

Early Years Key Messages

16th September 2026

Please share Key Messages with all staff in your provision. Previous Key Messages available at: <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/early-years-key-messages>

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NYC Job Vacancy – Information and Sufficiency Officer (FIS)

We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Information and Sufficiency Officer to join our Families Information Service team. This is an excellent opportunity to help support the delivery of our statutory childcare sufficiency duties to ensure the families, childcare providers and partners can access information, childcare support to enable every child to have the best start in life. This is fixed term contract until 31st October 2027. For further information and to apply [Information and Sufficiency Officer \(Families Information Service\)](#)

NYC Job Vacancy – Early Years Service Children’s Champion

We are seeking an enthusiastic, dedicated and motivated Early Years Service Children’s Champion. Funded through the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Trust, this exciting and rewarding role will support early years providers to meet the unique needs of the children from service families helping ensure every service child receives the best possible start in life. This is a fixed term contract until 31st March 2028. For further information and to apply [Early Years Service Children’s Champion](#)

Updating Key Information about your provision

Please ensure that **all changes** to your Early Years provision are being reported correctly. As part of your provider agreement, it is vital that your provision information is kept up to date with the Local Authority (LA). The LA are required to report regularly to the DfE and Ministers. To inform the Local Authority of any changes, please submit a **Provider Update Form via the Synergy Provider Portal: [Synergy - Enquiry](#)**. We recommend doing this termly. Provider update forms should be submitted annually at a minimum. You need to let us know each time one of the following details changes:

- Change in management
- Change of contact details (phone/email).
- Change in registered capacity (number of Early Years places registered to offer).
- Change of age range.
- Current Public Liability Policy Insurance details.**
- Change in operating hours / days.
- Change of cost information.

Please be advised that your submitted form will be denied if you do not complete all the above details. **Please ensure that your Public Liability Insurance details are correct and current.

NYSCP Newsletter and YouTube Channel

To keep up to date with the latest developments in safeguarding children and young people in North Yorkshire, sign up to receive the FREE North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Newsletter directly to your inbox. To request this, please email nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk and sign up to the NYSCP [YouTube channel](#), where you'll find a range of helpful resources, learning materials and updates to support practice across the partnership.

NYSCP Safeguarding Evening for early years providers – October 2026

The date for the next Early Years NYSCP Safeguarding evening for all PVI early years group providers and childminders is Wednesday, 14th October 2026. Please book via NYES and this is free to attend. This will be held on Teams and will be from 1900 – 2100 hrs.

Early Years Leaders' Meetings – November 2026

The next Early Years Leaders' Meetings for PVI group providers and childminders are available to book on NYES and are free to attend. These will be held on:-
Wednesday, 11th November 2026 1900 – 2100 hrs
Thursday, 12th November 2026 1300 – 1500 hrs

NYSCP Updated LADO Managing Allegations Resource

NYSCP have updated the resource - Managing Allegations Practice Guidance and LADO referral process available at [NYSCP](#)

NYSCP Updated Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2026 Resource

NYSCP have updated Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2026 resource available at [NYSCP](#)

Families First Partnership Programme

Families First Partnership Programme is a national reform programme aimed at making help, support and protection for children and families more joined-up, earlier and easier to access. Two key parts of the reforms are the requirement to create Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) and Family Help Teams. In North Yorkshire, safeguarding partners have agreed to proceed with one countywide MACPT which will provide specialist child protection expertise, advice, coordination, scrutiny and oversight for children where there are significant safeguarding concerns. The MACPT will work alongside locality-based Family Help arrangements and maintain clear links with education, early years, health, police and wider partners, with future work focused on clarifying roles, pathways and communication.

Family Help Teams will bring together targeted early help, child in need and child protection support so that families can receive practical, relationship-based help through one coordinated plan, without unnecessary handovers or repeated assessments. The ambition is that families experience one relationship, one plan and one coordinated system, with children and families remaining at the centre of decision-making.

Details of the programme are being developed and there are no immediate changes to day-to-day practice, referral routes or safeguarding responsibilities. Further information is available on [NYSCP](#) and you will be kept informed as plans progress.

EYFS Assessment Support Meetings

The DfE has asked the Local Authority to deliver Assessment Support Meetings on its behalf as part of the Best Start in Life programme. The content and materials have been provided by the DfE, and we have been asked to host these meetings three times a year for all early years practitioners working in schools, settings and childminding provision. The meetings will be held in five locations across the county to enable practitioners to attend face-to-face. Attendance is free of charge. Dates are attached.

Meeting themes:

Autumn Term: Formative Assessment

Spring Term: Summative Assessment

Summer Term: Professional Dialogue, with a focus on the Early Learning Goals.

