

## Early Years Education and Skills Hub Newsletter- February 2025

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### Important changes to One Front Door

From **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025** the One Front Door form will be turned off.

This will mean a change to the ways you refer to MASH and Early Help. Please read through the following information and make sure that you update your policies, procedures, notice boards and parent information etc

**Social Care:** If you are worried about a child or believe a child to be at risk of any kind of harm please select social care. Social services have a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and can provide a wide range of services to children and their parents, usually within the own home environment and co-ordinated by a social worker. If you are worried about a child because they are at risk of harm and wish to speak to someone, you can contact Doncaster Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by calling [01302 737777](tel:01302737777) in the **evening or at weekends call [01302 796000](tel:01302796000)**.

You will no longer be required to follow a referral up in writing. Please make sure that you keep an accurate record of any concerns you have passed on including who you spoke to and the date and time of the call. Also record any next steps or actions agreed within the call.

## **Beginning the Early Help Process:**

If a family has agreed to Early Help and you would like the Early Help pathway opened to you as Lead Practitioner, make contact with your local Early Help Coordinator directly or via their duty line: **01302 736250** or [earlyhco@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhco@doncaster.gov.uk)

If a family has agreed to Early Help and you are unsure who is the appropriate Lead Practitioner or believe the family would benefit from this being a worker from specialist service, please phone the Early Help Hub duty line on **01302 734110**.

And

**Always call 999 if someone is in immediate danger.**

## **EYFSP – Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for Children in FS2**

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Profile handbook](#), enabling children to use their established or preferred mode of communication, such as signing or other non-verbal methods for all Early Learning Goals (ELGs). This includes the "speaking" ELG, which previously emphasised spoken language.

The change, announced on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, reflects growing recognition of diverse communication needs in early education, ensuring inclusivity for children who are non-speaking or use alternative methods to express themselves.

Early years practitioners welcomed the amendment, stating it ensures equitable assessment while honouring each child's unique abilities. The updated handbook advises educators to consider a child's individual communication mode when evaluating progress.

The move aligns with the DfE's broader commitment to fostering accessibility and inclusion, enabling all children to thrive and demonstrate their learning in ways that suit them best.

It is a statutory duty for schools, settings and childminders to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for each child who is coming to the end of their foundation year, prior to moving into Key Stage 1.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June will be the deadline for this to be submitted to the City of Doncaster Council. More details to follow.

## New Early Years and Wraparound Toolkits- Childcare Works

Childcare Works have recently launched two amazing new information toolkits for both Early Years and Wraparound providers - [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#) and [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#).

These toolkits have been curated by experts to bring together everything you need to grow, sustain or start, your childcare provision. It is designed for all types of providers at any stage of their journey. Whether you are just starting out, are sustaining your provision, or growing, you will find informative, relevant content. With content curated by experts, you will find a wealth of useful and relevant information, all in one place.

The toolkits contain information specific to operating childcare provision including expert marketing, HR and leadership and management, partnership working and more.

Content is organised into six 'topics' with each topic divided into sub-topics:

- Business Planning
- Business Growth
- Running of Your Childcare Provision
- Leadership and Management
- Partnership Working
- SEND and Inclusive Practice

Access these two amazing toolkits at [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#) and [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)

## Don't miss out on your share of wraparound funding!

The first year of the Wraparound Project delivery will be coming to a close at the end 5<sup>th</sup> April 25, with just one more year of the project still to be delivered. This means that only applications received before the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 will receive the full amount of funding available. Applications after this date will only be eligible for one year of funding, instead of two full years of funding.

Schools, childminders and PVI are all able to take advantage of this wraparound funding, enabling you to better meet the needs of families and offer a flexible approach to childcare.

There are many benefits of having a wraparound provision – these include:

- Access to potential new markets which you may not have previously reached.
- It provides an additional revenue stream which may increase your overall profitability.
- It increases business sustainability as your financial 'risk' is spread over different types of services.
- It allows a crossover of customer bases where siblings of wraparound children may increase demand for your Early Years places.
- It can strengthen your customer pipeline, helping you keep your customers for longer, as Early Years places often turn into future wraparound places.
- It allows you to provide a more comprehensive and flexible service to families. Your service becomes a one-stop-shop for families, with no need for them to look elsewhere for their childcare needs.

**Funding for wraparound provision is available now!** If you want to expand existing wraparound provision or create new wraparound places, now is the time to act, whilst the full funding is still in place to help. All applications will need to be received before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to guarantee the full two years of funding available.

Applications for wraparound funding to expand existing provision through extending opening hours or creating new places, or to create completely new wraparound provision, are being accepted now. If you wish to apply for funding or want to ask more questions about this programme please email Kirsty Hanberry, Wraparound & Sufficiency Manager on [Kirsty.hanberry@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.hanberry@doncaster.gov.uk) The application form can be accessed at [Wraparound Programme Funding Application Form](#)

## Do Something Big – Work with Small Children

The national 'Do Something Big' campaign is aiming to raise the profile of roles in early years as a career of choice.

