

From: dialogue <news@dialogueltd.co.uk>
Sent: 31 July 2025 15:59
To: Jen Bean
Subject: dialogue - August 2025 - Residential Care Bulletin



Residential Care Bulletin August 2025

dialogue offers lots of support to the residential sector, we regularly review the latest research and publications, and offer a huge variety of training courses to support you and your teams.

In this edition:

- **Ofsted Residential data** - reviewing trends from report published on 16th July
- **Free webinars on serious incidents** - for Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation staff
- **Be part of the residential child care community for Children's Homes** - meetings every Wednesday 1-2pm
- **Ofsted blog** - delay in registrations explained
- **Inspection Top Tips bulletin**— our weekly bulletin with analysis from live inspection data and suggestions for improvement, together with links to our weekly sessions
- **Children's Commissioner** - Growing up in a low-income family: Children's experiences

- **August training highlight – Directors, The Board and Safeguarding**, next course starting on 30th September
- **NSPCC Learning** – Child Criminal Exploitation
- **Excellent training** for your independent person, safeguarding lead, RI, NI, RSM, RM and staff.



Main findings: children's social care

Ofsted reports each year on social care inspections and outcomes for regulated providers and other providers of placements for children in England.

Out of the 12.7 million children living in England, around 400,000 (3%) are in the social care system at any one time, including children in need and children with child protection plans. Nearly 84,000 of these children are in care.

Some key findings:

- the children's social care sector continued to grow and now has 5,600 providers, with substantial increases (15%) in the number of children's homes and supported accommodation providers
- registration of supported accommodation continued, with 640 providers joining during the year. There was a higher number of applications than anticipated. There was also considerable diversity in the categories of accommodation offered, as well as in the number of premises operated by each provider

- children's homes continued to get smaller on average: those registered in-year had a mean capacity of 3, compared to 4 in children's homes overall

[Read the full report here](#)

FREE webinars on serious incidents

There's a duty on providers to notify Ofsted of serious incidents, but when is serious "serious"?

Back by popular demand, our FREE 1-hour bite-size sessions explore the regulation, draws on experience and additional clarifications, and follows the process through from incident to evidencing the learning required for good practice in difficult times.

We run a session on Regulation 27 notifications for Supported Accommodation Providers and a separate session on Regulation 40 notifications for Children's Homes. Please see full details below to register to join one of these FREE sessions.

You can register to attend one of our free sessions, using the buttons below...

[Children's Homes Reg40 on 10th September](#)

[Supported Accommodation Reg27 on 30th September](#)



2025 Membership for Residential Care

Our membership offer for Children's Homes runs weekly meetings every Wednesday 1-2pm.

The sessions are getting great feedback and there's lots to cover!

Coming up...

- **6th August** - our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **13th August** - '**Gangs and violent crime**' and it's links to exploitation with Lin Sands from NWG.
- **20th August** - our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and we'll also have Liz Cooper joining us to support a focused discussion on Leadership.
- **27th August** - '**Exploitation and links to DoLS**' - Jacqui McCann will be joining us to deliver a bite-size training session focusing on exploitation and it's links to DoLS and MCA.

You'll find more membership benefits on our site...

- **Individual members** £99+vat.
- **Whole home membership** £395+vat.
- **Whole organisation membership** get in touch for a quote.

Members' log in here

Find out more & join dialogue today



Ofsted Blog on delay to registrations

This recent blog from Ofsted was published by Yvette Stanley to try to address the growing concerns across the sector about delays to registrations being processed by Ofsted.

You can read the publication using the button below...

[delays in registration](#)



Inspection Top Tips

Our team are combing inspection reports every week for key themes and issues. We've been talking to providers about what you find useful and we'll now be highlighting elements that Ofsted identify as great practice, and flagging some of

the pitfalls, together with ideas to think about for your setting.

In the last 4 weeks we covered:

- Plans
- Activities and Leisure
- Complaints
- Supervision

All the resources and back catalogue are available in the [members' area](#)



Growing up in a low-income family: Children's experiences

This report from the Children's Commissioner sets out the impact on children and young people of living in poverty. The Commissioner is clear, there is "an almost Dickensian level of poverty facing some children in England today." Children and young people have spoken of their experiences, the shame that they feel as they are not able to join in, the lack of basic items and reliance on help and support from others. The children and young people involved also have ideas about how to resolve the issues they face, and the Commissioner suggests it is time we listen.

[Read the report](#)



Directors, the Board and Safeguarding training

Running a business supporting children living away from home is a serious endeavour and requires more than just a monetary investment. Successful children's care away from home is skilled, value-led work and requires understanding of the requirements at every level of the organisation.

This course from dialogue, one of the leading training organisations in the country, ensures Directors not in Responsible Individual positions have a proper understanding of their regulatory responsibilities to ensure settings are well led, safe and help young people achieve.

Suitable for: Directors of children's homes, independent fostering organisations, supported accommodation, and residential family centres who are not in a named regulatory role (RI/NI).

The trainer:

Chris Freestone is a former director and inspector who provides training and quality assurance visits to settings caring for children countrywide. She has delivered well-received board training to the largest organisations in this sector with an ability to move effectively between stories of individual children and strategic decision-making.

This one-day course costs £160+vat, reduced to **£120+vat for members**.

Our next training dates, being delivered virtually over two 3-hour sessions, is running on the following dates:

1-4pm on 30th September & 7th October 2025

You can read full details and make a booking for these dates by clicking on the button below or by contacting one of our team at admin@dialogueltd.co.uk

[Read more and book Directors and Safeguarding training](#)



Child Criminal Exploitation

NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode which discusses child criminal exploitation (CCE) with the Service Head of the NSPCC's Helpline and a police detective from an exploitation team in England.

The episode covers what CCE is; signs of CCE that professionals working with children should look out for; why early intervention is so important and what that may look like; and how the police can respond to CCE. Since the recording of the episode, the Crime and Policing Bill has been introduced into Parliament, which would introduce a new specific criminal offence of child criminal exploitation. This would target the adult as the primary offender in causing harm to the child by exploiting them to commit criminal activity.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

[Find out more on our CCE training](#)

Upcoming Training Courses

Face to face training, virtual, at your setting or in our venue, we're ready to support you and your team.

Here's some of our upcoming courses, to see a full range of courses and memberships, please chose from the relevant options below:

training for Residential Care

training for Supported Accommodation Providers

MCA and LPS (on 9th September)

Safeguarding Supervision (starting on 18th September)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 24th September)

RI training (starting on 25th September)

Online Safety (on 30th September)

Directors, the Board and Safeguarding (on 30th September)

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (starting on 2nd October)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 3rd October)

(Children's Homes) Managing the Inspection Process (on 6th October)

Dynamic Risk (on 7th October)

Managing Allegations (starting on 7th October)

Young People going missing (on 15th October)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 12th November)

Want training on something else?

For a full list of training topics to support the residential sector, please visit www.dialogueltd.co.uk/residential

We also design bespoke courses to meet the needs of you and your staff. Do get in touch to discuss.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Jen Bean
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Who are we?

dialogue provides training, coaching & mentoring, consultancy, safeguarding audits and independent visiting services for children's homes, residential schools and supported living providers. We prefer to work closely with you to identify areas of need and devise bespoke packages that demonstrably improve the lives of young people in your care. Training for managers, residential workers and other staff includes supervision, safeguarding, care planning & analysis, recording and much more.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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