children with SEND. The aim is to improve our support and the sector capacity, identifying good practice to disseminate.

## **Childcare Demand workshops**

Thank you to those providers who were able to attend our recent workshops around meeting the childcare demand in some of our “hot spot” areas for childcare sufficiency. We gained some valuable insights from your participation, and are working on plans for a “Partnership Mark” to recognise providers who collaborate to deliver free entitlements to meet parental demand.

## ***Developing Communication, Language and Literacy***

### **Let’s Talk – Early Years Conference 2019**

We are delighted to inform you that our Early Years Conference is now open for bookings! **‘Let’s Talk... Narrowing the word Gap in Early Years’** will be held **Thursday 7 March** and **Friday 8 March 2019** (*two identical days, book one day only*) at the Marriott Hotel, Huntingdon. The Conference has an overall theme of communication, language and literacy.

**BREAKING NEWS:** our keynote speakers will be **Di Chilvers from Early Excellence** and **Prof. Kathy Sylva**.

For further information, please visit our **Conferences** page and click on **Early Years Conference** <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/conferences-and-events>.

### **SALT offer**

Our partners in the Speech and Language Therapy service have been running a series of introductory sessions over the term explaining how they can support providers to identify children’s communication needs and support them to develop. They will continue to seek to work with settings over the year. For more details, see <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/send/send/> and click on “Further Information”.

### ***Accelerating Achievement***

#### **Social Mobility Peer Review – follow-up**

Around 50 professionals from schools, settings, health and local authority early years support services met at Hinchbrook Country Park on 6 November, to review the findings from the Social Mobility Peer Review for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The feedback from this review has helped inform the range of partnership working activity, which will be taken forward as part of developing an early years strategy to join up health and local authority provision across the two areas.

### **Forest School Qualifications training launching next term!**

We have gone through a robust selection process, and are pleased to inform you that Huathe is now our **Preferred Forest School Training Provider**. If you attended the Forest School Conference this year, you will recognise Carol and Elisabeth, who delivered the key note as well as workshops. They have delivered Forest School training for many years and have a sound knowledge about early years.

The Forest School Qualifications training is suitable for schools and settings. They are run locally, and we have planned courses for the next year, with a **Level 3** in the autumn, **Level 2** in the spring and a **Level 2 and 3** in the summer.

This is a great step forward and we are now in the process of establishing some Forest School Hubs and the next Forest School Conference, April 2019 will be at Wildawood, which is an early years provider with a true Forest School ethos.

For more information, contact Heather Jebb, [heather.jebb@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:heather.jebb@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or [QualityAssuranceTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:QualityAssuranceTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**More information:** <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/forest-school/forest-school-qualifications-training/>.

An increasing body of research suggests regular Forest School provision offers real benefits for children's development and resilience.

## Forest School Conference 2019

Our Forest School Conference on 27 April 2019 is open for bookings! To secure your place, visit our Conference page at <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/conferences-and-events/forest-school-conference/>.

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker Lily Horseman, who will focus on 'How does the ethos of Forest School impact on the day to day delivery'.

Our range of workshops are:

- Play in nature and the nature of play – Lily Horseman (Kindling and Chair of FSA)
- A sharp knife is a safe knife – Carol Middleton (huathe)
- Muddy Music: bringing songs and rhythms to Forest School – Elizabeth Swift (huathe)
- Building nature connection with sensory games – Ian Henderson (Forest School Adventures)

## New faces on CASEY

We are delighted to welcome new providers onto our online assessment system (CASEY) this term. The current edition of [Jigsaw](#) features a profile of how one setting has used it to change the way they track children's progress.

Support visits can be requested on any aspect of operating CASEY by contacting [CASEY.earlyyears@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:CASEY.earlyyears@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## Effective Support for Children and Families in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Thresholds) Document

Please find attached the updated Effective Support for Children and Families in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Thresholds) Document which can also be found on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board's website.

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/procedures/threshold-document/>

This new guidance replaces the previous Threshold Document (2017) and is the result of consultation with practitioners from a wide range of partners who work with children, young people and their families, including schools, health colleagues from a range of different organisations, early years' settings, the police and a number of representatives from the voluntary sector. There were a number of differences between the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough versions of thresholds, so it was felt it important to, where possible, to ensure there was a consistency across the two areas.

Also attached is a new guidance document about good and poor referrals.

## ***Workforce recruitment and retention***

### **Making eycJobs work better for providers**

We are currently reviewing our early years jobs website for Cambridgeshire providers, eycJobs (<https://www.teachincambs.org.uk/eycjobs/>). Please get in touch via our usual address [EYCJobs@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:EYCJobs@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) with any feedback or comments on the site.

