



Hello and welcome to The EY Circle, PACEY's monthly newsletter, bringing the early years sector closer together.

Whilst we took a break in March, it's fair to say a lot has happened in our sector! This month's issue is therefore packed with all the latest news stories, general election build-up and a breakdown of key consultations taking place right now. Please make sure to take part in these consultations, have your say and make your voice heard.

We are also pleased to announce we will be offering our popular registration offer again this May. Designed to support those looking to become a childminder or help others return to the profession with savings and grants that can be put towards registration and training.

As always, PACEY is keen to work with organisations and individuals from across the sector to bring those passionate about childcare and early years with the latest news, policy updates, research, training, resources and so much more.

### The biggest news from our sector

New Health Protection guidance in Wales

Changes for our sector in the Spring Budget 2024

Ofsted Big Listen

Government releases data on expansion

Early Childhood Play, Learning and Care Plan in Wales

Coram survey reveals continued decrease in the availability of childcare in England

Calls for a reintroduction of Sure Start-style investment

Labour pledges to keep the entitlement scheme

### Because children are at the heart of everything we do

When children do not get the right nutrients in their food, it can be damaging in so many ways. Here's how we can support children and parents with their diet.

Malnutrition is a serious problem. According to UNICEF-WHO-WB child malnutrition estimates, in 2020, 149 million children under 5 around the world had stunted growth, 45 million affected by wasting, and 39 million were overweight. It's important that children's diets contain the right nutrients and micronutrients for their growth and development.



[Read more](#)

## Consultations

There are three important consultations currently being run by the Department for Education (DfE). Please take the time to read the overview for each one below and take part. It is important that as many people as possible have their say and challenge where necessary.

**1**

### Childminding consultation - closing 10 May

PACEY worked with DfE on this consultation which includes some key areas that we already know are contributing to skilled and passionate childminders leaving the profession, such as funding payment schedules, wraparound care and making it easier for childminders to run their businesses from rented properties. Most importantly, there is an opportunity for childminders to feedback what in their opinion would help recruit and retain this workforce.

DfE heard some important feedback from childminders when we ran two forums with them last week and we believe their sentiments will be echoed by others in this consultation. but we need more data to support.

<a href="#">Recruiting new childminders</a>	<a href="#">Retaining existing childminders</a>
Change to new childminder GP health declarations	Change to LA entitlement payments
Understanding property barriers	Supporting childminders
	Entitlements and wraparound care
	Giving CMAs more flexibility

[Complete consultation](#)

**2**

### Safeguarding consultation - closing 17 June

The [new consultation](#) proposes changes to both the childminder and group and school-based versions of the EYFS to strengthen and clarify safeguarding policy. Changes include:

- Amendments to ensure safer recruitment including new requirements to obtain references and requiring safeguarding policies to include procedures to follow to ensure recruitment of suitable individuals.
- Creation of new requirements for following up if a child is absent for a prolonged period of time and amendments to ensure providers hold additional emergency contact details.
- Creation of new requirements to ensure safer eating.
- Creation of a safeguarding training criteria annex and a requirement for safeguarding policies to include details of how safeguarding training is delivered and how practitioners are supported to put it into place.
- Amendments to clarify that early years students and trainees are required to have paediatric first aid (PFA) training.
- Amendments to ensure children's privacy when changing nappies and toileting is considered and balanced with safeguarding need.
- A small number of other minor changes to the structure and wording of the safeguarding requirements to improve clarity.

[Complete consultation](#)

**3**

### EDR consultation - closing 20 May

A [new consultation](#) on an experience-based route for early years practitioners to gain approved status to work within staff:child ratios. This follows positive responses to the proposal in last year's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) consultation in England.

The experience-based route would apply to practitioners in group-based and school-based providers only. It would give providers more flexibility to include practitioners who do not hold full and relevant qualifications, but have the necessary practical skills and experience to count in staff:child ratios. Under the new proposals, early years managers would assess their staff's knowledge, skills and experience against the level 3 EYE criteria.

The DfE noted that some providers previously voiced concerns about how this route might impact the quality of early years provision and care. The technical consultation document details the proposed model, eligibility criteria and process requirements and the DfE is keen to hear a broad range of views from anyone with an interest in the sector, including early years and childcare professionals.

## Complete consultation

### Making waves in the sector

Liam and John Murphy are the father-son duo who started Stix Mindfulness. Liam's inspiration for Stix came from his personal experience growing up with a brother who has ADHD. Whilst he believed medication can be extremely valuable to children with ADHD, he saw the negative impact that it could have on children and was determined to explore alternative solutions to support children's ADHD behaviours.



Liam and John are dedicated to supporting children's mental wellbeing through interactive mindfulness technology. They have run multiple pilot studies in schools and family homes, with a recent study from Brunel University showing promising signs that Stix can support children; 86% of participants improved their mood after using Stix, and 100% of kids wanted to carry on using them after the study ended.

## Find out more

### Resource and guidance highlights



[Update on local authorities holding back funding and paying monthly.](#)



[Resource highlights from PACEY regional event: Leeds](#)



[Updated Ofsted guidance on inspections.](#)



[Barnardo's general election manifesto](#)

### Coming together | Events for the sector

08.05

[EYA Connect session - Positive mealtimes in EY settings](#)

09.05

[AET- Good autism practice in the early years](#)

09.05

[DfE Provider Roadshow - Oxford](#)

11-17.05

[Childminding Week](#)

17.05

[Early Years SEN Conference - London](#)

22.06

[PACEY's Regional Networking Morning - Bristol](#)

PACEY is here to support

## Childminder registration support

**PACEY's Childminder registration offer is back! This May, register to become a Childminder (or return to the profession) with Ofsted to...**

- ★ Receive a £600 Government start up grant
- ★ Save £44 on our HBCA course 'Preparing to work in home-based childcare'
- ★ Receive three months FREE PACEY membership
- ★ Save £10 on our Cache endorsed safeguarding course
- ★ Save £12.99 on our Food safety & hygiene course
- ★ Free support from our PACEY advisor service
- ★ Join our first steps to childminding Facebook group (4000+ members)
- ★ Visit [www.pacey.org.uk/becomingachildminderinEngland](http://www.pacey.org.uk/becomingachildminderinEngland)



[Becoming a childminder](#)



## PACEY's Early Years Morning: Bristol

£5 Early Bird tickets are available to all for our Regional networking morning in Bristol on Saturday 22 June!

For just £5 you can:

- Listen to fantastic speakers including Katie Crouch (Bath Space University), Wendy Ratcliff (Ofsted) Liv McLennan (Boogie Mites), Angela Gamble (PACEY).
- Hear from fellow experienced providers as they share experiences
- Network with other like-minded providers in your area
- Meet a range of exhibiting EY companies to support your practice

Book your place and bring a friend for free using code '**FRIEND4FREE**' now.

[Book here](#)



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