

Jen Bean

From: dialogue <news@dialogueltd.co.uk>
Sent: 30 July 2026 13:07
To: Jen Bean
Subject: dialogue - August 2026 - Residential Care Bulletin



Residential Care Bulletin August 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:

DfE research
Children's Homes Workforce Review – Have Your Say

International Summit 2026
TRC and ACRC

Free Webinars
**Registered Managers Vacancy Study and Why are
Children are Getting Smaller?**

Service brochure

Download your copy today

Safeguarding Update
New DBS Rule for Volunteers

Social Media Ban
New support hub

NWG Webinar
Out of Area, Out of Mind? 21st September 2026

Inspection Top Tips bulletin
Members only benefit

Research
Order your copy of the Perfect Little Children's Home

dialogue membership
What's on this month?

NASAP Conference 24th September 2026
Book your ticket and meet us there!

August Training Highlight
Embedding Anti-Racist and Culturally Responsive
Practice starting on 4th September 2026

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

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



Department
for Education

Share Your Views: Children's Homes Workforce Review

The Department for Education has launched an expert-led review of professional development across the children's residential care sector, and they want to hear directly from you.

Whether you work directly with young people, in leadership, or in a supporting role, your feedback will help identify what's working well, highlight key challenges, and shape future recommendations for the workforce.

The survey will remain open until **Friday, 7th August 2026**.

Please feel free to share this link widely across your own networks to help ensure a broad range of sector insights.

[Complete the Feedback Survey Here](#)

What the survey covers:

The survey is flexible and consists of seven optional sections—you can answer as many or as few as you like:

The survey contains seven sections:

1. Information about your role and experience
2. Knowledge, Skills, and Qualifications
3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
4. Career Pathways
5. Practice Models
6. Leadership
7. Closing Questions

All questions are optional. You do not need to answer every question to submit the form, and you are welcome to provide feedback on as many or as few areas as you wish.

TRC Summit & ACRC

The Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC) continues to drive international dialogue on effective child and youth care. In collaboration with the **International Work Group on Therapeutic Residential Care (TRC)**, the TRC Summit offers a critical space to re-examine and elevate the standards of congregate and community-based settings.

Key Themes Addressed:

- **Defining Quality:** Shifting metrics to align with what children and families value most. Centering Lived
- **Experience:** Elevating youth and family voices directly into policy and programmatic design.
- **Evidence-Based Practice:** Sharing cross-national research, workforce support models, and relational continuity strategies.

Residential care is not a monolith—it encompasses diverse, specialised therapeutic environments designed to support young people with complex needs in partnership with their families.

Our team are presenting on the sector led research we did last year on the reasons for the high level of Residential Manager vacancies in the sector, and what individuals, organisations, Ofsted and Government can do to reduce stress, improve retention and develop effective national strategy

[To read more on the TRC 2026 Summit click here](#)

[Download the Registered Manager vacancy study here](#)



Free Webinars this September: Rethinking Residential Childcare

Join us this September for two free webinars exploring critical shifts in residential childcare, based on our sector research which inspired our [newly launched book](#).

Our recent Registered Manager Vacancy Study revealed a massive surge in children's homes across the sector, alongside a drastic shift toward much smaller provisions. In fact, there are now 3½ times as many two-bed homes as there were in 2016. This rapid downsizing completely changes the game for staffing, management, and daily practice—yet it has happened with almost no policy guidance.

Secure your places for one or both webinars, download the free RM Vacancy research paper, or buy the book by visiting our Research and Bookings Page below.

[Sign up to webinars & FREE resources](#)

Our Residential Children's Homes Service Brochure



Click the image above to download your copy



Safeguarding Update: New DBS Rules for Volunteers

It's unusual for children's homes to have volunteers, but if you have someone who engages in regulated activity under supervision you should be aware of a change in the law coming into force on 1 September 2026. This represents a major shift in how we manage and vet volunteers, mentors, and regular visitors within our residential services.

What is Changing?

As of **1 September 2026**, the "supervision exemption" has been removed. Anyone regularly volunteering in a home can no longer bypass full vetting simply because staff are in the room.

If your setting has someone volunteering who does not have an enhanced DBS with children's barred list check, check the up to date guidance.

[Find out more](#)

Update Your Safer Recruitment Skills

Vetting volunteers correctly is only one part of building a robust, safe culture. This is one of the biggest decisions you make as a leader in social care – we believe it needs more than an e-learning course. Ensure your managers, HR leads, and administrators are fully confident in navigating these legislative updates, identifying risks, and maintaining an ongoing culture of vigilance.

Our **Safer Recruitment Training** provides essential CPD designed specifically for registered managers, proprietors, and recruiters in regulated settings and is delivered by one of the original contributors to the Safer Recruitment Consortium.

[Learn more or book your places](#)



New social media ban support hub

The Government has indicated that the ban is expected to come into force from Spring 2027, although exact timings have not yet been confirmed.

The Molly Rose Foundation is concerned that children and young people could take away the message that they simply should not be online. This risks creating barriers to them seeking support if they experience harm online. They have created an online hub with educational resources, guidance and FAQs to help navigate the ban.

