

# Childcare Network Newsletter

## November 2025

### Childcare Development Officers

Don't forget your Childcare Development Officers are available to support all childcare providers across the whole of Torfaen. Your

CDO's can offer a comprehensive support package including –

- Business Support
  - Grants and Fundraising
  - Workforce Development
    - Quality
    - Expansion
- And much more

Please contact your CDO for support by emailing  
**[ChildcareSupport@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:ChildcareSupport@torfaen.gov.uk)**

### Your FIS needs you!

Torfaen Family Information Service is constantly updating its services to the public.

To ensure that your information is current and up to date, please notify us of any changes during the year.

You can also advertise your vacancy positions on our website and social media pages.

### Reminders

**Are your childcare costs up to date?** Please email [fis@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:fis@torfaen.gov.uk) with any changes.

### Contact Info

**Email:** [fis@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:fis@torfaen.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 0800 0196 330

**Website:** [www.torfaenfis.org.uk](http://www.torfaenfis.org.uk)



# Important Notices



## **Are you correctly registered with CIW?**

Some providers are registered incorrectly. This may be down to a change in ownership or circumstances or there may be confusion where a charity is registering provision. Further information on the types of legal entities that can be registered and how to apply can be found on [CIW's website](#).

## **Code of Practice**

Code of Practice for inspection of childminders, day care and open access play services.

The Code of Practice informs you about how your service is inspected, but it also informs parents, carers and other members of the public. [Read it here](#).

## **Help with completing your SASS**

Completing your SASS is quick and easy via your CIW Online account. CIW have out together a 'how to' video below and a guidance booklet to talk you through how to complete your SASS.

<https://youtu.be/3fozPE7NdG8>

## **Helo Blod**

[Helo Blod](#) is a fast and friendly Welsh translation and advice service to help you use more Welsh in your business or charity.

# Important Notices

## **National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Regulated Childcare: proposed changes 2025.**

Welsh Government need your views on the latest proposed changes to the NMS for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years.

If you haven't yet had the chance to complete the response form, there's still time as the consultation will remain open until 10 December 2025.

[National Minimum Standards \(NMS\) for Regulated Childcare: proposed changes 2025 | GOV.WALES](#)

If you have any enquiries about this consultation, please email [childcareandplaymailbox@gov.wales](mailto:childcareandplaymailbox@gov.wales)

## **Public Health Wales**

An updated version of 'Exclusions period for common infections' can be accessed using the below link.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/aware-health-protection-team/guidance-for-childcare-preschool-and-educational-settings/exclusion-period-for-common-infections-including-a-z-of-common-infections-and-next-steps-july-2025-v8/>

# Childcare Offer for Wales

Do you close over the Christmas holidays?

Don't forget that parents will need to sign up before you close if they wish to start the Childcare Offer with you in January!

Click here to get them started: [www.gov.wales/childcare-offer-for-wales-campaign](http://www.gov.wales/childcare-offer-for-wales-campaign)

Or get them to call our national helpline on 03000 628 628

## One Login

If you have created a GOV.UK One Login account, you can now add a backup method for getting your security codes when you sign in to it. This may help to make sure you can always sign in to your account.

Sign into your GOV.UK One Login account and click on Security on your account's main page to find out more details.

[Providers sign in to your Childcare Offer for Wales account | GOV.WALES](#)



## Funding and Links:

### Grants to Support Early Years Development for Deaf Children (UK).

Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the National Deaf Children's Society's Community Grants Programme for community groups, charities, and not-for-profit organisations supporting deaf children and their families across the UK.

In this round, funding will support projects and activities that promote the development of deaf children in their early years (ages 0–5). This stage is crucial, particularly for children who may face challenges with language, communication, and social skills without the right support.

Projects may involve families, professionals, and older deaf children, provided they contribute to early years development.

Funding can cover costs such as:

venue hire

transport

promotional costs

wages for sessional workers,

interpreters, and language tutors

equipment that is essential for the project, such as play equipment or technology.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with set assessment dates throughout the year.

