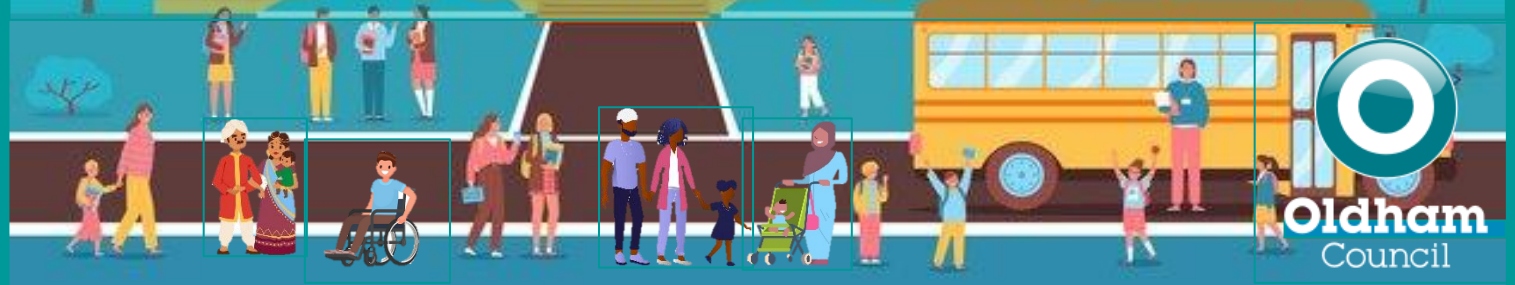


Briefing to Early Years Settings



Volume:	Summer 2026	Week No:	33-34	Date:	Thursday 11 June 2026
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Safeguarding

Open Water Safety Messages and Resources

 [Open Water Safety Messaging](#)

 [Water Safety Messaging - Resources](#)

Sadly, over the late May Bank Holiday weekend 2026, there were six tragic open water drownings involving children and young people across the UK.



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service launched its [2026 water safety campaign](#), with resources to help raise awareness of the dangers of open water and how to reduce risks such as cold-water shock.

There are also a range of national resources covering water safety for all ages from babies through to teenagers:

- The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) provide guidance on what to do in an emergency, including the [float to live technique](#)
- The Canal & River Trust offer specific [water safety for teenagers and young people](#)
- The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) [splash safely at home](#) is a water safety campaign designed to educate parents and carers of babies, infants, and young children about the importance of home water safety precautions.

Understanding exploitation training – 16 June or 3 September 2026

Background Information

This course is delivered by members of Oldham's Complex Safeguarding Team and representatives from services supporting adults in Oldham. It aims to equip practitioners with enhanced knowledge and skills to identify and respond appropriately to the exploitation of children, young people and adults.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the course is to raise awareness about Criminal, Sexual and Financial exploitation including Modern Slavery and Cuckooing, and to help practitioners recognise the potential signs of exploitation and risk factors.

This training course will be delivered in person at Rock Street Resource Centre, Rock Street, Oldham OL1 3UJ. Places for these sessions are limited. If you are interested in attending, please click on the links below for further information and complete the online booking form. You will then be contacted to discuss availability.

- [9:30am - 4:30pm on Tuesday 16 June 2026](#)
- [9:30am - 4:30pm on Thursday 3 September 2026](#)

NSPCC Learning has published a new series of Childline posters to encourage children

Point of contact: OSCPtraining@oldham.gov.uk

Multi agency practice week: youth violence & vulnerability (29 June–3 July)

A week of **free webinars** to strengthen safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for children and young people.

To view details and reserve your place, please use the links below:

Wednesday 1 July 2026

Morning session

- [TOGS Mind children young people and families offer Introduction webinar link](#)

Afternoon session

- [Navigating online spaces, AI and digital influences on children and young people webinar link](#)

Friday 3 July 2026

- [Kooth service offer webinar link](#)

Limited places available, for more information and additional in person training is available on the [OSCP website](#)

Point of contact: OSCPtraining@oldham.gov.uk

Early Years

Oldham Early Years Workforce Snapshot Survey

-  *Snapshot Guidance for Childminder*
-  *Snapshot Guidance for Group Based settings*
-  *Childminder Workforce Snapshot Survey*
-  *Settings Workforce Snapshot Survey*



Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Early Education and Childcare Workforce Snapshot. Every response strengthens the accuracy of the local picture and helps ensure providers' experiences are reflected.

