

Jen Bean

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



Residential Care Bulletin July 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:

Changes to SC2

All Directors now need to complete for new applications

New service brochure

Download your copy today

Under-16 Social Media Ban

**Operational challenges of the Spring 2027 digital
crackdown**

Inspection Top Tips bulletin

Members only benefit

Updates from Ofsted
Prioritising applications and tackling unregistered children's homes

Official book release
Order your copy of the Perfect Little Children's Home

Medications & Heat Risk
Keeping your Young People Safe in the Heat

dialogue membership
What's on this month?

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

July Training Highlight
Curiosity, Courage and Care 9:30am-12:30pm 4th, 10th September & 10am-4pm 2nd October 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 peak at the training section to get booked on.



Changes to SC2

Ofsted have changed the SC2 form to require completion for **all** directors registered with Companies House. The guidance has not been changed – it states it may be required for those in a management or governance role.

Typically we would have added people we saw as 'carrying on' the children's home, meaning there was some interpretation about who should complete an SC2 or not. Now all directors need to register if you are applying, have an application in process, or are making a change to registration. It is **not** being applied retrospectively.

Lots more updates at next week's Membership meeting...

[Join dialogue today](#)

Our New Residential Children's Homes Service Brochure



Click the image above to download your copy



Under-16 Social Media Ban

Following a major national consultation, the government officially announced a blanket ban on mainstream social media platforms for children under 16. The policy marks a massive cultural shift designed to tackle online grooming, child exploitation, and the youth mental health crises.

- **The Timeline:** Secondary legislation will be brought before Parliament before Christmas, with the legal restrictions expected to come into full force in Spring 2027.
- **What is Banned:** Mainstream user-to-user platforms including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook, and X, will be legally prohibited from offering services to under-16s. Private messaging apps like WhatsApp and Signal are exempt so children can stay in touch with families.
- **Restricting Features (Gaming & Streaming):** The policy goes beyond a social media block. The government is mandating tight restrictions on livestreaming and stranger-to-child communication across all online platforms, including gaming sites like Roblox. For 16 and 17-year-olds, these high-risk features will be switched off by default.

The operational impact on Children's Homes

While sector leaders welcome the added layer of digital protection for vulnerable youth, residential operators will face the practical reality of enforcing it. Care staff will bear the brunt of managing behavioral resistance from young people when platforms go dark, monitoring technical workarounds like VPNs, and balancing strict safeguarding

rules against a young person's right to maintain safe digital contact with long-distance siblings or peer networks.

Fact Sheet: New rules to protect children online

5 big Qs about the UK's under-16 social media ban



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:

- **Online Safety**
- **Children at risk of going missing**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Mental Health wellbeing**

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

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



Ofsted outlines plans to tackle unregistered children's homes

Ofsted has yesterday announced a robust new approach to combat the sharp rise in illegal, unregistered children's homes, aiming to stop the placement of vulnerable children in unverified settings. The strategy, driven by an acute shortage of suitable care options, will increase pressure on local authorities and force unregistered providers to meet legal standards.

[Read the full announcement here](#)

Inspection: prioritising applications

The significant changes here are the removal of the first bullet point relating to children in unregistered settings. This is because some applicants were misusing the policy to accept a child prior to registration to skip the queue.

Ofsted are now explicit that providers may not operate prior to registration, including when awaiting a registration decision. There are two tribunals where providers have attempted to provide this as a defence.

The guidance is now explicit that the host local authority must confirm it has been discussed, that it meets local need and their view on the provider setting up a home in this area.

Finally, the timescales have changed. Previously priority was 2/3 to 6 months. It is now up to six months. More concerningly the introduction of the term 'waiting list' for

other applications (85% of them!) and that Ofsted will get to these as they have capacity. The timelines of 6 to 18 months has been removed - there is now no maximum timeline.

[Read the updated guidance 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'



Medications & Heat Risk

Rising summer temperatures mean we need to watch our young people's Medication Administration Records (MAR) closely. Certain common prescriptions heavily disrupt how the body handles heat.

The "High Risk" Categories

- **ADHD Stimulants** (e.g., Concerta, Elvanse) – Raise metabolism and baseline body temperature; can mask physical exhaustion.
- **Antidepressants & Anxiety Meds** (e.g., Fluoxetine, Sertraline) – Interfere with the brain's internal thermostat and can reduce or unsafely increase sweating.
- **Antipsychotics & Mood Stabilisers** (e.g., Olanzapine, Lithium) – Suppress the body's natural "thirst" trigger. Dehydration on Lithium can quickly cause dangerous toxicity levels.

- **Antihistamines** (Allergy/Hayfever meds) – Actively dry the body out and stop normal sweating.

Top Tips

- **Hydration:** Don't wait for them to ask; prompt extra fluids as some medications turn off their thirst mechanism.
- **Watch Medication Storage:** Keep medicine storage below 25°C. Check temperatures and never leave medication in hot cars.
- **Spot Red Flags:** Move anyone showing headaches, dizziness, or intense flushing to a cool room immediately.

For more detailed information on how specific medications interact with extreme heat, or general advice on staying safe, you can read the official government and health resource

Essential advice on protecting your medicines during extreme heat and staying safe

Heatwave: how to cope in hot weather



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...

- **8th July 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **15th July 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **Jacqui McCann - Exploitation & DoLs**
- **22nd July 2026** – *'the dialogue'*
our fortnightly update session with inspection top tips, research, regs and responses to member queries.
- **29th July 2026** – *'bitesize session'* **Chris Freestone - supporting children and young people in the new SEND structure**

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](#)



Curiosity, Courage and Care: 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 Tendam including the MANDELA Model, 4D2P Framework, and intentional supervision approaches.

The trainer:

Professor Prospera Tedom 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 Tedom 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**

Curiosity, Courage and Care 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...

Leaving Care training...

“ The training was well resourced and the trainer very knowledgeable.... ”
training was great and well resourced and was relevant to my role

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 - Curiosity, Courage and Care (starting on 4th Sep)

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

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (on 4th September)

RI training (starting on 7th September)

Safeguarding Top Up (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)

CH - Managing Inspections (on 30th September)

Managing Allegations (starting on September TBC)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 5th October)

Leaving Care (on 16th October)

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.

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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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