[Find out more](#)



NWG Webinar: Out of Area, Out of Mind? - 21st September

We want to highlight an upcoming external learning event that will be highly valuable for anyone managing or working within children's homes and supported accommodation.

The NWG Network, in partnership with the Supported Accommodation Partnership and Anglia Ruskin University, is hosting a powerful, insight-driven webinar exploring the unique realities, exploitation risks, and multi-agency responsibilities involved in out-of-area and unregistered placements.

[View the details and book a place on the NWG website](#)



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:

- **Basic Care Principles**
- **Involvement of Placing Authority**
- **Deprivation of Liberty**
- **Experiences of Children**

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

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



The Perfect Little Children's Home?

As you may know, we launched our new book at the end of June, at the National Commissioner's Conference.

The Perfect Little Children's Home? draws together perspectives from sector leaders, commissioners, and individuals with lived experience of children's homes to explore why children's homes are getting smaller. It finds this issue is affecting the surge in children's homes registration, with anxiety and ideology driving practice. It will need the Government, providers, commissioners and policy makers to work together to bring about significant changes towards child-centred and cost-effective practice.

Order your copy today **£29+P&P*** or just **£24.50+P&P*** for **members**

If you would like to order multiple copies, please [contact us](#)

(Hardback) Order 'The Perfect Little Children's Home'

(Digital) Order 'The Perfect Little Children's Home'



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...

- **5th August 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **12th August 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **David Wetherill & Rosie Palin (ET Planning) - Support with planning permissions**
- **19th August 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
Guest speaker Rachael Courage
- **26th August 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **Andrew Rome - (CH2) exploring the business development factors that have shaped the size of children's homes**

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](#)



NASAP Conference 24th September 2026

We will be attending the NASAP conference this year, with over 500 delegates from across the supported accommodation sector—including providers, local authorities, commissioners, Ofsted, and the DfE.

- Date: Thursday 24th September 2026
- Location: The Vox Conference Centre, Birmingham

What to expect:

- Inspiring keynote speakers & sector updates
- Practice-focused workshops
- Exhibitors & networking opportunities
- Shared learning, innovation, and good practice

This is a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues, reflect on sector developments, and explore how we can continue to raise standards for young people.

[Book your tickets here](#)



Embedding Anti-Racist and Culturally Responsive Practice in Residential Childcare

Children living in residential care are among those most at risk of misuse of power. The intersection of care experience and racism creates powerful dynamics that require active professional attention to resolve. At this time, Black young people in care are often failed by the structures and sometimes the people around them, resulting in discrimination, exclusion, isolation and the direct impact of institutional racism, such as the inordinately high incarceration of Black, care experienced young people.

Almost 1 in 10 Black care-experienced people are imprisoned before the age of 18.

Something must change!

The Course:

A 3-part training programme for staff and leaders working in children's homes and residential settings, designed to strengthen confidence, cultural responsiveness, reflective capacity, and anti-racist practice in everyday care environments.

The programme responds to current concerns around racism, anti-Blackness, far-right and anti-immigrant sentiments, identity-based harm, disproportionality, microaggressions, safeguarding, and the emotional

wellbeing of Black and racially minoritised children in care. It draws explicitly on the work of Prospera Tadam including the MANDELA Model, 4D2P Framework, and intentional supervision approaches.

The trainer:

Professor Prospera Tadam is a Professor of Racial Justice and Social Work at University College Dublin, with over 30 years of experience across child protection, child and family welfare, fostering and adoption.

Her work centres on anti-oppressive practice, anti-racism, culturally responsive social work, supervision, and social work education. She is the originator of the **MANDELA Model** and the **4D2P Framework**, both widely used to support reflective, culturally responsive and anti-oppressive practice. Professor Tadam has published extensively on race, cultural sensitivity and social work, and is recognised internationally for her scholarship and training on anti-racist practice, intentional supervision, and equity in social work education and practice. Her approach combines curiosity, courage and critical reflection to support sustainable organisational and practice change.

Costs:

Priced at £264+vat, reduced to **£199+vat for dialogue members**.

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

9:30am-12:30pm on 4th & 10th September and 10am-4pm 2nd October 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**

Read more or book your spot!

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...

Safeguarding Level 5 training....

“ It was insightful and well balanced with opportunities for discussion with other professionals which was good. A lot of valuable resources and up to date information as well. ”

Training participant (Spring 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 - Embedding Anti-Racist and Culturally Responsive Practice

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

New - Formulation & Resilience in Therapeutic Care (on 17th Sep)

New - Child & Criminal Exploitation (starting on 23rd Sep)

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (on 4th September)

RI training (starting on 7th September)

Aspiring Managers Programme (starting on 9th September)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 10th September)

Safeguarding Supervision (starting on 21st September)

Fit person interview preparation (on 24th September)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 29th September)

Managing Allegations (on 29th September)

CH - Managing Inspections (on 30th September)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 5th October)

Leaving Care (on 16th October)

MCA, DoLS and LPS (on 22nd October)

Reg40 serious incidents - FREE webinar (on 4th 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
01803 493030

Did this email end up in your junk email folder?

Add news@dialogueltd.co.uk to your list of safe senders.



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.

Copyright © 2025 dialogue Ltd, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Chimmels, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EQ

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can manage your email preferences [here](#).