This short survey has been designed with local organisations and will provide practical insights into:

- workforce pressures and vacancies
- recruitment and retention challenges
- training and development needs
- emerging local trends



The stronger the response rate, the stronger the evidence base we can use to:

- champion the sector locally
- influence future support and investment
- ensure decision-makers understand the realities providers face

We know this is a busy time of year and that completing surveys can feel like “just one more thing”.

That's why:

- the survey enables you to save your progress, allowing you time to return to the survey repeatedly before finally submitting it
- responses are being collected once to create a shared local snapshot
- findings will be shared back with providers before the end of the summer term, so you can benefit from the insights too
- ...and each completed survey will be entered into a draw to receive resources to benefit the children in your provision

Survey closes on 14 June. If you have not yet completed the survey, we would really value your input.

Complete the Early Education and Childcare Workforce Snapshot here:

[Early Education & Childcare Workforce Snapshot - Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Citizen Space](#)

Thank you for helping shape the future of the local early education and childcare workforce.

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF) 2026–2027

Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF) 2026–2027- Provider Information

We are writing to share important information about the Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF) for 2026–2027 and how it will support inclusive practice across Oldham.

Please see the attached document for more information.

This funding forms part of our wider Best Start in Life approach, ensuring that all children—particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)—can access high-quality early education and achieve positive outcomes

Thank you for your continued commitment to delivering inclusive, high-quality early education and helping children in Oldham get the best start in life.

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Business Support Tools for Early Years Providers

DfE Early Years Update

The Department for Education has published a suite of business support materials on the Foundation Years website to help early years providers run sustainable and effective childcare provision.

These resources bring together practical guidance on key areas of running a provision, including business planning, financial management, marketing, and human resources, all tailored to the early years sector.

In addition, providers can access materials developed by Childcare Works, offering further support without the need to access the Knowledge Hub.

Providers and schools are encouraged to explore these resources to support sustainability, growth, and effective business planning.

 **Access the full range of tools here:**
[Setting up an Early Years provider business - Foundation Years](#)

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Partnerships

Employer Feedback

We really value your work with the college and as part of the collaboration, we would value your input in our curriculum development.

Please can you take a couple of minutes to share your experience and views and complete the questions by following the link. Thank you, Oldham College

[Early Years Elevate Skills - Employer feedback 2026 – Fill in form](#)



Health and Wellbeing

Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Mental health can affect people at all stages of their life course. Explore [Research in Practice](#) resources to support mental health awareness.

A [series of three videos](#) explore what effective mental health support might look like. The videos examine definitions of good mental health, the importance of challenging stigmatising language, and how to respond effectively.

Fussy Eating

Do you struggle to get your child to eat a varied and balanced diet? Do you find mealtimes a battle? If this sounds like you, Oldham's Parenting Team are here to help with a FREE 2hr discussion group for parents of children aged 2-9yrs old. Please email parentsupporthub@oldham.gov.uk. The next group will be running on Wednesday 1st July 2026 12.45pm-2.45pm at Chadderton Town Hall, Garforth Street, Oldham, OL9 6PY.

Places are limited, please email for a space on parentsupporthub@oldham.gov.uk or scan the QR code on attached poster to apply.

Point of contact parentsupporthub@oldham.gov.uk

Good oral health at Best Start Family Hubs



As well as offering a range of activities and events, Oldham's Best Start Family Hubs are places to buy toothbrushes, toothpaste, feeder cups, and vitamins for less money than you would pay in shops.

These are important for making sure your little ones have shining smiles and healthy teeth and gums. And, if you have a Healthy Start card, you can pick up the vitamins for free!

👉 [Click here](#) for more information, including the addresses and contact details of all our Best Start Family Hubs.

CPD and Training

Making it REAL

MIR Invitation 2026-2028

As an integral part of Oldham's Best Start in Life programme, we are delighted to offer you the opportunity to embed Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) within your setting.



The [Making it REAL](#) project has contributed to strong progress in Literacy and PSED, and perhaps equally importantly, has fostered a clear change in parent confidence, families see firsthand the difference their involvement makes to their child's learning and development. This early engagement continues to have a positive influence as children move through school.