City of Doncaster Council will be launching a comprehensive marketing campaign including social media, locality newsletters and showcasing a brand new advert, showing the passion of the people who work in early years across Doncaster. The advert aims to display the range of careers available in early years, including interviews with early years practitioners working in a nursery, a headteacher, a childminder, a nursery owner and even a representative from the LA's Early Years team.

Anyone interested in a career in Early Years will be signposted to the DWP's Early Years Careers page [Do something big - Early Years Careers](#) where potential candidates will be able to search early years roles available in their local area. It is vital that any job vacancies in early years across Doncaster from any nursery, childminder or school, are loaded onto the Early Years Careers site, to ensure maximum visibility.

With the expanded early years entitlements roll out, we need to recruit more people than ever into the early years sector to support our families across Doncaster.

For support with uploading onto the DWP website, please access:

- [DWP Find a Job instructions .pdf](#)
- [Find a job service - Employer help - YouTube](#)

## Early Years Financial Incentive- Extended!

Great News- The Early years financial incentive scheme has been extended by the DFE for eligible employees up until the end of March 2025 who work for 12 weeks after that!

Criteria is as follows:

- An employee who is employed between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 with a eligible provider and recruited to a full or part time position
- Returning to the profession after a 6-month gap
- Works at least 70% of their time with children.
- An apprentice who completes their apprenticeship between 1<sup>st</sup> of April and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 and is given a permanent contract.

Please do not miss out!

For further information or an informal chat, please contact Donna Wilson on 01302 734569.

Look forward to hearing from you!

## Update from Early Years Area SENCO/SENDO Team

We wish you a wonderful 2025 and hope you managed to have a well-deserved rest. As always, we want to ensure that we share interesting information, updates and key dates with you.

Please see below for a wealth of information. We appreciate it is a lot but there will be things to book on, use, and refer to within your day-to-day practice.

### SENCO CLUSTER

We have an external consultant from Best Health generation leading and delivering the session, 'Wellbeing for Early Years SENCOs' – this is bespoke for you!

Please do book on – the second session (evening) is using a recording from the afternoon session which is live however both will be online delivery.

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February -1:00pm-3:00pm - [Early Years: SENCO Cluster - Afternoon Session | Buy Doncaster](#)
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February - 6.30pm – 8.30pm - [Early Years: SENCO Cluster - Evening Session | Buy Doncaster](#)

### FREE TRANSITION SESSION

This will be over teams, and we are doing an afternoon and an evening session.

We hope to have a mix of partners there such as Portage, early years settings, schools, Health and other LA teams for example, educational psychologists, ASCETS, BOSS

All are very welcome as the transition process, particularly an enhanced process plan involves everyone with parents and the child at the heart of the planning.

The sessions are:

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm – 8.30pm - [Early Years: Successful Transition Process Planning \(Universal and Enhanced\) | Buy Doncaster](#)
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm – 4:00pm- [Early Years: Successful Transition Process Planning \(Universal and Enhanced\) | Buy Doncaster](#)

### INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY

Please see attachment: [The teacher wellbeing index 2024.pdf](#) it is really thought provoking and practical.

## ELECTIVE MUTISM

The Educational Psychology Team take a lead on this. We sometimes need to think about communicating with children using whole bodies. This fab webinar from PACEY with Ruth Churchill Dower is really useful.

It's worth a listen/watch to develop a further understanding of not prioritising speech over other forms of communication and has some great tips on sensory support too, especially good from about 30 mins in.

[PACEY Live webinar: Creativity and the arts in early years](#)

## ASCETS – EARLY YEARS GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION DIFFERENCES – WITH OR WITHOUT A DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM

Doncaster ASCETS team have secured funding to run a regular group for parents to attend with their child with communication learning differences. The child does not have to have a diagnosis of Autism.

This is really exciting news, and we will inform you of venues, times and how parents can access as soon as we have further information

## SENDIAS ADVICE SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Doncaster SENDIAS service are starting up advice sessions for parents to book on or drop in to discuss anything to do with support they need in relation to education for their child with SEND.

These will take place at the family Hubs with a SENDIAS officer. There are both bookable sessions and drop-in sessions. Each family hub will have different timings and dates.

Parents can book on and gain further information by telephoning their local family hub numbers.

Please note this is not replacing the universal SENDIAS offer. Parents can still contact SENDIAS directly.

## EHCP REQUESTS FOR STATUTORY ASSESSMENT

It's the main time of year for submitting the requests.

Your area SENCO should already be aware of the requests you have submitted or will be submitting. Educational Psychologists should be made aware of the child via the parent consent for EP (sending this to the Area SENCO to pass onto the EP for where the child lives, along with a few bullet points about the child).

This parental consent gives the EP permission to be invited to APDR meetings which may take place before the submission. It remains the case that EP consent is not required separately to the EHCP assessment request as the parental request for the assessment would include the EP.

To submit a request, you will need a EHC Hub account as we have informed you previously.

If you do not yet have an account and need to submit, please contact:  
[doncaster.ehchub@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:doncaster.ehchub@doncaster.gov.uk)

Some other links useful for requests are:

- <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/Documents/DocumentView/Stream/Media/Default/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/Documents/SEND%20Toolkit/How%20to%20refer%20for%20an%20EHCNA%20using%20IDOX-2.pdf>
- [Doncaster Education, Health and Care Plan Hub - City of Doncaster C...](#)
- Your Area SENCo can support in any advice around EHCP requests and process.

