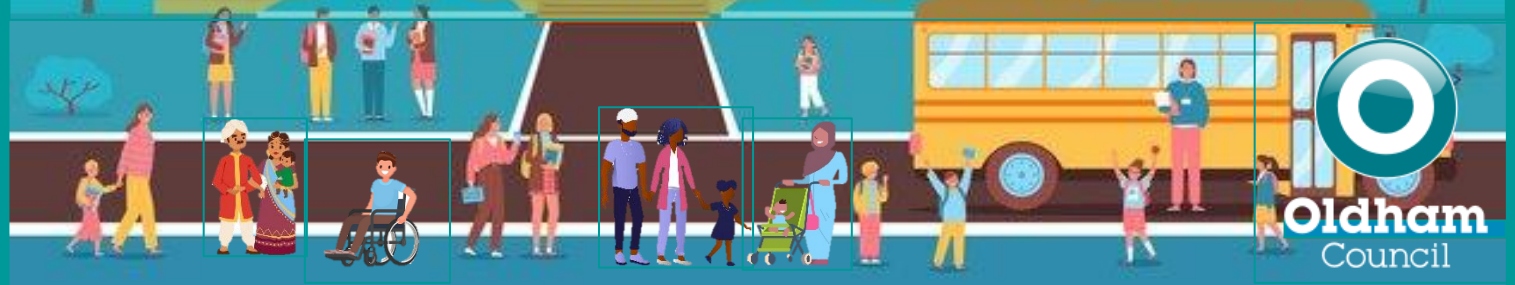


Briefing to Early Years Settings



Volume:	Summer 2026	Week No:	37-38	Date:	Thursday 09 July 2026
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Safeguarding

Extreme Heat Conditions

Following the current extreme heat conditions, you should continue to carry out a risk assessment within your setting. Please also refer to the guidance: [“Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather.”](#)

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

Consultation Webinars - DfE 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:

- [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

Joint statement regarding asbestos contaminated consumer products

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have shared a [Joint Statement](#) regarding potential asbestos contamination in sand-containing consumer products and product recalls.

This statement outlines the risks relating to asbestos exposure, and the zero-tolerance approach to asbestos in consumer products taken in the UK.

Any products that have been found to contain asbestos are subject to a [recall](#). To date, no asbestos has been identified in supplies of playpit sand, but several products with play sand, such as arts and crafts products, are affected. Although the risks to health are expected to be low, we recommend that settings review this and the OPSS [guidance](#) regarding asbestos in consumer products, including how to dispose of recalled products.

Point of contact: foundationyears@beginbright.com

Early Years

Ofsted's Early Years Teams Answer Your Questions



Ofsted hosted a Facebook 'Live' event where the early years team answered questions submitted by the audience. Topics covered included: sleep-related queries, inspection timelines and Ofsted grades. Ofsted have uploaded a recording to YouTube so you can watch it back.

Topics covered included:

- Sleep-related queries
- Inspection timelines
- Ofsted grades

[Click here](#) to watch it

Starting Reception Resources

 ***Starting Reception skills reward chart***

 ***Potty Training 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
- Potty Training 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.



Please encourage parents and carers to follow Oldham's social media channels, where regular updates will be shared throughout the summer. These will include helpful tips, advice, and key information to support children and families as they prepare for starting school.

Follow us on social media:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [TikTok](#)

Point of Contact: contact@startingreception.co.uk

Partnerships

Oldham Families First Partnership Newsletter

 ***Oldham Families First Partnership Newsletter – June 2026***

Please find attached the latest Families First Partnership Newsletter.

Point of Contact: familiesfirstpartnership@oldham.gov.uk

Togetherness

This new online learning pathway to helps parents navigate the changing world with their child; including social media, gaming, AI, friendships, big opinions, sex, conflict and war.



[Understanding your child in a changing world - Togetherness](#)

Children are learning all the time about how to look after their feelings and so are parents. However, parents may feel that some of the situations they are now facing as a parent are completely new. Their child's world can feel very different from their own childhood.