Our ambition

Moving forward, we are seeking to work with 40 schools and settings (children aged 3-4) on a two-year Making it REAL programme, running from September 2026 to June 2028. This is an exciting opportunity to strengthen early outcomes and deepen family engagement in line with Oldham's Best Start in Life priorities of 72.6% of children achieving the Good Level of Development by 2028.

From last year's Making it REAL cohort, **79% of children participating in REAL achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD)** at the end of Reception.

We are hoping to allocate grant funding to each school to support the ongoing costs of the programme. However, as a first step, we are seeking expressions of interest from schools that would like to be involved.

Please complete the Microsoft Form to express your interest - [Making it REAL - Expression of Interest Form – Fill out form](#)

You will find more information attached, however if you require more information do not hesitate to contact us.

Point of Contact: laura.williams@oldham.gov.uk

GM Reflect

Just to make you aware there is an ongoing issue with Rise platform which hosts the GM Reflect eLearning modules. MMU have changed platforms which has affected the link to the landing page from the GMCA web pages. MMU are currently building a new landing page, and the links will be updated as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the modules can be accessed through the links below, however they require users to create an account by clicking 'log in' on the top right corner and then 'create account'. Appreciate this isn't ideal and apologies for any inconvenience this has caused but please feel free to circulate the below links to any teams and partners who use GM Reflect. We'll update when the new link has been added to the GMCA web page.

[Firm Foundations | Rise](#)

[Engaging with Families | Rise](#)

[Physical Development | Rise](#)

[Pre-Birth and Early Days | Rise](#)

[GMCA Social And Emotional Development and Wellbeing \(SEDW\) | Rise](#)

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

National Professional Qualification for Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL) – Autumn 2026



The NPQEYL is designed for leaders working in early years settings who want to develop their expertise in leadership, curriculum, teaching and learning, and improving outcomes for children. East Manchester Teaching School Hub delivers the programme in partnership with UCL, who provide the course content.

The Autumn 2026 cohort starts in **November 2026** and runs until **May 2028**. Participants attend **four full-day face-to-face sessions and one half-day virtual session** during working hours, alongside self-directed study, reading, reflection and implementation activities between sessions.

The programme is designed to be manageable alongside a full-time role and offers flexibility around when much of the independent learning is completed. For childminders and others who may find attendance challenging, pre-recorded versions of the face-to-face sessions will be available through UCL's online platform for you to access out of normal working hours, although attendance at the first session in person is encouraged where possible.

Funding: Full scholarship funding is available for eligible participants.

Further information:

- [NPQEYL: National Professional Qualification for Early Years Leadership | UCL Institute of Education](#)
- [Funding for national professional qualifications \(NPQs\): autumn 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Free online child development training for all those working in early years, including reception

The Department for Education's [Early years child development training](#) is a **free, online** programme designed by early years experts to support educators working with **children from birth to reception**.

The programme includes [8 modules](#), covering key areas such as:

- Brain development and how children learn
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Mathematics
- Effective curriculum and assessment
- Supporting individual differences and needs

Access the training:

Visit the [Early years child development training](#) to register or sign-in if you already have an account.

Free early years resources: [Help for Early Years Providers](#) also offers free resources for educators working with children aged 0 to 5 years.

A new [safer sleep page](#) has also been created in collaboration with The Lullaby Trust, providing advice to create and maintain safer sleep environments for babies and young children in their care.

Point of contact early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Great North SPH/Early Writing CPD

Following the Early Writing webinars from the Great North SPH (attached), you can now request recordings. People who have not yet requested recordings of the SPH webinar can still do so by emailing kirstie.page@launchpadforliteracy.co.uk

Additionally, please refer to the further CPD opportunities and information. These focus on preparing specific preconditional skills, identifying, and tackling skill gaps before and alongside the more formal teaching of writing. Please see the links below.

[Writing: Tackling Skill Gaps within Preparation, Readiness & Progression](#)

[Writing Position Statement](#)

[Writing Impact Reel](#)

[Writing Playlist](#)

[Information & Heads-Up](#)

[Leadership Overviews](#)

Point of Contact: kirstie.page@launchpadforliteracy.co.uk

Workforce

We want to hear from providers in **Oldham**, Rochdale, Stockport and Manchester.

