

Jen Bean

From: dialogue <news@dialogueltd.co.uk>
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To: Jen Bean
Subject: dialogue - April 2026 - Residential Care Bulletin



Residential Care Bulletin April 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.

In this edition:

Ofsted

iILACS framework update and updated SCCIF guidance

Updates from Department for Education

Keeping Children Safeguarding in Education is open for consultation

Updates on Working Together statutory guidance

Free Webinar

on Serious Incidents for Children's Homes

TRC 2026 Summit

What Constitutes Quality in Children's Residential Care?

Measuring what matters to children and their families

**Inspection Top Tips bulletin
members only benefit**

**Social Media Ban Consultation
SWGfL survey**

**National Cyber Resilience Centre
Introduction from CEO**

**April Training Highlight
Directors, the Board and Safeguarding
on 5th and 11th May**

**Excellent training
for your independent person, safeguarding lead, RI, NI,
RSM, RM and staff.**

**NEW course available to book, only a couple of spaces
left on our April start dates.**



Ofsted announces changes to inspections of local authority children's services with updated SCCIF guidance

Ofsted have confirmed the final details for the updated ILACS framework, which went live yesterday, on the 1st of April.

The biggest takeaway for the sector is the official removal of

the single-word "Overall Effectiveness" grade. Following the "**Big Listen**" consultation, Ofsted is moving toward a more nuanced reporting style. You can find the full breakdown of why they've made this shift in their **official announcement here**.

Sir Martyn Oliver has also shared a post regarding the long-term vision for children's services. **What to know about the April 2026 updates to inspection of local authority children's services**

[Download updated guidance here](#)



Department
for Education

KCSiE – Keeping Children Safeguarding in Education is open for consultation

Key elements for children's homes include thinking about safeguarding in a more joined up way – moving from isolated definitions of bullying, child on child abuse and serious violence and seeing these much more as a continuum, underpinned by misogyny and with strong links to sexual violence.

The consultation also includes the Government proposals on children questioning their gender.

Lots to explore and look at – our sister company, Safeguarding Network, has produced a guide to all the changes... subscribe to their bulletin to receive your copy here:

Working together to safeguard children 2026: summary of changes

Working Together has been updated with emphasis on **shared arrangements**, a much more integrated view of children in care, strong links to family and a greater emphasis on recognising harm outside the home.

[View the summary of changes](#)

[Download the Statutory guidance](#)



FREE webinar Regulation 40 notifications for Children's Homes

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 session explores 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.

Please see full details below to register to join one of these **FREE** sessions.

[Children's Homes Reg40 on 20th April](#)

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

**What Constitutes
Quality in Children's
Residential Care:**
*Measuring What Matters
to Children and Their Families*

15-16 September, 2026
University of Sussex | Brighton, UK



Registration:
£275/\$375 Early Bird*
£350/\$475 Full Rate
*Register by 30 June!

To learn more and register:
www.togetherthevoice.org/TRCSummit



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...

- **1st April 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **8th April 2026** – *'bitesize session'*
Supported Accommodation with David Thompson (NASAP)
- **15th April 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **22nd April 2026** – *'bitesize session'*
MCF's work with children's homes - Lawrence Jordan (Marie Collins Foundation)

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](#)



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:

- **Behaviour Management Recording**
- **Independent Person**
- **Children's Views**
- **Employment and Equalities**

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

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

Growing up in the online world: a national consultation

SWGfL has launched a new survey to capture the views of professionals working directly with children and young people across the UK on their views surrounding young people's use of social media. The survey aims to provide an evidence-informed perspective on the UK Government's current discussion around whether children under 16 should be banned from holding social media accounts.

[Do You Agree With A Social Media Ban?](#)

The findings from this survey will help build a clearer picture of how professionals view the current landscape and what they believe will best support children and young people going forwards. The survey will be used to inform the upcoming [social media consultation](#) from the UK Government due to close in May.



THE
**CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE**
NETWORK

Cyber Resilience is Everyone's Responsibility

Cyber resilience must be a primary concern for all organisations, particularly those that hold sensitive personal data. Cybercrime and cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated every day, so it is critical that everyone in your team accepts that cyber security is everyone's responsibility.

The [Cyber Resilience Centre Network \(CRC Network\)](#) can help you become more cyber resilient through fully funded Security Awareness Training for your employees and volunteers. They also offer a range of useful technical services, all of which are fully funded.

The government-funded CRC Network focuses on supporting SMEs and third-sector organisations. It comprises nine regional CRCs located across England and Wales. Each is police-led and business-focused, offering support and guidance from trusted resources to help you become safer online. Registering with your regional CRC is free, and you can begin your journey to better cyber resilience by locating and registering with your local centre using their postcode locator [HERE](#)



Directors, the Board and Safeguarding

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 **Directors, the Board and Safeguarding training** 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.

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.

Costs:

Priced at £160 + vat, reduced to **£120 + vat for dialogue members.**

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

1-4pm on 5th and 11th May 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

Directors, the Board and Safeguarding 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.

Don't just take our word for it, here's a snippet of recent feedback below...

Regulation 45 training...

“ A great training session - thank you. ...Ability to stay out of breakout rooms and discuss with trainer. This was particularly useful as a brand new manager ”

Feedback from recent training participants (January 2026)

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

NEW - Aspiring Managers Programme (starting on 7th April)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 20th April)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 29th April)

Directors, the Board and Safeguarding (starting on 5th May)

Children's Homes Managing Inspection (on 12th May)

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (starting on 14th May)

Online Safety Residential Leads (Level 1) (on 19th May)

Safeguarding Supervision (starting on 1st June)

RI training (starting on 15th June)

Introduction to Harmful Sexual Behaviours (on 15th June)

Fit person interview preparation (on 17th June)

Leaving Care (on 19th June)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 23rd June)

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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