This pathway gives real life examples with practical guidance and ideas to help handle modern parenting challenges

Point of Contact: samantha.white@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Family Hubs

 **Oldham Family Hubs – Intervention Cards**



[Click here](#) to find out what events are on for families at their nearest Family Hub.

Please see attached intervention cards with comprehensive information for families.

CPD and Training

Early Help update

The Early Help Partnership Officers thank those that participated in the initial Neglect Checklist training earlier this year.

A series of 30-minute *virtual* refresher sessions will be available for Designated Safeguarding Leads, Deputy DSLs, Room Leaders, new staff, and practitioners who would benefit from a refresher as further support.

The Neglect Checklist helps practitioners identify concerns at the earliest opportunity, ensuring children and families receive the right support at the right time. It also supports settings in meeting safeguarding responsibilities and demonstrating robust safeguarding practice.

Refresher Training Dates for EY Settings

- Tuesday 29 September 2026
- Thursday 1 October 2026

Settings are also invited to provide feedback on how they have implemented the Neglect Checklist, the impact it has had, and any further support they may require.

Book a place and share your feedback via the Google Form:

[Neglect Checklist Training – Early Years Settings \(PVI\) Registration and Feedback – Fill in form](#)

A key focus across Children's Services is the safeguarding of babies and children aged 0–2 years, recognising the importance of early identification and intervention during this critical stage of development. Further information and resources will be shared in the coming months.

Childminders

The Early Help Partnership Officers are offering Neglect Checklist training specifically for registered Childminders.

This 30-minute Microsoft Teams session will introduce the Neglect Checklist and explore how it can support early identification of neglect, strengthen professional curiosity, and help childminders respond to emerging safeguarding concerns.

Training Dates

- Tuesday 22 September 2026
- Thursday 24 September 2026

To register for a session, please complete the Google Form:

[Neglect Checklist Training – Childminder Registration – Fill in form](#)

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with settings and childminders to strengthen safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for children and families.

Point of Contact: Kymberli.Spratt@Oldham.gov.uk

Recruitment and Retention

Get Oldham Working (GOW) – Youth Guarantee



GOW Support

- Free recruitment support and promotion of vacancies across the borough of Oldham through all our means
- Access to Work Experience seeking residents and covering of DBS costs.
- To refer any unsuccessful resident applications / interviewees to GOW – As to keep interest within working in the Sector and to develop their Skills/ Qualifications/ Attributes (should they want to)

GOW Contact details: 0161 770 4674 / Getoldhamworking@oldham.gov.uk

Do you know about “Youth Guarantee”?

Youth Guarantee, is a major Government initiative designed to help employers recruit, train, and retain young talent (aged 16–24) with significant financial and practical support available

It includes a range of funded pathways such as jobs, apprenticeships, and work experience placements delivered through Jobcentre Plus and local partners.

It can help you with:

- Accessing a wider pool of motivated young candidates
- Reduce recruitment and training costs through government-funded support
- Help address skills shortages and build a future talent pipeline
- Strengthen your organisation's social value and community impact

Funding Available:

Employers can benefit from a range of financial incentives, including:
Youth Jobs Grant

An infographic titled 'YOUTH GUARANTEE Our offer to employers' from the UK Government. It lists several financial incentives and guarantees for employers hiring young people. The incentives include £1,000 for hiring apprentices aged 16-18, £3,000 for hiring 18-24 year olds on Universal Credit for over 6 months, £2,000 for SMEs hiring apprentices aged 16-24, and £2,000 for hiring foundation apprentices aged 16-21. Additionally, it mentions 'No NICs' on employees under 21 or apprentices under 25, and a 'Jobs Guarantee' of fully subsidised work for long-term unemployed 18-24 year olds. The bottom of the infographic features a red and white geometric design and the URL 'business.gov.uk/recruit' for more information.

YOUTH GUARANTEE
Our offer to employers

NEW **£1,000**
for employers who hire apprentices aged 16-18.

NEW **£3,000**
for employers who hire 18-24 year olds who have been on Universal Credit for over 6 months.

NEW **£2,000**
for SMEs who hire apprentices aged 16-24.

£2,000
for employers who hire foundation apprentices aged 16-21.

No NICs
on employees under 21, or apprentices under 25.

