

EASTERN COLLABORATIVE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL NETWORK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our June 2026 newsletter!
This month's read is as busy as the bees!
Please absorb and enjoy!



Safe - Seen – Soothed - Secure

Dan Siegel, an American psychiatrist developed a framework of 4 S's to help understand what a secure and positive attachment looks like: **Safe, Seen, Soothed and Secure**

- **Being safe** is about keeping the child safe from harm and making them feel safe in their environment.
- **Being seen** is that parents are there for the child and listen to the child and try to understand from their point of view.
- **Being soothed** is about showing comfort for the child when they are distressed and helping them to regulate their emotions.
- **Being secure** is about helping a child feel secure in all of their lifestyle so that they can feel confident and safe to explore further.

These 4S's help understand how supportive caregiving can build a secure attachment, emotional regulation, and healthy relationships throughout life.



Check this out: Dan Siegal has created this reminder for your fridge [“The Power of Showing up”](#)



Review of professional development for the children's homes workforce

The review's terms of reference covers six themes:

1. The role and purpose of children's homes.
2. The knowledge and skills required of both registered managers and staff to meet the purpose of children's homes.
3. The effectiveness of current qualifications in equipping staff with these knowledge and skills and how they should change.
4. What improvements can be made to training to ensure there are opportunities for ongoing professional development.
5. How career pathways and career progression can be improved to support staff retention.
6. Whether the oversight and regulation of children's homes and training providers supports the development of a skilled workforce.

The review will report to ministers in September 2026.

People in the ECCRN are involved.

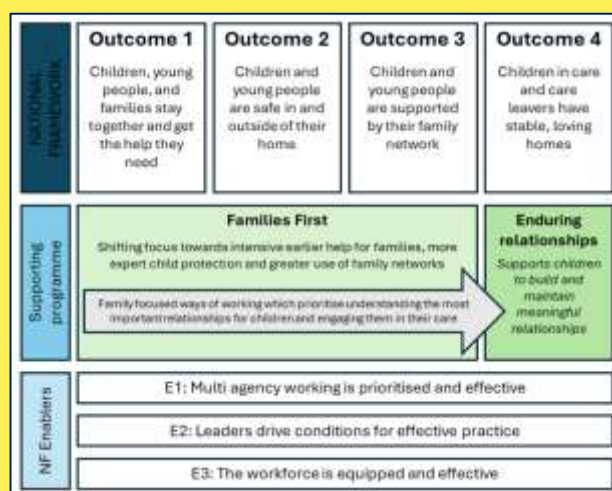
Read more here: [Children's home workforce review launched by DfE - Community Care](#)



Enduring Relationships



The above review is part of the Enduring Relationships Strategy for Children's Social Care which was announced on 4 June 2026. You can find the policy paper [here](#) as well as answers to questions like: *What are enduring relationships? What is the sector being asked for? Why enduring relationships? How do we deliver care with a focus on enduring relationships? How do we focus our practice on enduring relationships? How do we create home for enduring relationships? How can we support the move to living in a community?*



Useful links:

[Government backs family reunions for children in care - GOV.UK](#)

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Article:

['I left a children's home – and was embraced by love' - BBC News](#) – this highlights just how important life long links are.



BITS & PIECES

Delivering the children's social care reset 2026-2029



Delivering the children's social care reset, provides the government's implementation plan for reforming children's social care in England.

Responses:

Feedback from the sector to the Minister's introduction to Delivering the children's social care reset – NCERCC

NCERCC response to DfE Delivering the children's social care reset 2026- 2029.

My letter to
Josh MacAlister
(reality check)

By Rachel W

Suggestions from a
care experienced
person.



Practice tips

Writing child-
focused social work
records

Therapeutic
approaches to
social work in
residential child
care settings

PhD theses about residential child care

An ethnographic exploration of
relationships in Residential Child Care -
Helen Fowler (2018).

Exploring the emotion work of residential
childcare practitioners: A feminist,
qualitative study - Bethany Jay (2025)

Fascinating

Understanding fear in therapeutic residential care

News from elsewhere

<https://www.changingfuturesussex.org/>

The aim of the programme is to create an environment where individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage can receive flexible, trauma informed, person-centred support when they need it, leading to increased periods of stability and more opportunities to make positive changes in their lives.



