

Introduction to Safeguarding

This document is designed to support compliance and continuous improvement. It does not replace statutory guidance, legislation, the Local Authorities safeguarding arrangements, or professional/legal advice. Please use this as guidance and directory.

Help for Early Years Providers

Access a range of resources, activities and support articles designed for childminders and practitioners working with children aged 0-5 years. We encourage all providers to review the new guidance to ensure they are up to date with current expectations, best practice and available support. The guidance provides practical information to help you deliver high-quality early education and care and support positive outcomes for young children. [Help for early years providers: Get help for your setting](#)

The DfE have published new [Help for early years providers: Safeguarding](#) to help practitioners, managers and childminders understand and apply the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS.

The new content provides practical information and advice on creating a strong safeguarding culture, recognising concerns early, responding appropriately, and ensuring children are safe, healthy and supported to thrive.

The guidance includes information on:

- the safeguarding responsibilities of early years providers and practitioners - [Help for early years providers: Safeguarding](#)
- the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - [Help for early years providers: Designated Safeguarding Lead](#)
- creating and maintaining a strong safeguarding culture - [Help for early years providers: Creating a strong safeguarding culture](#)
- recognising signs of possible abuse, neglect and harm - [Help for early years providers: Help identify potential safeguarding concerns](#)
- raising, recording and reporting safeguarding concerns - [Help for early years providers: Raising a concern](#)
- whistleblowing procedures and when to use them - [Help for early years providers: Whistleblowing](#)
- safer recruitment and vetting requirements - [Safer recruitment | NSPCC Learning](#)

- working in partnership with parents and carers to keep children safe - [Help for early years providers: Working in partnership with parents and carers](#)
- staff training, supervision and ongoing safeguarding practice - [A manager's guide to staff supervisions in early years settings - NDNA](#)
- attendance, absence monitoring and information sharing
 - [Help for early years providers: Summary of the EYFS safeguarding requirements](#)
 - [Attendance: why it matters, key data and guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- resources, posters and links to further guidance and support - [Help for early years providers: Resources and posters](#)

By using this guidance and supporting resources, you can strengthen safeguarding practice and policies in your setting, support staff confidence and help ensure every child grows up in a safe, nurturing and protective environment.

Early Years Safeguarding Support Offer 2026-27

Early Years Providers

The Early Years Team, in partnership with the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) is committed to supporting providers to maintain effective safeguarding arrangements and continuously develop safeguarding practice across the sector.

The safeguarding offer for 2026-27 has been shaped by:

- OSCP strategic priorities
- Emerging safeguarding themes locally, regionally and nationally.
- Recent safeguarding incidents and concerns across the sector.
- Updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Feedback from Early Years providers through the OSCP survey and from safeguarding professionals.

Our aim is to ensure that all settings have access to high-quality safeguarding training, professional networks, resources and updates that support leaders and practitioners to keep children safe.

Oldham's Early Years Safeguarding Support Offer

[Safeguarding Offer for Early Years September 2026-27](#)

[Eventbrite - Oldham Early Years and Primary School Services](#)

Safeguarding children is paramount. We are committed to promoting children's welfare by:

- Protecting children from harm
 - Ensuring all adults working with children are suitable
 - Promoting children's health and wellbeing
 - Supporting positive behaviour
 - Maintaining effective records, policies and procedures
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1. We aim to create a culture of vigilance where children's safety, welfare and wellbeing are promoted, and concerns are identified and acted upon promptly.
 2. In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), we recognise the importance of early identification, timely intervention and effective multi-agency working to safeguard children.
 3. This toolkit supports settings to develop effective safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring all staff understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.
 4. Each setting must appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and, where possible, a Deputy DSL with the skills, knowledge, training and capacity to carry out the role effectively.
 5. Policies and procedures must comply with the EYFS Statutory Framework (2025) and local safeguarding guidance issued by the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP) and Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP).
 6. This toolkit provides practical guidance, resources, policy templates and links to relevant safeguarding information and support.
 7. As safeguarding guidance is regularly updated, settings should regularly review MSP and OSCP information and update their procedures accordingly.

DfE has developed online safeguarding training in collaboration with the NSPCC. The training is free for all early years educators. [Log in to the early years safeguarding training](#). If you do not have an account, [use the registration form](#) to sign up.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy

[Help for early years providers: Designated Safeguarding Lead](#)

Appointment of the DSL and Deputy

Every setting must appoint a DSL and should identify a Deputy DSL to ensure safeguarding leadership is available during operating hours.

The registered provider should ensure appointed staff:

- Have safeguarding knowledge and experience appropriate to the role.
- Demonstrate commitment, confidence and leadership in safeguarding practice.
- Are able to support colleagues and deliver safeguarding guidance and training.
- Can maintain accurate, confidential records.
- Understand multi-agency working and their role in safeguarding processes.
- Have sufficient time, resources and support to fulfil their responsibilities.

Responsibilities of the DSL and Deputy

The DSL and Deputy are responsible for:

- Leading safeguarding practice within the setting.
- Managing and supporting safeguarding referrals to MASH, Police, Channel and DBS where required.
- Acting as the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Supporting staff to identify and respond to safeguarding risks.
- Working with parents, professionals and safeguarding agencies.
- Monitoring attendance, online safety and the safe use of technology.
- Ensuring safer recruitment procedures are followed.
- Supporting children who are vulnerable, in need, looked after, or subject to child protection plans.
- Attending and contributing to safeguarding meetings and conferences.
- Ensuring safeguarding policies and procedures are effectively implemented.