In the meantime, please continue to make use of the site, and promote it.

### **Qualifications – Early Years and Childcare Training Centre**

Our dedicated training centre delivers qualifications throughout the year in different locations depending on uptake and demand. The next courses are planned to start in the summer term. Current qualifications being offered:

- Level 2 Certificate: Introduction to Early Years Education and Care
- Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)
- Level 4 Certificate for the Early Years Advanced Practitioner

For more information on the above qualifications and entry requirements go to <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/workforce-development/early-years-and-childcare-training-centre/> or refer to the annual training programme.

If you are considering participating in qualification training please contact us at [eyctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:eyctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

### **Gateway course – explore a career in Childcare**

The *Gateway to a Career in Childcare* is a free course aimed at people considering childcare as a career.

Potential childcare workers can attend an introductory day to learn about careers in the sector. Those wishing to learn more are invited to attend 4 additional sessions about careers and pathways, spread over 4 term-time weeks. Over the weeks, sessions will explore different aspects of the role of the childcare practitioner. By the end of the Gateway course, learners will be able to make an informed decision about pursuing a career working with children.

We also offer support to secondary schools to young people considering childcare as a career. If you are interested in what we offer please email the team at [eyctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:eyctraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

### ***News from the Hub***

Many of our practitioners are now part of our growing range of **Knowledge Hub** communities. There are groups for everyone and we have printed a helpful summary below. Here are some of the recent items shared on the Knowledge Hub:

- Lots of new documents uploaded in *Early Years SEN Coordinators*, including seasonal advice on Christmas activities and a range of guidance on Education Health and Care plans.
- The *Playwork Quality Framework Forum* has an interesting thread on sugar content and drinks to serve.
- The *Early Years Leaders (PVI)* group has new posts updating on EY2 and DBS checks as well as a prompt about the new BBC tv series on Babies.

- The Schools' Group ***EYFS Leaders (Cambridgeshire)*** has all the latest on the 2019 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) as well as the notes of the recent Foundation Stage Leaders briefing and a research poll around Forest School activity.
- Our recently created ***Cambridgeshire Childminders*** now has a well-stocked library of useful documents on maintaining quality and managing your childminding business effectively.
- The brand new ***Cambridgeshire Playworkers*** has details of the Just Play Conference and is waiting for your views and input!
- Our most popular group, ***Designated Person for Child Protection (PVI)***, has details of the forthcoming Child Protection Information Networks (CPINs) as well as the new Effective Support (Thresholds) document featured above.

Practitioners are warmly invited to sign up to all groups relevant to them. Sign up to Knowledge Hub at <https://khub.net> and then apply to join the groups you wish to be part of.

Please ensure you apply to join the correct group/s, as membership requests cannot be transferred.

The following groups are open to Cambridgeshire providers

***For Quality Framework***

**Cambridgeshire County Council Early Years Quality Framework** (for day nurseries and pre-schools, gives access to electronic versions of documents)

**Cambridgeshire County Council Playwork Quality Framework** (for out of school clubs and holiday schemes, gives access to electronic versions of documents)

**Cambridgeshire Childminders**

***For general information exchange***

**Cambridgeshire Early Years and Childcare: Designated Person for Child Protection (PVI)**

**Cambridgeshire County Council Early Years Leaders (PVI)**

**Cambridgeshire Early Years SEN Coordinators**

**Cambridgeshire Playworkers**

**EYFS Leaders (Cambridgeshire)** – for EYFS leaders in schools

## **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board Good and Poor Referrals Guidance**

### **A Good Referral**

- Is typed electronically
- Uses clear, simple language
- Provides detail, such as:
  - telephone numbers
  - previous assessments
  - father's name of an unborn child
- Provides context
- Is accurate and evidence-based
- Includes specific details and times
- Has spoken to the child (and parents where appropriate)
- Provides specific information relevant to the agency doing the referral, for example: School attendance, Health visits
- Referral form is submitted to Childrens Social Care as soon as a disclosure or incident occurs e.g. in the morning
- Completes all appropriate sections in the referral form

### **A Poor Referral**

- Handwriting is difficult to read, poor spelling
- Uses jargon or acronyms
- Very short with no detail -It is not clear if the concern is in the past or present.
- No contact details means Childrens Social Care has to chase for information
- Does not provide context –for example how often has this happened?
- It's not clear who / what / where, and encourages assumptions
- It is not clear what action the agency has taken or what their concerns are
- The referral is delayed, meaning opportunities to speak to the child or collect evidence are lost
- Leaves gaps