Jobs Guarantee
Fully subsidised work for long-term unemployed 18-24 year olds.

To get involved visit:
business.gov.uk/recruit

- Up to £3,000 per hire for young people (18–24) on Universal Credit on a minimum of 16 hours per week

Jobs Guarantee (paid placements)

- 100% wage costs covered for 6 months (up to 25 hours/week)
- Includes National Insurance, pension contributions & onboarding support

Apprenticeship incentives

- £2,000 incentive for SMEs hiring young apprentices
- Training costs fully funded for eligible 16–24 year olds

National Insurance Contribution Exemptions

- For employees under 21 and apprentices under 25 (on wages up to £50,270)

How to get involved:

To sign up / register interest in creating a role for a young person, you can contact:

DWP Employer Services Line on **0800 169 0178** or you can complete the following form: [Contact Employer Services](#)

For any further information on the Youth Guarantee, or to receive our support throughout the process—including exploring suitable opportunities and connecting with local residents—please do not hesitate to contact the team:

0161 770 4674

Getoldhamworking@oldham.gov.uk

Recruitment Support Available for Early Years Providers

Are you making the most of the recruitment support available across Oldham?

Get Oldham Working can help providers advertise vacancies, connect with potential candidates and access local recruitment support. For further information contact getoldhamworking@oldham.gov.uk

The Do Something Big campaign brings jobseekers to the website, where they can easily click through to the [Find a Job vacancies page](#) vacancies page. By posting your jobs there, you'll be putting your roles in front of people who are excited to kickstart a career in early years. The Do Something Big campaign also offers a range of helpful resources [Recruitment resources - Early Years Careers](#)

Increase the visibility of your setting by sharing positive stories, staff experiences and photographs on social media to showcase what makes your provision unique contact early.years@oldham.gov.uk for further support.

You can also strengthen your recruitment pipeline by attending local jobs fairs, linking with apprenticeship providers, and building relationships with Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) settings attending open days and careers events to connect with newly qualified practitioners.

In addition, offering volunteering, work experience and placement opportunities through initiatives such as **Step into Early Years and Childcare**, in partnership with Get Oldham Working and Lifelong Learning, can help introduce new people to the sector and support the development of your future workforce.

[Youchoosework.com](https://youchoosework.com) is also available to support you. They are aware of the national shortage of Level 2 and Level 3 childcare professionals, combined with slow and expensive agency services, makes it incredibly hard to maintain high-quality care and meet statutory ratios. youchoosework was created to solve that problem. It's a tool designed to help nursery managers quickly connect with vetted, flexible workers — people who have the skills and experience but need work that fits around other commitments.



By making it easier for nurseries to find the right people at the right time, they are helping the sector stay resilient, responsive, and focused on what matters most: the children.

If you would like support to explore any of these opportunities, please get in touch with the Early Years team early.years@oldham.gov.uk for further support.

Community

Have Your Say on the Future of Foxdenton Hall and Park

Plans for the restoration of Foxdenton Hall and Foxdenton Park are progressing, with Chadderton Together, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Oldham Council working closely together to explore the site's future.

As part of this work, we're keen to hear from people who use, visit or have an interest in the site. Your feedback will help shape proposals for the future restoration of Foxdenton Hall and Park and ensure the plans reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.



The survey is anonymous and should take no more than five minutes to complete.

[Click here](#) to take part in the survey.

Reminders

What's on at Oldham HLA

Events to suit all tastes, ages and interests. Gallery exhibitions and talks, drop-in social events at your local library, cinema, theatre, courses, festivals, business advice and much more!



[Click here](#) to find out what's on over the summer holidays.



Check out events and activities across the borough for families over the summer holidays.

[Click here](#) to visit the **What's On Oldham** website.

Oldham Way Flyover Closure

Please note that there is planned refurbishment works to Manchester Street Viaduct to ensure the viaduct remains in service for years to come.

Some delays can be expected during the refurbishment works. **Full Closure of A62** in northbound and southbound directions is expected from **Sunday 19 July – Thursday 3 September 2026**.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Oldham Way Flyover Refurbishment Scheme

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