### SEND NEEDS DESCRIPTORS

As you may be aware the Needs Descriptors have been modified.

These are the documents that can support you in identifying the level of need, strategies and interventions and also to be referred to when considering EYIT support, particularly EIA.

The information linked to requesting support on our Local offer page makes reference to them:

- [Local Offer - Early Years - City of Doncaster Council](#)
- <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/Documents/DocumentView/Stream/Media/Default/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/Documents/SEND%20Toolkit/24-25%20Early%20Years%20Request%20dates%20and%20Information.%20Updated%20Jan%202025.docx>

### EYIT Requests

The e-form is now live. The form can be accessed using the links above.

Once you are on the form it cannot be saved at the present time so allow yourself time to complete, it is a lot shorter than previous documentation.



Once you have a reference number for your e-form submission please send any additional evidence such as SEN support plans/Provision maps/any other important information for the Early Years requests to be aware of to [earlyyearsrequest@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearsrequest@doncaster.gov.uk) so our business support can link evidence directly to the request.

As ever please do contact us for any advice, queries, or support.

Many thanks, Area SENCO Team and SENDo Team.

## Reminder about Pendulum

Please can all Early Years Group Providers ensure that they have set their Pendulum accounts up following an email you should have received from them with your log in details. If you have not received the email or set your account up, please contact: [perspectivesupport@angelsolutions.co.uk](mailto:perspectivesupport@angelsolutions.co.uk)

## Childcare Expansion 2024: Myth-buster

Click here to view the myth-buster PDF to read about common ideas of the childcare expansion: [Myth-buster-for-providers.pdf](#)

## Department for Education Early Years Provider Roadshows for 2025

January 2025 sees the return of The Department for Education **Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshows** for group-based setting leaders and managers.

These roadshows are your opportunity to find out more about current and future policy, delivery and strategy, including the Best Start in Life pillar of the Opportunity Mission and the expansion of childcare to all eligible working parents of children over the age of 9 months, and to share your views, ideas, best practice and the challenges that settings face.

The dates for the 2025 roadshows set up so far are below.

Date	Location	Venue
23 January	West Midlands - <a href="#">Register your attendance</a>	The Park Regis, Birmingham
11 February	London - <a href="#">Register your attendance</a>	Radisson Blu Edwardian Bloomsbury Street
12 March	East Midlands	Leicester Tigers, Leicester
25 March	Yorkshire and Humber	The Met Hotel, Leeds
30 April	South-east	Leonardo Royal Hotel Brighton Waterfront
21 May	East of England	Norwich City Football Club
3 June	South-west	DoubleTree by Hilton, Bristol City centre
8 July	North-west	The Midland, Manchester
24 June	North-east	Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle

You can register your interest for the regional roadshows via the [register your interests form](#)

## Early Years Upcoming Training

- **11<sup>th</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> February- 5pm- 9pm Early Years: Talking Together - Speech Language and Communication Training Enhanced Level-** [Early Years: Talking Together - Speech Language and Communication Training Enhanced Level | Buy Doncaster](#)
- **4<sup>th</sup> March 6:30pm-7:30pm -Early Years: Story Dough! by Greg Bottrill-** [Early Years: Story Dough! by Greg Bottrill | Buy Doncaster](#)
- **11<sup>th</sup> March 1:00-3:00- Early Years: EYFS - Reception/ FS2 Teachers Network-** [Early Years: EYFS - Reception/ FS2 Teachers Network | Buy Doncaster](#)
- **18<sup>th</sup> March 6:30pm-7:30pm - Early Years: The Message Centre by Greg Bottrill-** [Early Years: The Message Centre by Greg Bottrill | Buy Doncaster](#)
- **19<sup>th</sup> March 1:00pm-4:00pm - Early Years: Self-Regulation, Co-Regulation and Trauma Informed Approaches (afternoon session)-** [Early Years: Self-Regulation, Co-Regulation and Trauma Informed Approaches \(afternoon session\) | Buy Doncaster](#)

- **19<sup>th</sup> March 6:00pm-9:00pm- Early Years: Self-Regulation, Co-Regulation and Trauma Informed Approaches (evening session)- [Early Years: Self-Regulation, Co-Regulation and Trauma Informed Approaches \(evening session\)](#) | [Buy Doncaster](#)**

## Doncaster Celebration of Practice in Nursery World

Ann Lowe, Early Years Inclusion Officer has contributed an article for Nursery World celebrating how the Doncaster Early Years Inclusion Team foster a culture of support and challenge when working with colleagues in the early years sector.

Here is a link to the article.

<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/content/features/why-do-we-need-to-foster-a-culture-of-challenge-in-our-settings-to-be-truly-inclusive/>

## Doncaster Family Hub Booklets

Please click the PDF's to view what is available to families and children within Doncaster.

- [0-5 Offer booklet .pdf](#)
- [Primary - Secondary Offer booklet .pdf](#)
- [16+ Offer booklet .pdf](#)