

Early Years Key Messages

February 2022

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

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Two year old funding – unused Golden Ticket letters

Golden Ticket letters that were issued to parents had to be used in a setting prior to 1st November 2021. Any unused Golden Ticket letters are no longer valid and parents' eligibility must be checked through the online checking system. This is in line with the revised data sharing agreement with the DfE which came into effect from 1st November 2021.

Safeguarding – Key Contact details and web links

Please find attached a document with key safeguarding contact details and links to the relevant pages on the NYSCP website. Please ensure your safeguarding information is up to date and reviewed at least annually. All safeguarding information should be relevant to NYCC and no other local authority. The NYSCP website is updated regularly and you should use this to check information. Attachment 1.

Reporting Positive Cases of Covid-19

When reporting positive cases of Covid-19 in your setting, please use the bullet points below to ensure you are providing the Covid-19 team with the information they require. After you have reported your first positive case, the Covid-19 team do not need to know about subsequent cases unless it alters the status of your setting (i.e. you had been open but subsequent cases mean you have to close) or you now require further advice. Please report cases to Education.Covid19@northyorks.gov.uk.

- The number of cases:

- The details of each case i.e. whether a staff member or child and date of positive test:
- Your contact name:
- Setting Name:
- Setting Address and postcode:
- Setting telephone number:
- Setting email address:
- Whether the setting is open or closed:
- If closed, the date it closed and date it will re-open:
- Confirmation that Ofsted or the CMA has been notified:

You must notify Ofsted at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tell-ofsted-if-you-have-a-covid-19-incident-at-your-childcare-business>

Early Years Training Courses

Please find attached Early Years Training Courses for this term. The Spring Early Years Leaders' Forums in March will have input from the LADO and NY Safeguarding Partnership team. Attachment 2.

Childminders operating from alternative premises

Clarification from Ofsted regarding this is as follows: *We only need to give permission to those wishing to use non-domestic premises as their alternative premises. Further information can be found in the DfE's guidance '[Additional actions for childminders during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)'.*

The following options for using alternative premises are broken down into sections in the above guidance: Providers do not need Ofsted to grant permission when the alternative premises are -

A. Another registered domestic premises

B. Unregistered domestic premises

D. Public places

C. Childminders must wait for approval from Ofsted when the alternative premises are non-domestic and they wish to operate for up to 50% of their time on non-domestic premises.

*E. refers to the childminders registered address: "If you are one of the very small number of childminders who have a suitable outbuilding/extension and garden within the boundary of your **registered address**..." one of the criteria for using this is that "you discuss your arrangements with Ofsted before you start"*

You only need approval to operate from non-domestic premises as childminders must complete an [EYA application to operate from non-domestic premises](#).

Early Years Virtual Conference - February

Please find the flyer for an Early Years Conference in February. Attachment 3

Early Years Funding

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| Headcount | The headcount data is still in the process of being cleansed by the EY Funding Team. If you missed the deadline to submit your headcount, you will be able to submit when the portal opens for checking. You will have a small window to submit, so please look out for the email telling you that the portal has opened for checks. |
| Census Form | Only complete this form if you have funded children for the Spring term. This must be completed to continue to receive funding. |
| Consultation on funding rate for 2022/23 | Providers are asked to complete the online consultation questionnaire at: https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=164277030851 The consultation questionnaire will be open until 5.00pm on Wednesday, 18th February 2022. The responses received to this consultation will be considered by the NYCC Executive Members for the Children & Young |

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| | People's Service in their decision making process in relation to early years' funding rates for the 2022/23 financial year |
| Top up charges | If a parent contacts the Early years Funding Team regarding a top up charge, or if the parent cannot see they have received their government-funded place free, the provider will be contacted to discuss the changes required to comply with the funding agreement. This is to ensure the local authority is carrying out their statutory duty in ensuring the government-funded place is not represented to parents as a monetary subsidy in any pricing schedule, invoice or statement issued by any funded childcare provider registered in North Yorkshire. |
| Useful links | Please use this link for useful downloads including guidance documents on using the portal, useful dates to assist with forward planning: Early Education Places, Funding and Entitlement CYPInfo (northyorks.gov.uk) |
| Invoicing parents | All early years childcare providers registered for funding in North Yorkshire must provide all parents/carers claiming their government-funded entitlement clear, transparent and itemised invoices and receipts so that parents/carers can see they have received their child's funded entitlement completely free of charge and understand any fees paid for additional hours or services. |

Early Help professional programme of courses

See Attachment 4

DfE Weekly Pulse Survey

The Department for Education (DfE) continues to invite school-based and group-based early years settings for whom they have an email address to take part in the weekly 'pulse' survey. The DfE knows the early years sector is working hard to support children and families and recognizes your resilience against this latest wave. The majority of providers who responded to the DfE survey are open and providing their regular childcare offer for families despite clear pressures on staff. The questionnaire is short and simple and focuses on workforce and child absence. Thank you for your support with this.

PACEY - Together for Two Webinar

PACEY has been delivering the Together for Two DfE funded project since 2018. Webinars provide an opportunity to hear both project and policy updates, share good practice and discuss any challenges. The next webinar will be held on 23rd February at 1pm via Microsoft teams, if you would like to book a place and/or ensure you are on our mailing list please contact Theresa Johnson, theresa.johnson@pacey.org.uk.

The Careers in Childcare project has also been working in partnership with Job Centre Plus and MITEY (men in the early years) to promote careers in childcare. The Teams session is open to anyone interested in finding out more about the range of job roles available, skills and attributes needed, likely set up costs, required training and where to go for further information. If you would like to attend a session or find out more about promoting it in your area please contact Theresa Johnson.

Government resource – keeping children safe from sexual abuse

It's estimated 1 in 10 children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn 16. Most children won't tell anyone at the time of their abuse. The government's new [Stop Abuse Together](https://www.stopabuse.org.uk) website can help you learn to spot the signs and know when it's right to reach out for more support. If you feel something's not right, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe.