

Jen Bean

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



Residential Care Bulletin May 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:

Marie Collins Foundation
**Free Resource - Healing from Technology-Assisted
Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA)**

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What's on this month?**

**A dysfunctional 'market' for children's residential care
How the history of children's residential care impacts on
the quality of care today**

**May Training Highlight
Residential Children's Homes – Managing the Inspection
Process 10am-4pm on 12th May 2026**

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

**NEW - Two new courses coming up this year, have a
peak at the training section to get booked on.**



Healing from Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA)

This week MCF joined us at the [dialogue membership](#) session. They are a charity dedicated to supporting victims of TACSA on their recovery journey, to go on to live safe and fulfilling lives. But with an evident lack of interventions that focus of the specific impacts associated with TACSA, MCF have highlighted the vital need for a resource to be created to help support children and young people. They have created a free resource that addresses some of the recovery needs of a child harmed by TACSA that is accessible, age

relevant, trauma focused, and ultimately one that does no further harm to the child.

POWER has been produced by professionals who have years of experience working with trauma and in collaboration with those with lived experience. It will enable practitioners who work directly with children and young people to focus on the child's individual recovery needs.

[Access POWER Tool for free](#)



SEND reform: putting children and young people first

The Department for Education are consulting on proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 18 May 2026

[Access the consultation 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:

- **Restraint**
- **Medication**
- **Experiences and views of children**
- **Fitness of Staff**

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

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



Department
for Education

Why school attendance must be a priority for every service and professional working with children

In a recent update, the Children's Commissioner has highlighted a concerning trend in school attendance reflecting on previous years. While overall absence rates are showing a slight improvement, a deeper look at the data reveals a growing crisis for the most vulnerable students.

The key takeaways were:

- 2022 research shows that missing just the second, third, and fourth days of a new term was predicted to have an overall absence rate of 43%, of 30 days across that term.
- Latest data from the Department for Education shows while persistent absence (missing 10% of school) is slowly falling, severe absence (missing 50% or more) has seen no improvement and remains more than twice as high as pre-pandemic levels.
- Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are significantly more likely to be severely absent. Concerningly, the gap for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) is widening.
- Beyond school gates in 2024/25, 34,700 children were not engaged in any form of education, an audit showed that these were some of the most vulnerable children in the country.

[To read the full article click here](#)

Looked After Young People - statistics on outcomes

There are a number of very interesting charts in the [Government's new release](#).

Overall, the conversation about young people making poor

progress in care is not supported by this data, as typically these conversations compare young people in care to the general population. The evidence here is that young people who have been in care for a longer period do around as well as young people with a similar profile.



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...

- **6th May 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **Rachel Greathead (Head of Education at Targeted Provision) - Tutoring and alternative education in care.**
- **13th May 2026** – *'the dialogue'* our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **20th May 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **Dr. Shakeel Ahmed - Mental health approaches with children in care.**
- **27th May 2026** – *'the dialogue'* our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.

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](#)

How has the 'market' for residential care become so dysfunctional?

From April 1, 2026, all new providers of children's homes and fostering services in Wales must be not-for-profit.

This interesting article tells the 30 year history as to how we got here; The debate is about ownership, but the failure is in commissioning.

Read the full analysis at Requires Improvement on the button below.

[Read more here](#)



Residential Children's Homes – Managing the Inspection Process

As the Ofsted landscape continues to change, particularly for our colleagues in residential care, this training will look at the inspection of children's homes in detail, seeking to define and broaden our understanding of the process. Ultimately, this training will seek to empower and embolden, providing knowledge and practical support to help you manage your inspection.

This **Managing the Inspection Process training** covers:

- The basics – types of inspection, their process and judgements
- The holy trinity – regulation, statutory guidance and framework
- Preparation and evidence gathering – closing down key lines of enquiry, the use of regulation 40 notifications, and when to walk away
- Escalation and representation

The trainer:

Michelle Nicolson has a 20-year career in Children's Residential Services working with Children and has previously set up a children's home after working in long term secure home, a first of it's kind as a transitional children's home for young people to move to following their time in a secure children's home. Michelle has extensive experience of managing inspections and registering homes with Ofsted, with experience in policy writing, management of staff, delivering training and extensive safeguarding knowledge.

She also has experience of supporting young people at significant risk of CSE and CCE. Michelle has a history of building strong multiagency care teams to ensure that young

people have their needs met and are safe and advocates for young people at every opportunity in supporting them to have their voice heard.

Costs:

Priced at £132 + vat, reduced to **£99 + vat for dialogue members.**

Our next training is being delivered virtually over one full-day sessions running on the following date:

10am-4pm 12th 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...

Children's Home - Managing the inspection process training...

“

It was brilliant! Thank you Michelle! The course was invaluable and I really enjoyed it and taken so many gems with me.

”

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 - Formulation & Resilience in Therapeutic Care (on 9th July)

New - Safeguarding Lead short breaks & disabilities (on 7th Sep)

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)

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)

Managing Allegations (starting on 23rd June)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 23rd June)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 26th June)

Online Safety Residential Leads (Level 1) (on 30th June)

Aspiring Managers Programme (starting on 29th September)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 29th September)

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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