



CHILDCARE NETWORK NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

HELLO 2026 – WELCOME TO YOUR CHILDCARE NETWORK NEWSLETTER!

WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED THAT SOME SETTINGS ARE NOT RECEIVING OUR REGULAR EMAILS ON A WEEKLY BASIS. PLEASE CAN YOU EMAIL [FIS@TORFAEN.GOV.UK](mailto:fis@torfaen.gov.uk) WITH YOUR EMAIL PREFERENCES TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM US.

Contact Info

Email: fis@torfaen.gov.uk

Phone: 0800 0196 330

Website: www.torfaenfis.gov.uk

<https://www.torfaenfis.org.uk/en/providers/childcare-network-newsletter>

Important Notices



Making Tax Digital for Income Tax

The Government's Making Tax Digital roadmap aims to transform tax administration to make it more efficient, effective and easier for taxpayers. Under the plans, taxpayers will be required to keep digital records and provide quarterly updates on their income and expenditure to HMRC through MTD-compatible software.

Find out more here [Making Tax Digital for Income Tax - Coram PACEY](#)

This year's Welsh Government's 'Safer Internet Day' (SID) 2026 campaign is on the theme of AI.

Please see some helpful education packs that have been published:

- [Safer Internet Day 2026 education packs for 3 to 7-year-olds](#)
- [Safer Internet Day 2026 education packs for 7 to 11-year-olds](#)
- [Safer Internet Day 2026 education packs for 11 to 14-year-olds](#)

Important Notices

Safeguarding Concerns in Children's Books

It has been brought to our attention that there is a safeguarding concern relating to several titles in the According to Humphrey and Spy Dog/Spy Cat book series.

Some copies of these books include a weblink on the back cover or on an interior page which no longer directs readers to information about the books. Unfortunately, this link has been compromised and may now lead to inappropriate and unsafe material that is not suitable for children of any age. Images of some of the book covers are included below to help you identify whether you may have any of these titles at settings or home.



Important Notices

Safeguarding Concerns in Children's Books

Advice and Next Steps:

- If you have any of these books at school or home, we strongly advise that you either remove the book entirely or remove the page containing the weblink.
- Please be extra vigilant with all children's books that include web links and ensure they are checked by an adult before children access them.
- If you experience any of these concerns, you may wish to consider contacting the police.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact

Samantha Evans

Safeguarding and Equalities Support Officer / Swyddog
Cefnogaeth Diolgelu a Chydraddoldeb

Mob/Sym: 07966 932194

Email/Ebost: samantha.evans2@torfaen.gov.uk



Childcare Offer for Wales

·Spring half term is coming. Make sure the Agreements you have with parents cover holiday hours if they are using the Offer in the holidays.

More information available here:

<https://www.gov.wales/providers-manage-agreements-childcare-offer-wales>

<https://www.gov.wales/providers-claim-payment-childcare-offer-wales>

For help and advice contact our national helpline on 03000 628 628

·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 of up to £500 for Outdoor Activity Projects (UK)

Grants of up to £500 are available for individuals, community groups, schools, and other not-for-profit organisations to encourage people across the UK to get involved with outdoor activities and experiences.

The funding is provided by the Alpkite Foundation, which aims to break down barriers to outdoor participation by supporting:

- diversity and inclusion projects that engage individual and groups from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- environmental projects that seek to support, conserve, or generate understanding of our environment and wild places.
- health projects enabling people to gain physical and mental wellbeing from the Great Outdoors.
- education projects such as First Aid, D of E, Forest Schools, and Mountain Leader.
- participation projects that get more people experiencing the Great Outdoors.


There is particular interest in projects that:

- encourage responsible outdoor activity.
- have long lasting benefits.
- introduce new people to get outdoors.
- demonstrate value for money.

This might include such things as; Providing discounted equipment for outdoor adventures and trips to individuals, groups, schools, and organisations that wouldn't be viable without support from the Alpkite Foundation.

The grants aim to provide some level of support rather than fully funding projects.

Applications can be submitted at any time and are reviewed every two months. There is no limit to how many times an applicant may apply, but applications should be submitted at least three months before the project start date.





Funding and Links:

Funding to Support Children & Adults Impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (UK)


Grants of up to £25,000 are available to UK-registered charities that support children and young people recovering from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and parents affected by ACEs, mental illness, or addiction.

The James Tudor Foundation's Mental Health Grants Programme funds evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches.

