

From: dialogue <news@dialogueltd.co.uk>
Sent: 02 January 2026 17:15
To: Jen Bean
Subject: dialogue - January 2026 - Residential Care Bulletin



Residential Care Bulletin January 2026

Welcome back, we hope you all had a restful break and are looking ahead to supporting your young people in 2026.

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.

Don't forget our weekly membership sessions online or you can watch on playback, covering the key changes coming this year, how we respond during the growth of the sector, the growth of the RCCs, presentations on improving recruitment and our weekly inspection top tips – recently praised by a regulatory solicitor. Find out more [here](#)

In this edition:

- **RM Vacancy Research** - published report, free webinar and calls to action

- **DfE update** - Evaluation of Regional Care Cooperatives: phase 1
- **Free webinars on serious incidents** for Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation staff
- **Research on Debriefs following restraint**
- **Inspection Top Tips bulletin** – members only benefit
- **Children's Commissioner** - Children's online safety: managing habits and preventing risk
- **January training highlight – Managing Allegations**, next course starts on 6th February
- **Ofsted reminder** - Use of photographs in Regulation 45 reports for children's homes
- **Excellent training** for your independent person, safeguarding lead, RI, NI, RSM, RM and staff. **New courses now live to book!**

RM Vacancy Research and Report

We've been working with DfE, Ofsted, commissioners, the CHA, NASS and providers to survey managers across the sector and have produced a report with big recommendations for providers, government and the regulator, to inform recruitment, retention and growth strategies nationally.

Click below to see what this means for you...

[Download the report](#)

[Registered Managers Training Programmes](#)

[FREE webinar on findings on 23rd January 2026](#)



Evaluation of Regional Care Cooperatives: phase 1

Phase 1 of the RCCs has been completed. They highlight the progress pathfinders had made in starting to bring about a culture change - moving towards more proactive and collaborative commissioning to meet children's needs and fostering a willingness to share data and make a funding commitment.

It's early stages at this point, really consolidating work that was already in place, but the two pilot RCCs have plans to move forward and, after heaving criticism in the National Audit Office report, the DfE are moving at pace to create opportunities for other regions to follow.

[Read the full report](#)



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 14th January](#)

[Supported Accommodation Reg27 on 13th February](#)



dialogue 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...

- **7th January** - our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research and regulation updates, reflections from 2025 and planning ahead for 2026.

- **14th January - Serious Incidents (Reg40s)** – with dialogue's Michelle Nicholson.
- **21st January** - our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to members queries. Chris Amys (RWK Goodman) will also be joining us to discuss whistleblowing.
- **28th January - Double Discrimination: Understanding the needs of Black care-experienced young people in the criminal justice system** with Dr. Katie Hunter and Rod Weston Bartholomew.

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.

You'll find the sessions and support invaluable, but if you're not sure add the code **TRYFORFREE** to the invoicing details and we will defer your first invoice a month. Simply let us know you'd not like to continue and we'll cancel the invoice altogether.

[Members' log in here](#)

[Find out more & join dialogue today](#)

Debriefs following restraint

This research examined debriefs after restraint in secure settings in Scotland, building towards an aim of restraint reduction. It found different interpretations of what the debrief was for, that debriefs tend to be a series of discussions rather than a single meeting, the real value of caring about care staff and that debriefs contribute towards but are not the sole factor in restraint reduction.

It would be good for providers to explore the meaning of debriefs across their team, the impact and consistency of delivery and what steps they can take to improve this important process.

[Read the Review here](#)



Inspection Top Tips

Our team are combing inspection reports every week for key themes and issues, and these are emailed out to **dialogue members'** each week. 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:

- Physical Intervention
- Responsibility of a Registered Person
- Being Happy in Care
- Planning and Caring for Children at Ligature Risk

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

Not a member yet... [join here](#)



Children's online safety: managing habits and preventing risk

Supporting children's safety online is a shared responsibility for parents, professionals, politicians and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world.

Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

Read the blog and access the resources recently published by the Children's Commissioner below.

[Online Safety Resources](#)

[Online Safety training with dialogue](#)



Managing Allegations training

While guidance requires regulated settings to follow safeguarding procedures when a child may have been

harmed by a member of staff or volunteer, our research found a quarter did not offer managing allegations training and only a third had received personnel training.

This course will ensure managers have the skills to prioritise the safety of children and young people, work within interagency procedures and guidance and properly support their staff through proportionate decision-making and a caring approach.

The trainer:

Brian Smith is a qualified Social Worker, and has previously held the position of a Responsible Individual. Brian has experience of over 37 years in social care to work with service providers to improve services to children. What drives Brian is a continued belief that we must do better in achieving positive outcomes for children in care and use the learning from all opportunities to improve the quality of life for these children.

Suitable for: The next course running is suitable for those working in both Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation.

This full-day course is delivered over two half-day zoom sessions and costs £160+vat, reduced to **£120+vat for members.**

Our next training date (suitable for both children's homes and supported accommodation) is being delivered virtually, running on the following dates:

1:30-4:30pm on 6th & 13th February 2026

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

BOOK - Managing Allegations training



Use of photographs in Regulation 45 reports for children's homes

Regulation 45 of The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 specifies that the registered person must provide a written report of the quality of care review.

When sending the report to Ofsted, they've asked providers not to include photographs of children, or anyone else that might be able to be identified, in these reports due to DP concerns.

Reg45 - Quality Review 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

Dynamic Risk training (starting on 13th January)

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (starting on 15th January)

Safeguarding Supervision (starting on 15th January)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 15th January)

Leading Supported Accommodation (starting on 15th January)

(Children's Homes) Managing the Inspection Process (on 28th Jan)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 30th January)

Managing Allegations (starting on 6th February)

Introduction to Harmful Sexual Behaviours (on 2nd March)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 20th April)

Leaving Care training (on 5th March)

NEW - Fit Person Preparations (on 10th March)

RI training (starting on 24th March)

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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