Early Years Employment Reference Template

Providers are encouraged to use the Early Years Employment Reference Template (GOV.UK) as part of their safer recruitment processes. The template supports consistency when obtaining references and helps ensure that relevant information is gathered to inform recruitment decisions. Using this resource can strengthen safeguarding practices and support providers in meeting their responsibilities when recruiting staff to work with children. [Early years employment reference template - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards

Providers are encouraged to refer to the Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards (GOV.UK) guidance to ensure that staff qualifications meet current requirements for working in early years settings. The guidance provides information on qualification criteria, staff-to-child ratio requirements and the standards expected of the workforce, helping providers to maintain compliance and support the delivery of high-quality early education and care. [Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK](#)

Training

[Click here](#) to visit our Eventbrite page to see our next DSL training opportunities –

The DSL and Deputy must:

- Maintain up-to-date safeguarding, Prevent, Channel and Safer Recruitment training.
- Keep informed of local and national safeguarding developments.
- Understand early help processes and child protection procedures.
- Ensure all staff receive safeguarding induction, training and regular updates.
- Promote a culture where children's voices are heard and acted upon.
- Maintain records of safeguarding training for all staff.

Raising Awareness

The DSL must ensure that:

- Safeguarding policies are understood and consistently implemented.
- Policies are reviewed at least annually and updated as required.
- Parents understand the setting's safeguarding responsibilities and referral processes.
- Staff are informed of current safeguarding guidance, training and local developments.

Transfer of Safeguarding Records

When a child moves to another setting, safeguarding records must:

- Be transferred promptly and securely.
 - Be sent separately from general transition records.
 - Include written confirmation of receipt from the receiving setting.
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Documents used in the revision of the Self-reflection Toolkit and for early years settings to reference:

Oldham's Self-reflection Toolkit

- [Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)
- [Ofsted Early Years Inspection Toolkit](#)
- [Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and Early Years inspection guidance](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(where applicable to early-years providers\)](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children 2026](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

DfE: What to do if you're worried a child is being abused

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)

[OSCP | Welcome](#)

Oldham's Continuum of Need and Threshold Framework

This provides a shared approach for practitioners to identify the level of need a child or family may have, understand when Early Help is appropriate, and recognise when concerns require a more targeted or statutory safeguarding response.

It supports practitioners to make consistent decisions, work with families at the earliest opportunity and ensure children receive the right help at the right time

[Assessments | Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Neglect Toolkit

[Neglect Toolkit | Oldham Council](#)

LADO Local Authority Designated Officer

[LADO | Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Oldham has two LADOs:

Colette Morris

Office: 0161 770 8870 Mobile: 07583 101 863

Email: Colette.morris@oldham.gov.uk

Wendy Nicholls:

Office: 0161 770 0008 Mobile: 07974 619094

Email: wendy.nicholls@oldham.gov.uk

Allegation Management Co-ordinator

Catherine Leach

Office: 0161 770 8081

Email: catherine.leach@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

[Policies and procedures | Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Oldham's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures access and training – May incur a charge £

[Children's Safeguarding - Manchester Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Early years inspection: guidance and resources

Find guidance on how Ofsted inspects early years settings – for inspectors, providers and staff.

[DfE Statutory Framework for Early years Foundation stage](#)

Guidance Early years and childcare enforcement policy

[Early years and childcare enforcement policy - GOV.UK](#)

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. We inspect and regulate services that care for children, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. Find out more about [what we do](#).

Read [Ofsted's strategy](#).

This guidance sets out the principles and approach we will follow when exercising our enforcement powers.

[Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 - GOV.UK](#)

[Ofsted safeguarding policy - GOV.UK](#)

Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023)

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK](#)

The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The objectives of Prevent are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Statutory guidance on multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation

This guidance has three key functions:

- to provide information on FGM, including on the law on FGM in England and Wales. This is set out in the main body of this document;
- to provide strategic guidance on FGM for chief executives, directors and senior managers of persons and bodies mentioned above, or of third parties exercising public protection functions on behalf of those persons or bodies. This guidance is set out in the main body of this document; and
- to provide advice and support to front-line professionals who have responsibilities to safeguard and support women and girls affected by FGM, in particular to assist them in:
 - identifying when a girl or young woman may be at risk of FGM and responding appropriately;
 - identifying when a girl or woman has had FGM and responding appropriately; and
 - implementing measures that can prevent and ultimately help end the practice of FGM

[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation - GOV.UK](#)

Guidance on Safeguarding women and girls at risk of FGM

[Safeguarding women and girls at risk of FGM - GOV.UK](#)

These documents can be used by health professionals from all sectors, particularly designated and named safeguarding leads, and local safeguarding children board members. It is based on existing best practice within the NHS.

Online Safety

Guidance to help those who work in early years settings consider their practice and to take steps to safeguard both children and adults online.

- [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations - GOV.UK](#)
- [UK Council for Internet Safety - GOV.UK](#)
- [Help for early years providers: Screen use](#)
- [Help for early years providers: Internet safety](#)