Sabina Dairi

From: dialogue <news@dialogueltd.co.uk>
Sent: 02 November 2026 10:47
To: Sabina Dairi
Subject: dialogue - November 2026 - Residential Care Bulletin

Residential Care Bulletin November 2026

Welcome to the November edition of our sector bulletin. As we step into autumn, this month brings vital statutory regulatory updates, essential guidance for residential care settings, and learning opportunities.

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:

New Statutory Guidance
Information Sharing

Department for Education
Safeguarding & Serious Violence

Upcoming Training Highlight
Leaving Care training being delivered on 20th November 2026

National Children's Bureau
Children's Homes Career Standards for England

Service brochures
Download your copy today

Inspection Top Tips bulletin
Members-only benefit

dialogue membership
What's on this month?

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

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



New Statutory Guidance on Information Sharing (Safeguarding Children)

The UK Government has updated its statutory guidance on **Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Young People**. This update reflects the statutory **Information Sharing Duty** under Section 16LA of the Children Act 2004, designed to promote early multi-agency action and remove barriers to sharing critical safeguarding data. It adds to your ability to share and receive information with other relevant agencies about young people, or people associated with them, when you're worried about safeguarding or **welfare**.

Key Updates & Principles

- **Proactive Early Intervention:** Practitioners should share relevant information as soon as concerns or emerging needs arise. You do not need to wait until a child reaches a formal social care threshold to share information that promotes their welfare or helps assess risk.
- **Consent & Duty of Confidentiality:** Parental consent is not required when sharing information under this statutory safeguarding duty. Data protection regulations (UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018) and common law confidentiality are frameworks that enable safe sharing—they do not prevent it when safeguarding a child.
- **Proportionate & Relevant:** Sharing must remain necessary, proportionate, accurate, and secure, ensuring information is sent only to those who need it to safeguard the child.
- **Decision Recording:** Always record your reasons for sharing—or your decision not to share—including what was shared, with whom, and the justification.

Please ensure your setting's safeguarding policies, data-sharing protocols, and staff briefings are updated to align with this statutory guidance. **We will run an in-depth session on the guidance in our membership group again soon**

Read the full statutory guidance here

Leaving Care training

Leaving care is a challenging time for all young people and the more we plan for life beyond care the better chance a young person has of reaching their potential.

Our **Leaving Care Training**intends to empower staff in residential children's homes to ensure young people in their care are provided with the best transition to in(ter)dependence.

The trainer:

Dougie Stringer - founder and Director of Skills 2 Thrive, draws on his lived experience of growing up in foster care and over a decade of professional practice as a Residential Support Worker, Personal Advisor, and Leaving Care Social Worker. He created Skills 2 Thrive—a life skills digital platform designed to empower young people as they transition out of care. Alongside this, Dougie leads Thrive Support, delivering in-person mentoring that blends his passion for sport with building resilience, confidence, and wellbeing in young people. Through both lived insight and professional expertise, Dougie has dedicated his work to driving meaningful change and helping young people thrive.

Costs:

Priced at £160 + VAT, reduced to **£120 + VAT for dialogue**

members.

Our next training is being delivered virtually on

10am-4pm on 20th November 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 place

Department for Education

Safeguarding & Serious Violence

The Department for Education and statutory safeguarding bodies have reinforced guidance on managing **serious violence, child criminal exploitation (CCE), and extrafamilial harm**. For children's residential homes, this updated framework emphasises treating victims of criminal coercion primarily through a safeguarding lens rather than a disciplinary one.

Key Requirements for Residential Care Settings:

- **Non-Criminalisation of Exploited Young People:**Clearer protocols clarify that young people coerced into criminal activity (e.g., holding weapons, running drugs, or participating in county lines) must be recognised as victims of exploitation and coercion rather

than processed solely as offenders.**Can your staff advocate strongly for your young people?**

- **Early Indicators & De-escalation:**Under the guidance teams must be trained to identify subtle, early warning signs of weapon carrying, sudden peer dynamics shifts, or association with organised crime networks, implementing immediate internal risk reduction and support plans. **Are your team up to speed with the changes in the Children's Wellbeing & Schools Act 2026?**
- **Multi-Agency Incident Sharing**: Where young people are missing from care, involved in serious violence incidents, or moving between care settings, residential teams must actively coordinate with local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and local police to share contextual intelligence.**Ensure your team know about your local groups and are aware of interagency plans for your young people.**
- **Contextual & Extrafamilial Harm Focus:** Risk assessments must evaluate factors outside the home environment (such as local peer groups, online risks, and community locations) to protect both the individual child and other young people living in the home.

