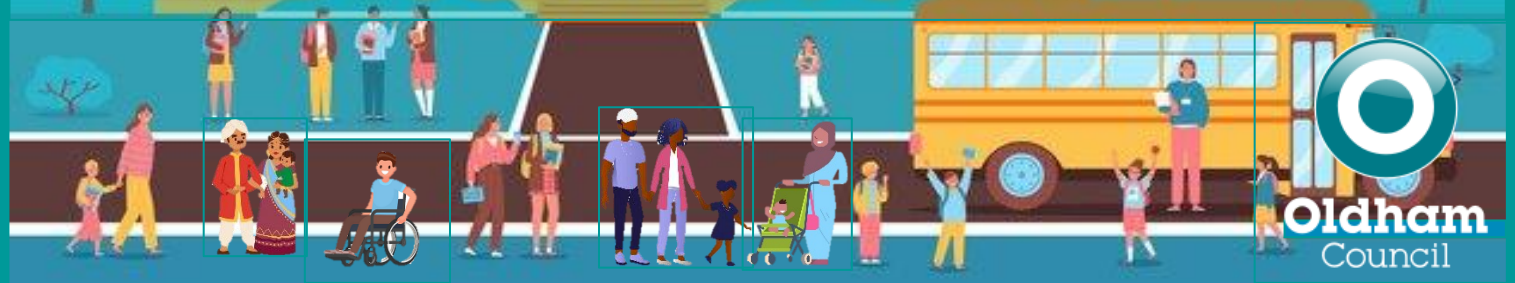


Briefing to Early Years Settings



Volume:	Summer 2026	Week No:	35-36	Date:	Thursday 24 June 2026
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Contents

1.	Safeguarding	2
2.	Early Years	3
3.	Partnerships	4
4.	CPD and Training	5
5.	Community.....	6

Safeguarding

Extreme Heat Conditions

Following the current extreme heat conditions and red weather warning, you should carry out a risk assessment within your setting. Where it is deemed difficult to maintain children's safety or to effectively regulate body and room temperatures, you may wish to consider asking parents/carers to collect their children early.

Where possible, please prioritise requesting collection for children from non-working families to help relieve pressure within your setting, while being mindful of the impact on working parents.

Providers should take all reasonable steps to keep children and young people safe, including:

- Avoiding vigorous physical activity
- Maximising shade, ventilation, and hydration
- Encouraging children to wear loose, light-coloured clothing where possible
- Encouraging the use of hats and sun cream when outdoors

Please also refer to the guidance: [“Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather.”](#)

If a decision is made to send children home, you must inform the Free Entitlement Team and Ofsted. In line with statutory guidance, funding will not be withdrawn in these exceptional circumstances. The priority remains the safety and wellbeing of both children and staff.

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

DfE Consultation: Information Sharing Duty Consultation Webinar

You are invited to attend a webinar on the Department for Education's consultation on draft statutory guidance for the new **Information Sharing Duty on Wednesday 1 July 3.00pm - 4.00pm.**

The duty, introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, places a legal requirement on relevant organisations to share information where it may help safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This session will provide a brief overview of the proposed duty and guidance but will primarily focus on gathering your views to inform the consultation response. During the webinar, you will be invited to reflect on the draft guidance and contribute your feedback in response to key consultation questions.

Effective information sharing remains a long-standing challenge in safeguarding, with national reviews continuing to highlight issues such as fragmentation, role confusion and delays in sharing information. Your input will help ensure that local perspectives and frontline experience shape the final statutory guidance

[Click here](#) to register

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

Consultation Webinars - DofE Consultation - A Better Understanding

We recently sent out communication with regards to the DfE consultation on updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the Children's Social Care National Framework 2026, and the policy underpinning Multi-Agency Child Protection Team regulations.

The consultation is now live on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). **The consultation closes on 4th September 2026.**

From July to August, you are invited to attend consultation webinars, offering an opportunity to explore and better understand the consultation, alongside giving your views.

This includes:

Four sector-specific webinars:

- [Click here to register for local authority webinar](#): Wednesday 12 August, 2:00pm – 3:30pm
- [Click here to register for health webinar](#): Monday 3 August, 11:00am – 12:30pm
- [Click here to register for police webinar](#): Tuesday 21 July, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- [Click here to register for education webinar](#): Monday 13 July, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Five deep-dive webinars on key policy proposals:

- [Click here to register for 'Voice of children and their families' webinar](#): Tuesday 1 September, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- [Click here to register for 'Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements' webinar](#): Wednesday 19 August, 10:00am – 11:30am
- [Click here to register for 'Help and support' webinar](#): Thursday 6 August, 13.30 - 15.00
- [Click here to register for 'Protection' webinar](#): Tuesday 28 July, 10:00am – 11:30am
- [Click here to register for 'Improving outcomes' webinar](#): Thursday 23 July, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Two general overview webinars:

- [Click here to register for general overview webinar 1](#): Thursday 30 July, 11:00am – 12:30pm
- [Click here to register for general overview webinar 2](#): Thursday 27 August, 1:30 – 3:00pm

Point of contact: OSCP.group@oldham.gov.uk

Early Years

Starting Reception Resources

 ***Starting Reception skills reward chart***

 ***Pack of activity ideas for families***

To help families continue practising school readiness skills over the summer, we've launched two new free resources linked directly to the Starting Reception definition:

- Starting Reception skills reward chart
- Pack of activity ideas for families

The activities focus on developing practical skills such as getting dressed and following simple instructions. They are designed to make it easy and fun for children to practise key skills.

