



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

As we ready ourselves for the General Election on 4 July, we eagerly wait to hear from parties on their pledges for the childcare and early years sector. With so many issues across the country to address and voters to appease, we hope childcare and early years will be at the forefront of plans as we know that will improve the economy. The recent report from The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood sets out how a 'greater focus on early childhood would create a happier and more productive workforce today and transform the health and wellbeing of the UK economy and society for generations to come.'

In May's issue of The EY Circle, we look closer at two recently published manifestos; 'A manifesto for Childminders' published by PACEY and 'Rescue and reform' published by the Early Education and Childcare Coalition, both calling on the next Government for urgent action and long-term reform.

Elsewhere in the issue, we speak to Jamel C Campbell about his career in childcare, what inspires him and his work as a children's author.

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



Childminder start up grant data released



The Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood report published



Childcare applications for parents of 9-month-olds opened



PACEY celebrated Childminding Week 2024

### A manifesto for childminders

In May, during Childminding Week 2024, we published our 'Manifesto for Childminders' calling for urgent government action to address plummeting childminder numbers ensuring children have the very best start in life.

The early education and childcare sector is in a precarious state, with childminders in particular leaving the profession at a startling rate. A vital part of childcare provision, childminding settings offer 166,000 of the 1.26 million childcare places available in England and 12,800 of the 79,000 in Wales.

However, we now risk losing this valuable infrastructure, with the current rate of decline predicting only **1,000 childminders left in England by 2035**. In Wales, the 2023 Independent Review of Childminding highlighted a similar concern with a workforce decline of 23 per cent between 2018 and 2022 and continuing at pace.



## Our manifesto calls for:

1. A universal, national funded programme of childminder pre-registration support.
2. Accessible post registration support to enable professional growth of childminders and mechanisms to reduce isolation and provide emotional support.
3. Funding systems and payments that are fair and sustainable.
4. A clear, consistent approach reducing barriers and enabling childminders to deliver funded high- quality childcare and early education in Wales.
5. Reform of the current rule that excludes non-parental relatives from providing funded childcare to related children in England.
6. An obligation on all local authorities to audit existing wraparound provision in their area and avoid undermining childminder provision.
7. Improvements to the Universal Credit system to allow for the unique working context of childminders.
8. A joined-up, national approach to define and clarify local planning, commercial waste and environmental health requirements for childminders to reduce the burden felt by childminders.
9. A long-term strategy for early education and childcare that understands the unique value of childminders and puts them at the centre of addressing the unequal access that is currently leaving disadvantaged children, including those with SEND and ALN, missing out.

[Read our manifesto in full here](#)

## Rescue and reform

The Early Education and Childcare Coalition (EECC), which is co-chaired by PACEY's Chief Executive, Helen Donohoe, is a group of 30 organisations uniting the voices of all those with a stake in the future of early education and care - children, parents, providers, the early education workforce, and the wider business community. It launched its new manifesto with proposals to 'rescue and reform' the early education and childcare sector in England.



The new Rescue and Reform manifesto sets out **3 key priorities** for Government:

1. Guarantee that all children can access inclusive, high-quality provision that is affordable for their parents.
2. Commit to sustainable and fair funding for all types of providers.
3. Establish and invest in an early years workforce strategy.

Supporting its manifesto, the Coalition has published new research around voters' perspectives of early education and childcare:

- 71% of voters think children should have a right to access early education and childcare regardless of their parents' employment status.
- 67% of voters say investing in early education and childcare is good for the whole country, not just parents (up from 59% last year).
- 53% are concerned about the availability of early education and childcare in England, with 40% saying it's difficult to find provision and 49% saying it is unaffordable.

[Read the EECC manifesto in full here](#)

## Aspiring careers in the sector

Jamel C Campbell is an early years educator, consultant, radio/tv host, storyteller and best-selling author from south London (Lewisham born and bred!). PACEY spoke to him about his interesting career path so far, including his time at LEYF and work as Deputy Chair of the Men In The Early Years (MITEY) group and his move to Swiss Cottage School and Research Centre. Jamel also talks about his work as an early years consultant and budding career as a children's author. Throughout all of this, he has had many setbacks and encountered challenges being a black man in a female dominated sector but has persevered and been rewarded. We hope his career inspires others.



[Read the full interview here](#)

## Resource and guidance highlights



[Spotlight on Men in the Early Years](#)



[Spotlight on Safeguarding](#)

## Coming together | Events for the sector

19.06

[Equality Act in the Early Years training for practitioners](#)

20.06

[Alliance annual conference 2024: Minds still matter](#)

22.06

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

24.06

[Autism Education Trust - Early years, Tier 2 - Good Autism Practice](#)

27.06

[Working with Trauma in Early Years \(West Midlands\)](#)

02.07

[Early Years Conference- Doncaster](#)

## PACEY is here to support

**Safeguarding training**

Our Safeguarding course has been reviewed by Cache and the content fully endorsed. If you work with children, you have a responsibility to help to protect them. You must be aware of your roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, child protection and the welfare of children.

In this course you will have the opportunity to watch video clips, download resources and reflect on your practice. The information, extra information links and activities provided are designed to offer practical ideas to promote further thinking and reflective practice about safeguarding children.

Non-members can receive a 10% discount until end of June using code **'Safeguarding10'**



[Purchase training here](#)

**Food safety and hygiene training**

Do you prepare food in your childcare setting? Are you looking to complete a food hygiene qualification? If so, this Level 2 food hygiene course, accredited by the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), will give you all of the guidance you need.

Non-members can receive a 10% discount until end of June using code **'Foodsafety10'**



[Purchase training here](#)

**First aid training**

PACEY is partnered with [Tigerlily First Aid Training](#) to offer our England members discounted first aid training. The 12-hour course combines one day of tutor-led training with six hours interactive e-learning and is available at training centres across the country or in-house for larger groups.

PACEY members receive 10% off.



[More information here](#)



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