Action for Managers:Ensure care staff and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) update local risk assessment tools and have up-to-date, high quality training on extrafamilial exploitation and serious violence indicators.

Book onto Child Criminal Exploitation course starting 15th March 27

Review the latest guidance on multi-agency responses to exploitation

Help review the draft Children's Homes Career Standards for England

Research in Practice has been commissioned by the Department for Education to draft Career Standards for the children's homes workforce. This will follow **the expert-led review of professional development for the children's homes workforce** due to be published at the end of November. The draft Career Standards aim to set clear expectations and support quality and consistency in practice.

Research in Practice are inviting children's homes professionals and care-experienced young people aged 16- 25 from across England to contribute to this work. The engagement will take place between November 2026 and January 2027.

Review draft Children's Homes Career Standards for England | Research in Practice

Our Residential Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service Brochures

We prefer to work closely with you to identify areas of need and develop bespoke packages that improve the lives of young people in your care. The training we offer is for managers, residential workers and other staff, and includes supervision,

safeguarding, care planning & analysis, recording and much more.

Supported Accommodation Brochure - download below



Residential Children's Homes Brochure - download below





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.

The Top Tip topics that were covered in the last 4 weeks:

- **Research Based Practice**

- Risk from Online Activity
- Meeting the Care Standards
- Staff Qualifications

All the resources and back catalogue are available in the members' area

Not a member yet…join here

dialogue membership for Residential Care

Our membership sessions for Children's Homes runs weekly every Wednesday 1-2pm.

We get great feedback and there's lots to cover!

Coming up…

- **4th November 2026 –** *'bitesize session'*

Jonathan Stanley (NCERCC), author of chapter 4 in The Perfect Little Children's Home?, will be with us to deliver this week's bitesize session, where he explores the origins and effects of uncontained anxiety and consequent systemic organisational defences on, in and around residential child care.

- **11th November 2026 –** *'the dialogue'*

Sariya Cheruvillil will be joining us to discuss Religious Discrimination.

- **18th November 2026 –** *'bitesize session'*

Steve Baguley (NWG), will be with us to deliver this week's bitesize session, discussing Transitional Safeguarding.

- **25th November 2026 –** *'the dialogue'*

Dan Hope, author of chapter 8 in The Perfect Little Children's Home?, will discuss what homes look like in the UK and abroad.

Following last week's session with **Matthew Brazier (Ofsted's Specialist Adviser)** on the SCCIF proposals, we are hosting a course on **Preparing for the Updated Children's Homes Inspection Framework**on 18th January 2027.

Members can access this training at the discounted rate of **£79 + VAT**. To find out more or to book your place, please visit **here**.

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 if you do not wish to continue, and we'll cancel the invoice altogether.

Members log in here

Find out more & join dialogue today



The Perfect Little Children's Home?

As you may know, we launched our new book at the National Commissioners' Conference this summer.

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'

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...



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

Reg40 serious incidents - FREE webinar (on 4th November)

Safeguarding Lead (starting on 10th November)

Online Safety (Level 1) (on 17th November)

Leaving Care (on 20th November)

Managing Allegations (on 1st December)

Leading Supported Accommodation (starting on 7th January 2027)

Aspiring Managers Programme (starting on 13th January 2027)

Fit person interview preparation (on 14th January 2027)

Safeguarding Supervision (starting on 18th January 2027)

Preparing for the updated SCCIF (on 18th January 2027)

CH - Managing Inspections (on 20th January 2027)

Safer Recruitment training (starting on 3rd February 2027)

Reg45 Quality Review (on 8th February 2027)

RI training (starting on 15th February 2027)

Young People Going Missing training - SA (on 24th February 2027)

Regulation 44 and Standard 3 (starting on 26th February 2027)

Child Criminal Exploitation (starting on 15th March 2027)

MCA, DoLS and LPS (Register your Interest)

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

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

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