The programme has two main goals:

- to assist children and young people who have experienced ACEs in overcoming trauma.
- to help parents address their own mental health issues to prevent them from harming their children.

This could include therapies for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse or domestic violence, specialist support for bereaved children and young people, whole-family therapies, and support for parents or caregivers to help break intergenerational cycles of abuse.



Updates from CIW



CIW: More Than Just Words: Practice Guidance

Inspecting and reporting on the use of the Welsh language 'Active Offer' in social care and childcare services

This guidance is used for Inspecting and reporting on the use of the Welsh language 'Active Offer' in social care and childcare services. [Find out more.](#)

CIW Practice worth sharing

CIW have published some examples of particularly effective practice which has a positive impact on children.

[Practice worth sharing | Care Inspectorate Wales](#)

Financial Management

A recent Cwylm newsletter details some useful information for financial management, find out more here [Newsletters | cwylwm](#)





Supporting Stress at Work Resources

Please see below a link to Anna Freud Staff Wellbeing information

[Search | Anna Freud](#)

WeCare Wales also 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/ Workshops:

You're invited: NDNATalk live event
Stay informed at our Wales NDNATalk event with the latest sector updates and support in policy and practice from the experts.

When: 26 February 2026 - 12:30 to 16:30pm
Where: Ramada Plaza, Ellice Way, Wrexham, LL13 7YH
Price: FREE to NDNA members (£50 for non-members)

NDNATalk events help keep you informed and support you in improving your practice. Our lineup of expert speakers share their knowledge and best practice on key topics.

To book please visit <https://ndna.org.uk/ndna-events/wales-event/>

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Hub Wales

Join Trauma-Informed Wales for the launch of our much anticipated third campaign film in the #TimeToBeKind series that aims to send a message that a simple act of kindness could make a real difference to someone's life.

The event, in February 2026 at the Royal Welsh Showground, will be a day of thought-provoking discussion on how to make trauma-informed meaningful for all of us: hear more about the ongoing work to develop our public narrative and join the movement.

Thursday 12th February 2026
Royal Welsh Showground
Montgomery Pavilion
Builth Wells
Powys
LD2 3SY
10:00 - 15:30

[Developing and Delivering a Public Narrative for a Trauma-Informed Wales Tickets, Thu 12 Feb 2026 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

This event is for everyone, and we hope you will go away with new resources to strengthen collective action and facilitate collaboration across communities, sectors and services.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will be plenty of opportunities for networking. The event will be free to attend.

Good News Story

Off to a Flying Start in Torfaen

Childcare settings across Torfaen offering funded places for 2–3-year-olds have been busy embracing the new Early Childhood, Play, Learning and Care (ECPLC) framework.

This strengthened approach supports high-quality provision for all children from birth to age three, placing their wellbeing, development, and individuality at the heart of practice.

Guided by the philosophy that “quality care is education, and quality education is caring,” a committed working party of childcare practitioners, leaders, managers, and the Local Authority Early Years Advisory Team spent many wet and windy Friday afternoons shaping a process that truly reflects the needs of Torfaen’s youngest learners.

Their aim was clear: to create a system that not only highlights the progress made by every child in Flying Start childcare but also recognises that assessment, observation and provision must be flexible and responsive to the unique needs of each child.

One of the key outcomes of this work is “This is Me / Dyma Fi”—a personalised document that celebrates each child’s developmental journey. Every child will now complete their Flying Start childcare experience with this record, supporting a smooth, informed, and meaningful transition into nursery education.

To ensure practitioners feel confident with the new approach, training sessions and ongoing support visits have been offered across the borough and will continue throughout the year.

For further information about the ECPLC work in Torfaen, please contact Dawn Evans on 01633 647396

Just for fun

There's some lovely examples for singing with young children here

[Singing with young children – A Froebelian approach](#)

Memories of my Early Years: David Goodger – 'I loved the opportunity to play

In this column, David Goodger, chief executive of Early Years Wales, shares some memories from his childhood

[Memories of my Early Years: David Goodger – 'I loved the opportunity to play.](#)

Yoga Games

Yoga Games are great for Children and Young people, because they blend fun with crucial physical, mental, and emotional development, supporting balance, strength, focus, and self-regulation through playful movement, animal poses, and imagination, making mindfulness accessible and enjoyable without demanding stillness.

They build confidence, body awareness, coordination, and stress management skills in a non-competitive, creative environment, helping kids handle big feelings and improve concentration for school and life.

[Click here to find out more information](#)