



Dear Colleagues

As you are aware, the Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub (KEYSPH) has now entered Year Two of the programme and we have extended our reach area into Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, Isle of Wight, Medway, Surrey and West Sussex. Thank you to those of you who have been passing our information on to your providers.

You will be aware that we have just held our Welcome Webinars to providers from these areas. It was lovely to welcome some of you on these webinars.

We are now following up with a specific newsletter to alert providers unable to attend our webinars to the Hub. We would be really grateful if you could share this newsletter, below, with your providers (childminders, PVI and school-based settings), either via email, on your social media platforms or via other media used to communicate with them. We are also keen to encourage providers to sign up to our mailing list themselves or to provide us with information on how they would like to become involved with the Hub.

We will be in touch later this term to share more details of our Spring Term programme of events. In the meantime if you or your providers have any questions about KEYSPH please email us at keysph@theeducationpeople.org

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards.

The Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub Team

KEYSPH Newsletter Year Two Launch Edition November 2023

Welcome to the Year Two Launch Edition of the Kent Early Years Stronger Practice Hub (KEYSPH) Newsletter. We are thrilled to be working with you.

Over the last few weeks, we have been celebrating the launch of the KEYSPH into six other local authorities: Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, Isle of Wight, Medway, Surrey and West Sussex. Our Welcome Webinars provided the opportunity for the early years and childcare sector in these authority areas to learn more about the Hub and to contribute towards our planning to move it forward. Thank you to those who were able to attend, it was fantastic to see so many of you there and your contributions during the events were appreciated and valuable.

For those of you unable to attend the Welcome Webinars or hear Julie Miles (Hub Practice Lead) and other partners speak, the Stronger Practice Hubs were set up by the Department for Education as part of its Early Years COVID-19 Recovery Programme. The programme is led by The National Children's Bureau (NCB) and The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) with the aim of supporting early years settings across the sector to address the impact of the pandemic on young children, by sharing effective practice and building lasting local networks.

If you would like to get involved with the Hub, sign up to our mailing list, follow our social media or ask us a question, you can find out how below.

Who's Who in the Hub?

KEYSPH is made up of five Partner Settings.



Discovery Day Nursery in Park Wood, Maidstone is the lead setting in the Partnership. I am Julie Miles and am the Nursery Manager. I am also the Hub Practice Lead.

I have worked in the early years sector for over 30 years. I am passionate about my role in making a difference to young children, by providing a place where children can grow and develop in their own way, where they feel valued and important and where their families are welcomed.

Northfleet Nursery is Kent's only maintained nursery school, Neerasha Singh is the Headteacher.

We have achieved five outstanding Ofsted ratings under the primary Ofsted framework and have been a beacon school within the Gravesham area. Our children come from diverse backgrounds and we pride ourselves in valuing diversity and inclusion. I have been an educator for 25 years and as the Headteacher of the school.

I am immensely proud of filling our children's days with "Magic Moments". Working within the KEYSPH will enable us to build a



stronger and cohesive approach to high quality provision for both our children and our practitioners.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to join us on this amazing journey in highlighting, supporting and sharing good practice.



My Name is Emma Ashdown, and I am a partner within the hub. I am currently the Nurseries Strategic Lead overseeing all three of The Education Peoples nurseries, The Oaks Day Nursery Swanley and Smarties and Discovery Day Nurseries in Maidstone. I am also the Manager for Oaks Day Nursery in Swanley.

I have been working within the early years sector for 15 years. I enjoy creating enabling environments for children to explore, learn, grow, and develop and strongly believe in working closely with families to support children's learning.

My name is Gemma Maclachlan. I am a practice partner within the hub. I joined the hub as I am passionate about promoting stronger practice within the sector as well as building networks.

I have been working within the early years sector for the last decade and have been a registered childminder since 2018. Within my setting I strive to provide an environment that creates curiosity and wonder to promote children's learning and development whilst working closely with the children's families to support their child to grow and flourish. I believe that every child should be given the opportunity to become capable learners who are personally sustainable within in a holistic environment, where emotional and social skills will be embedded for lifelong learning.



News From the Hub

Over the past year in Kent, KEYSPH has delivered evidence-based programmes, practice webinars, 'Let's Talk' sessions and newsletters, as well as useful vlogs on our TikTok account. We aim to do the same in our wider reach area in Year Two, taking into account your feedback. The funding for the Hub means that any support must be based from within evidence-based research.

This year we will be targeting early years settings in areas of deprivation in our wider reach area to roll out a limited number of fully funded evidence-based programmes. Some settings have already had the opportunity to sign-up to Early Talk Boost and Communication Friendly Home-based Settings

(CFHBS). There will be other opportunities to register your interest in other EEF programmes later this year.

Please look out for further information via emails, on our social media pages and in future newsletters.

Join Us or Get Involved

[Sign up to our Mailing List](#)

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Follow us on TikTok - @kentseysph

If you would like to become involved in the Hub please complete our [Involvement Survey](#)

Ask a Question or Give Feedback

Please email us at keysph@theeducationpeople.org

Please also take a minute to give us [feedback on our Newsletter](#)

Department for Education COVID-19 Recovery Programmes

[Early Years Professional Development Programme - Phase 3 \(PDP3\)](#)

[Experts and Mentors Programme](#)

[Childminder Mentor Programme](#)

[Early Years Online Child Development Training](#)

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