Festival of entertainment & aspiration
for care experienced young people,
aged 16-25: Ministry of Sound
London 31Jul26

TICKETS ARE FREE!

New Safeguarding Resource Hub Launched

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review
Panel has launched a new website designed to help safeguarding professionals access: practical resources, review findings, sector learning, multi-agency guidance.

The Importance Of "Belonging" In Education – new
statement from the Rees Centre.



Research Article:
An intersectional analysis of the Scottish data on care



Online safety

Online Safety, Safeguarding, Security and Training | SWGfL

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published image security guidance developed by the UK Online Harms Early Warning Working Group. Aimed at education settings and organisations working with children and young people, the guidance provides information and advice on the risks of sharing images and videos of children on websites and social media platforms. It aims to address the risk of AI image manipulation and abuse, and the emerging threat of blackmail, covering: practices to protect young people's images; the risks of using young people's images online; and what to do if images of young people are misused, altered or abused.

“...PLACEMENT STABILITY HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ATTAINMENT.”

New report reveals the impact of placement moves on the educational attainment of children in long-term foster care.

Grown Up? Journeys to adulthood programme dives into the challenges facing young people aged 14-24, and how their transitions to adulthood are changing. The research focuses especially on mental health, digital lives and education to work, with young people's voices central to the programme. **Higgledy Piggledy** – This report is part of the Nuffield Foundation's Grown up? Programme and is a data commentary which maps systems of mental health support for young people.

Reframing offending

A rights- respecting approach for children who offend: Building on Kilbrandon's vision

HARD READS

Unregistered - Unregulated

***Why illegal children's homes are being paid up to £2m per child by councils**

***Illegal children's homes increase exploitation risk - ARU**

***Horrific, unregulated, and very profitable. The companies making cash from England's children in care**



“...A HORRIFYING FACT...”

More than 100 care leavers in England died in the past year

Why some young people deteriorate in residential care – and how we can stop it



Secure Children's Homes

A fall in use of secure children's homes comes as the number of applications by councils for High Court orders to deprive young people of their liberty in other settings rises.

Just 68 children in care were placed in welfare placements across the 14 secure children's homes (SCHs) as of 31 March 2026, down from 80 the previous year and an average of 88 over the previous 10 years, and the lowest figure since 2011 (62).

In England alone, the number of secure children's home welfare placements fell from 72 to 60, the same as the number recorded in 2011.

The number of approved and available places fell to their lowest levels since records began in 2010. The number approved for use in England and Wales dropped from 235 to 218, while the number available fell from 211 to 195.

The number of High Court applications to deprive children of their liberty in England having risen from 1,280 in 2024 to 1,439 in 2025, though this only translated into a small increase in the number of orders (from 1,167 to 1,184).

A new placement type and investment in increased capacity

Under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, the government has legislated to create a new type of regulated placement under which providers would be able to deprive a child of liberty if required.

It is also funding councils to develop alternative provision to unregulated settings for the young people at risk of being deprived of their liberty.

The previous government allocated capital investment to maintain the existing network of SCHs and develop new provision. Projects underway or under consideration include:

- The development of a 20-bed home in the West Midlands, where there is currently no provision. The West Midlands Safe Centre, which is backed by £61.8m in DfE capital funding, would be owned by local authorities in the region.
- The planned development of London's first secure children's home, also owned by the region's local authorities.
- A plan to build a new SCH in Devon to replace the existing Atkinson home, which Devon County Council says is "no longer suitable for meeting the diverse therapeutic needs of the vulnerable young people placed there".
- The planned replacement of the Swanwick Lodge SCH in Southampton, which is 30 years old, with a new home that would increase place numbers in the area from 10 to 18.



Important DOL Judgement Changes To Cheshire West Acid Test

Cheshire West 'acid test' was wrong, rules Supreme Court - Landmark judgement turns back the clock on deprivation of liberty safeguards to 2014. More [here](#) and [here](#).



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 ECCRN meeting!



Partnering for Practice