

LEARNING BULLETIN 3

Learning & Development Officer Andy Hodkin

Hello! Welcome to the third edition of our monthly Learning & Development Bulletin. This edition covers areas of youth work, girls wellbeing, learning disabilities and kinship care.

With another Resource Spotlight and Toolbox Tip from our learning offer. Please do contact me if there is anything you'd like to contribute to future editions.

We hope you find it useful!

These Learning Bulletins are now being shared with safeguarding peers across the north west of the UK via **NWIAT** - which stands for North West Inter Agency Trainers. This is an exciting development which we hope will lead to further collaboration and partnership with our local UK neighbours. We will keep you informed on updates.



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Toolbox Tip



It's always good to learn new communication skills! Clicking on this [Link](#) will take you to a site where you can download a British Sign Language (BSL) Finger Spelling Alphabet Chart.

Take the time to print it off, pop it up in your workplace (I recommend somewhere near the kettle..) and have a little practise each morning. Test out your colleagues signing skills too! Learning the BSL sign alphabet is really easy, but if you don't use it, you quickly lose it...

Youth Work



Published by the National Youth Agency (NYA) this [Census](#) is the most comprehensive annual survey of youth work in England, sharing insights from 1,000 youth groups, collectively supporting more than 200,000 young people.

The figures highlight three critical trends: escalating demand, rising costs and falling budgets, and low financial resilience. Leigh Middleton OBE, the CEO of National Youth Agency states-

This data is telling. It shows young people across England need help in the face of serious risks, but the organisations best placed to help them are at risk themselves.

Adults with Learning Disabilities and Safeguarding

Norfolk Safeguarding Board and Healthwatch Norfolk published their [findings](#) from consultation workshops with adults with learning disabilities about safeguarding. The workshops were held with Opening Doors Health Experts group. The findings are not only very informative- they are a really good example of engaging with a community that doesn't always get the chance to have their voices heard, and acts as a good example for our own practise.

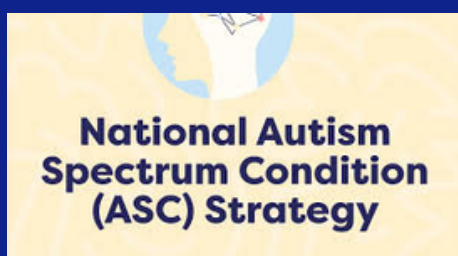


Resource Spotlight

A resource spotlight from from right here for this month's edition.

One of the goals of the Isle of Man Autism Strategy (which had it's first annual report released this month) was to provide a [directory](#) of services, contacts and useful information. This directory is now available. For anybody working with people with an autistic spectrum condition, or wanting to improve their awareness and understanding of neurodivergence, this page will act as a useful source of information and signposting.

Find out more about the Autism Strategy [here](#).



Kinship Care Report

Published ahead of Kinship Care Week 2025, [Handle With Care](#) shares key findings from Kinship Care charities' 2025 annual survey of more than 1,900 kinship carers to provide an updated 'state of the nation' overview of kinship families and the current policy context.

Financial hardship remains a core part of many families' lives, experiences of sleeping in unsuitable conditions are common, and poor support presents a significant continued risk to children's stability. Worth a read.

Girls Wellbeing

Every year Girlguiding UK ask over 2500 girls and young women aged 7-21 how they feel about their own lives.

This [survey](#) reveals the range of challenges girls are facing today – from appearance pressures to online harm – and how these are impacting their confidence and wellbeing. With statistics such as 68% of girls have changed their everyday behaviour to avoid sexual harassment, this survey provides a powerful insight into their everyday lives, and how organisations such as Girlguiding can positively impact these lives through promotion of wellbeing, inspiring role models and building confidence. For anyone working with or supporting girls and young women, this is an illuminating survey.

