

EASTERN COLLABORATIVE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL NETWORK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the first ECCRN newsletter of 2026!

We hope the festive period bought you both joy and relaxation. We are kicking off the New Year with an informative mix of topics to get your brains ticking.

Please absorb and enjoy!

Reasonable force

A summary of responses received and the government's response to the consultation and next steps:

Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance: proposed amendments

Also see guidance about the use of physical restraint in schools for governing bodies, headteachers and school staff.

Use of reasonable force in schools

Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools replace the 'Use of reasonable force in schools' guidance from 1 April 2026.

Have you heard about the Restraint Reduction Network?

The Restraint Reduction Network is a collaborative network of organisations and individuals committed to reducing the reliance and looking to eliminating the unnecessary use of restrictive practices. They want services to be safer, respectful, dignified and rights-respecting.



IN THE NEWS...



Care Leavers

(it's good news, yay!)

- Government extends free NHS services for care leavers
- Care leavers given free health services
- **Success for care leavers looks like this.**
A 4-year research project from the Rees Centre, shaped by a 13-strong care-experienced design group, sets out what success for care leavers looks like.
- ICO promises legal action over 'traumatic' UK care-record access: Care-leavers 'traumatic' wait for personal records as regulator threatens legal action

Keeping children closer to home

- A good practice report spotlighted local authorities keeping more children in their care closer to home.
- **A new report highlights urgent need to protect trafficked and unaccompanied children** going missing from care in the UK ECPAT UK.

Age of criminal responsibility

Top Judges Urge England and Wales to Raise Criminal Responsibility Age to 14. Watch video [here](#).

'When supporting children with trauma, we often forget foster carers'

And residential workers. A poignant reminder of the difficulties and barriers faced by those who directly support young people with trauma:
Children with trauma: foster carers must be central to care.

A wider government strategy that says Residential Child Care workers can offer knowledge and experience from working with traumatised children:

Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy



We Wish In 2026...

We asked some of our ECCRN colleagues to write down their 2026 wishes for the young people in our services. Here's what they said:

"My wish is that more care providers are empowered to look beyond the everyday and strive to create new ways of working to innovate and achieve amazing outcomes for young people accessing care."

"My wish is that every child feels secure, valued, and supported in an environment that nurtures their well-being. I hope that I can play a part in supporting this via the ECCRN network."

"I wish we can keep strong and working collaboratively to tackle overall (public) negative views regarding residential child care, enhance visibility and understanding of our value within the sector! It really frustrates me that we all speak proudly about our work, what we do, what we achieve, and we continue being perceived as the last resource to support children and young people! I guess it is on us, the ambitious challenge of de-constructing misconceptions about residential child care."

Creating a psychologically safe culture in your home and organisation



Psychological safety expert Gary Keogh unpacks why so many people still don't feel safe to speak up at work:
[psychological-safety-stop-guessing-start-measuring-to-supercharge-your-culture/](https://www.garykeogh.com/psychological-safety-stop-guessing-start-measuring-to-supercharge-your-culture/)

Culture starts with psychological safety, not perks:
[If-you-want-a-healthy-workplace-start-with-psychological-safety/](https://www.garykeogh.com/if-you-want-a-healthy-workplace-start-with-psychological-safety/)



Is it time for a tea break?

Why not make yourself a hot or cold beverage and then settle down to soak up these newsworthy articles and listens.

* Children in Care & Education

<https://becomecharity.org.uk/get-information/resources/a-guide-for-teachers-parents-and-carers/training-teachers-who-care/>

<https://becomecharity.org.uk/get-involved/our-campaigns/moved-during-exams/>



* The perils of body image issues

[Longitudinal associations between adolescent body dissatisfaction, eating disorder and depressive symptoms, and BMI: a UK twin cohort study.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8500000/)



* What others are saying

[Privatised citizens: the business of kids in care](https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2019/jul/10/privatised-citizens-the-business-of-kids-in-care)

[No one should be getting rich off the backs of vulnerable children](https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2019/jul/10/no-one-should-be-getting-rich-off-the-backs-of-vulnerable-children)



*Recommended listening for all in Residential Child Care

An episode from the Radio 4 series 'Child' which looks into love and its importance in a child's development:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002ntn1>



Have you considered the impact of AI in your work?

Artificial intelligence and ethics: **Professor Tarsem Singh Cooner ([YouTube](#))**

Artificial intelligence and children's social care: **[CELCIS \(various webinar dates\)](#)**

The agenda for the next ECCRN online meeting on the **29th January 2026** will address some important aspects of practice we covered in Decembers newsletter:

The language we use

Decriminalisation

Ideas always welcome!

Thank you for reading our newsletter, your feedback would be very welcome. If you wish to be removed from the distribution or wish to add a colleague, please email us:

SLI Programme mailbox: EasternRegionCIB@norfolk.gov.uk

SLI website: [Commission East – Improvement East](#)

Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/improvement-east/>

See you at the next online ECCRN meeting!



Partnering for Practice