Point of Contact: contact@startingreception.co.uk



Sufficiency

 ***Early Years Summer Term 2026 Sufficiency Dashboard***

Please find attached the Early Years Summer Term Sufficiency 2026 data collection dashboard.

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

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

Survey closes on 26 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

Partnerships

DfE consultation: Information sharing guidance

The Department of Education (DfE) is seeking views on new statutory guidance for the information sharing duty introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act.

The guidance, which includes a data sharing template, will replace the current non-statutory Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners.

The consultation aims to ensure the guidance is clear, practical and effective, supporting confident, lawful and timely information sharing that improves outcomes for children and families.



The deadline is 14 July 2026. Please take a few minutes to complete the consultation: [Statutory Guidance for Information Sharing Duty - DfE consultation](#)

The Essential Parent GM Family Hub App

[Essential Parent's GM Family Hub app](#) is a free digital library with lots of information from well-known, trusted organisations. Please share the link with your parents/carers.



You can use the Essential Parent app to find practical guidance and videos from experts on topics including pregnancy, labour and birth, child sleep, potty training, speech and communication, child behaviour, and teenage mental health and development. Some of the content is also available in different languages.

We'll use the app to send you information tailored to your child's age and stage of development, and details of events and activities in Oldham you can take part in. You can also find information about local services in the borough for you and your family.

To download Essential Parent from the app store, please click on the link below

[Essential Parent GM Family Hub App - App Store](#)

To download Essential Parent from the Google Play store, please click on the link below

[Essential Parent GM Family Hub - Apps on Google Play](#)

Please click on the link here to access advice around Toilet Training: - [Potty/ toilet training – Essential Parent](#)

Point of Contact: oldhamicafts@nca.nhs.uk

Step into Early Years and Childcare

Volunteering placements required.



Oldham Council's Get Oldham Working (GOW) team are looking for volunteering opportunities within early years provision to support the "Step Into" early years programme designed to provide experience to individuals who have expressed an interest in working in the Early years sector. They will complete the Step into an Early year's programme delivered by Lifelong Learning & Get Oldham working, covering topics including;

- Attributes needed to be an Early Years Worker
- Jobs available within the Early Years Sector
- Children's Development & Learning
- The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Learning through Play
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Special Education Needs & Disabilities
- ...and more

In order for the learners to consolidate their learning we are hoping that you are able to provide them with a 2day per week work experience placement over 6weeks. Get Oldham Working will cover the cost of any DBS required.

If you feel you could inspire the future workforce by offering a volunteering opportunity in your provision, please send your details to Early.years@oldham.gov.uk to be shared with Get Oldham Working.

CPD and Training

NEW Part Time BA (Hons) Education and Early Years (P/t Evening Course)

 **Part time BA (Hons) Education and Early Years**

The University Campus Oldham regarding a new Part Time BA (Hons) Education and Early Years (P/t Evening Course) which is for people already working in schools or PVI Settings including childminders who would like to upskill and gain a degree locally through part time/evening study.

Scan the QR code or please use the link below to see more information, details on costing and on how to apply

<https://www.uco.oldham.ac.uk/courses/ba-hons-education-and-early-years/>

Point of Contact: info@uco.oldham.ac.uk



Supporting Families with Potty Training

Almost 1000 people signed up for our recent webinar: Supporting Families with Potty Training.

During the session we heard advice and guidance from health professionals and school leaders about how to work with families to ensure children are potty trained at the right time for their bowel and bladder health.



Don't worry if you missed it, you can catch up through the recording. [Click here](#) to access the recording.

Point of Contact: contact@startingreception.co.uk

Community

Exciting news for Oldham Coliseum Theatre

Nick Bagnall has been welcomed as the theatre's new Creative Director.

With more than 30 years of experience in the industry, Nick has worked with some of the UK's best-known theatres and artists.

He joins the Coliseum at an exciting time as it moves closer to reopening its permanent home.



Nick will help shape the theatre's next chapter, championing Northern stories, supporting new productions and creating opportunities for local people to get involved.

Welcome to Oldham Nick!

Oldham's year as Greater Manchester's Town of Culture has begun

Oldham is Greater Manchester Town of Culture for 2026 (30 May 2026 – 31 March 2027), a year-long celebration of creativity, community and confidence.

Now we want you 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.

[Click here](#) to find out more. Apply by **Friday 3 July 2026**.



What's On Oldham

The Town of Culture programme is built around three themes called Reach, Rise and Soar.

It focuses on opening up arts and culture to more people, bringing activity into our neighbourhoods as well as our town centres, and creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

[Click here](#) to explore what's coming up.



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