# Funding and Links:

## Screwfix Foundation (UK)

The Screwfix Foundation is open for applications from charities and not-for-profit organisations (including specialist not-for-profit schools) for projects that will fix, repair, maintain, and improve the properties and community facilities of those in need due to financial hardship, sickness, disability, distress, or other disadvantage throughout the UK.

Grants in the region of £5,000 are available for a variety of projects, such as:

- Improved energy-efficient lighting & heating
- Installation of new kitchen, bathroom etc.
- Installation of a sensory room
- General painting & decorating
- Improving the safety and security of a building

Applications are reviewed every quarter, and the next deadline for applications is 10 February 2026.

# Funding and Links:

## Grants to Support Disadvantaged Children (England & Wales)

Funding is available for registered charities in England and Wales that support disadvantaged children and young people.

The funding which is being made available through the Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity Grants programme offers two types of grants:

- Small Grants, ranging from £1,000 to £5,000, are available to charities with an annual income between £25,000 and £500,000 and can be used for any purpose (unrestricted).
- Large Grants, ranging from £10,000 to £60,000, are available to charities with an annual income between £500,000 and £5 million. These grants must be used for specific projects with defined goals and budgets. Funds may be spent on salaries, equipment, training, monitoring, and administration.

Projects should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- supporting children affected by domestic abuse,
- addressing the needs of children in early years (ages 0–5) with a focus on poverty and neglect,
- or helping children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Charities interested in applying should first submit an expression of interest (EOI), which can be submitted at any time. If shortlisted, applicants will be invited to complete a full application.

Additionally, the Masonic Charitable Foundation has a separate grants programme aimed at improving the health and well-being of older people with dementia and their carers. This programme is also currently paused. For updates on when these programmes will reopen, please check the Foundation's website.

## Funding and Links:

### Grants to Support Disadvantaged Children (England & Wales)

WeCare Wales offer a free suite of resources to support the health and wellbeing of social care and childcare staff. However, some of these resources are only available to those registered with SCW.

You can find more information here:

<https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/health-and-well-being-resources>

Case UK offers FREE in work support for anyone employed in Wales, this is funded by Welsh Government.

You can find more information here: [In Work Support Service](#) | [Physiotherapy](#) | [Occupational Therapy](#) | [Psychological Therapy](#)

DWP offers Able Futures, which delivers the FREE Access to Work Mental Health Support Service for individuals in work.

You can find more information here: [How Able Futures works](#) | [Able Futures Mental Health Support Service](#)

# Training Opportunities:

## Gwent Safeguarding Board Latest Training Opportunities

National Referral Mechanism Awareness  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 10am – 12pm (Online)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Safeguarding Adults – Group C Practitioners  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, 09:15am – 16:45pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Keeping Mindful – Mental Health Conversations with Young People (Mind our Future)

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025, 13:30pm – 15:30pm (Online)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Putting the Mental Capacity Act into Practice (Adults)  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 09:30am – 12:30pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Deprivation of Liberty and the Inherent Jurisdiction of CYP Practitioners  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 13:00pm – 16:00pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 09:30am – 16:30pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Safeguarding Children & Adults – Group B Practitioners  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 09:30am – 16:30pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

National Referral Mechanism Awareness  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 10am – 12pm (Online)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Safeguarding Children – Group C Practitioners  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 09:15am – 16:45pm (Face to Face)

[Click here to apply.](#)

Gwent N-Gage training [Book Creator – Training Links](#)

[Gwent VAWDASV Training](#)

# Good News Story

Congratulations to the Early Years, Flying Start Team at Little Duckling's Playgroup Garnteg, who were recently inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales and were given a report of Excellence.

The report gave an Excellent outcome for all four areas which include Well-being, Leadership and Management, Environment and Care and Development.

The report stated, *"Children have excellent opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge that enriches their learning and all-round development."*

Your paragraph text

Well done to the team who thoroughly deserve the recognition for all their hard work and dedication to all the children and families they work with.