Attachment

National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership

The NPQEYL programme is designed for current and aspiring early years leaders who want to develop their leadership expertise and potential. Funding is available to managers of private, voluntary and independent nurseries (PVI's), childminders with leadership responsibilities, headteachers and leaders of school-based and maintained nurseries, alongside other early years foundation stage leaders. Whether leading provision in a nursery, pre-school, childminding setting or school-based early years provision, the NPQEYL provides evidence-based leadership training to support high-quality early education and care, effective staff leadership and continuous improvement. Registration is now open for the [National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership \(NPQEYL\)](#).

EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

Important information and required actions for all Early Years Providers. Please ensure this information is shared with all relevant staff.

AUTUMN TERM ACTION CHECKLIST	
Action Required	Complete
Autumn Term Estimates – Closed - Contact Early Years Team if submission missed.	☐
Submit Autumn Term Headcount Claim and DAF supporting evidence, if applicable Deadline 5pm - Friday 2 October 2026	☐
Ensure that your charging policy follows the statutory guidance - Early education and childcare - GOV.UK	☐
KEY DATES AT A GLANCE	
Activity	Date
DfE Consultation Deadline	14 September 2026
Headcount Submission and DAF evidence Deadline	5:00pm, 2 October 2026
Important Reminder - Please do not wait until Headcount Week to submit your claim.	
AUTUMN TERM ESTIMATES	
☒ If you have not submitted an estimate, you will not receive a payment in September. To receive a payment in October, contact the Early Years Team by 23 September 2026 at eyft@northyorks.gov.uk and you will be sent an estimate proforma to complete.	
AUTUMN TERM HEADCOUNT - OPEN	
☒ The Synergy Provider Portal is now open for Autumn Term Headcount submissions.	
Headcount Week	28 September – 2 October 2026

Headcount Submission and DAF evidence
Deadline

5:00pm Friday 2 October 2026

- ✓ **Key Rule: Census information on funding page.** Always enter '38' weeks for the entitlement being claimed, even if you operate fewer weeks or offer stretched funding. This information must be added to be able to submit your claim. **If submitted incorrectly, providers will be contacted and required to re-send.**

<i>Claim Type</i>	<i>Funded Entitlement Weeks</i>	<i>Expanded/ Extended Entitlement Weeks</i>
Under 2's – Working Family Expanded hours claim	0	38
2YO – Early Learning for 2-year-olds funded hours claim only (formerly FRAS)	38	0
2YO – Working Family Expanded funded hours claim only	0	38
2YO – <u>both</u> Early Learning for 2-year-olds funded and Working Family Expanded hours claim	38	38
3&4YO – Universal funded hours only	38	0
3&4YO – Working Family Extended only	0	38
3&4YO – both Universal funded and Working Family extended hours claim	38	38

Important Reminder - Please do not wait until Headcount Week to submit your claim.

- ✓ Submit claims as early as possible, early submission allows time to resolve - eligibility code issues, access problems, additional claims and data queries.

COMPLIANCE

- ✓ Review current practices to ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance, including:
- **No artificial breaks:** Children should be able to access their funded hours in continuous blocks where desired. Providers must not create artificial breaks within funded sessions, such as offering funded hours from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm, with only paid hours available between 12pm and 1pm.
 - **Invoicing:** Invoices must clearly show funded hours as **£0 at the point of delivery**, with any charges for non-funded hours or consumables listed separately and transparently.
 - **Deposit:** Providers cannot charge non-refundable deposits as a condition of taking up a child's entitlement place. Refundable deposits can be used by providers, and can then be retained by a provider, if the parent does not take up their funded place by headcount week.
 - **Notice Periods:** Providers cannot impose a charge for funded hours within a notice period, if a parent is moving their child from your setting, before headcount week. Providers can however still charge for items not covered by government funding within any notice period.
- ✓ **Compliance Checks**
- Veritau, on behalf of the Funding Team, will shortly be contacting a number of providers to undertake a compliance review. If you are a provider contacted to take part and have any queries about this request, please contact eyft@northyorks.gov.uk

STRETCHED FUNDING GUIDANCE

- ✓ For those providers stretching government funding, please find our updated website guidance on our website here: [Stretched Funding Guidance 2026-27.pdf](#)

REVIEW DfE FUNDING CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- ✓ The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the early years funding system associated with the current offer of early years entitlements. Responses are requested by **14 September 2026**.
- Please use the links below to the Government consultation documents:
- [Early year funding proposed changes to the entitlements funding system consultation](#)

[Annex for early years funding consultation](#)

Response form:

[Early years funding: proposed changes to the entitlements funding system - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)