Good quality workforce data is key to ensuring that Government has an accurate picture of what's happening in your setting. It helps them to understand recruitment and retention challenges in early years, why funding needs to increase and whether policies designed in Westminster meet the needs of early years professionals here in Greater Manchester.

Early Education and Childcare Coalition are trying to change that.

With the support of GMCA, we're testing a new way to collect workforce data, that works for early years settings like yours, helps Government get a true picture of what the sector needs, and gives you a real-time picture of what's happening in your area today. We will then be able to share a data desktop for your area to help you gain a better picture of the workforce and challenges in your area.

Please follow the link and have your say in shaping the future of education.

Survey link is here: <https://www.gmconsult.org/young-people/6cb4579a/>

Point of contact early.years@oldham.gov.uk

A career in Early Years is not just a job - it's a chance to shape futures



It's about helping children to grow, learn and explore and giving them the best start in life.

So why not Do Something Big today and discover a career in Early Years.

👉 [Click here](#) to find out more

SEND and Inclusion

 **Family Focus Groups - Family Hubs**

We are working with Salford University to evaluate the Family Hubs in Oldham. This includes all aspects of the programme including home learning environment, infant feeding, PIMHS, SEND, Parenting and Healthy babies.

We are inviting families who have accessed any service or services in Family Hubs to engage in 3 focus groups in Oldham.

The commitment is 1 hr 30 mins, they can bring their children with them however they need to be able to chat about their experiences of the hubs. As a thank you they will be given a £5 voucher.

You will see the attached posters from Family Hubs, we would appreciate it if you could share these with parents/carers.

There is a QR code for families to sign up or you can use the link below:

Form: [Invitation to take part in a focus group about Best Start Family Hubs Programme – Fill in form](#)

Interpreters will be organised where required.

For further information, please contact Dr Abdelrahman Alfar, University of Salford, via email: a.j.alfar@salford.ac.uk

Community

REEL rack:

emergency clothing support for people in crisis across Oldham

REEL Rack is Oldham's emergency clothing provision service and has been supporting people in crisis since 2017. The service provides free, clean, good quality clothing to individuals experiencing urgent need, including people facing homelessness, fleeing domestic abuse, leaving hospital, or experiencing acute financial hardship.

REEL Rack operates as a dignified, non-judgemental service, working closely alongside statutory and voluntary sector partners across Oldham to ensure timely access to essential clothing support.

Practitioners are encouraged to signpost or refer anyone they are working with who would benefit from emergency clothing provision.

Further information about the service is available on the REEL Rack website. Details of referral routes are provided below.

- [Professional referral form](#) – for practitioners and services referring someone for emergency clothing support
- [Self-referral form](#) – for individuals referring themselves for emergency clothing support

Point of contact: info@reelcic.co.uk



Join us for a summer celebration of music



Residents are invited to enjoy a vibrant day of live music at the Oldham Music Centre Summer Festival. This joyful celebration of local talent takes place at Oldham Parish Church on Saturday 4 July, from 10am to 6.30pm.

The festival will showcase the very best of Oldham Music Centre, with an exciting mix of music, from brass and wind bands to orchestras, guitar groups, choirs and pop and rock performances.



Featuring everyone from the centre's youngest musicians to its award-winning youth groups, the Summer Festival is part of Oldham's Town of Culture programme, a celebration of creativity across the borough with performances, exhibitions and community-led events.

The festival is completely free and open to everyone, making it the perfect day out for families, music lovers and anyone looking to soak up the fantastic atmosphere in the town centre.

Get involved in Oldham's Town of Culture Year



Oldham's year as Greater Manchester's Town of Culture has officially begun, and after an amazing time at Festival Oldham, we're inviting residents, artists and community groups to help shape what comes next.

Got a creative idea? Our Rising Up Micro Commissions are now open, with grants of £500 to £3,000 available.

Apply by Friday 3 July 2026.

👉 [Click here](#) to find out more and apply.

Thank you to colleagues who have contributed to this briefing.

Submissions and House Style

This document has been produced using a standard house style.

If you are emailing in any articles you want including in the weekly briefing, then please use the [Standardisation & Top Tips document](#) for guidance prior to submitting.



Keep up to date by [signing up](#) to the council's regular newsletter and by following local social media accounts at www.oldham.gov.uk

