



Autumn 2025
All Sector Issue 25



2025
Autumn
Term Edition

Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter


Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Autumn Term All Sector Newsletter! As always at the start of a new academic year, this is a bumper edition with a lot of information for you!

This issue provides updates on our new Workforce Development Plan, with a focus on new courses we are offering, all the opportunities for the Autumn Term, and key dates for your diary. There is also local information and opportunities for involvement in relation to speech, language and communication, an update on our latest Childcare Sufficiency data, SEND, funding and wraparound childcare, as well as national updates from Ofsted and the DfE. Don't forget to check out the last page to meet the newest members of the Early Years Team!

Please remember, we continue to value your honest feedback, which you can share by emailing your comments to earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Best wishes,
The Early Years Team



*Inside this
Issue!*

Key information on CPD opportunities, including our new courses, key dates for your diary, SEND, Early Years Funding Updates, Wraparound Childcare, Local and National Updates and much more!



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Workforce Development Update

Autumn Term Courses and Updated CPD Pages on the Website

We have a wealth of CPD opportunities available over the Autumn Term with over 30 courses and 4 Networks running between September and December 2025. On the [CPD Pages of the website](#) you will find our local CPD opportunities, Terms and Conditions for Bookings and National CPD Opportunities.

We are really pleased to be able to offer our great training opportunities this year, for the same prices as last year. Did you know that all our courses are free to access or cost £50 or less! (based on a per session basis for multiple course sessions).

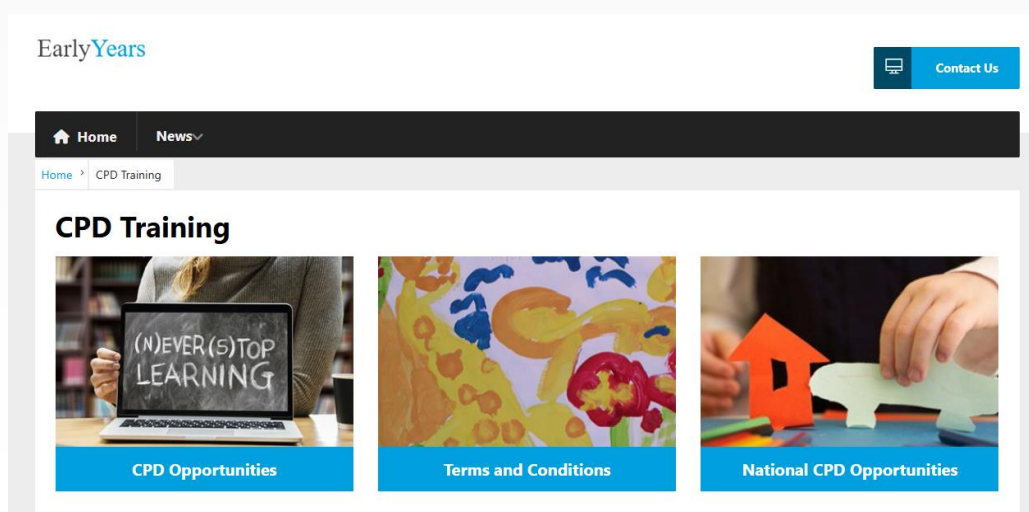
The courses on the CPD Opportunities page are categorised as follows:

- EYFS Prime and Specific Areas of Learning
- Equality, Access and Inclusion
- Safeguarding
- Supporting Leadership
- Statutory and Core Training
- Opportunities Specific to Wraparound Providers
- Training and Resources from Partners

Each listed course contains further information on course content, trainers, dates, times, cost, venues and booking links. On the main page you can also download sector specific brochures of all these opportunities.

In this newsletter update we have information on the Leadership & SENCO Networks, Open Your Eyes to the EYFS, Safeguarding opportunities and information on our new courses; Providing the Best Start in Pre-School, Building a Strong Foundation in Reception and Practising What We Teach! Would You Reach the Expected Level of Development as an Adult?

There is also an update on Agreement Trialling and key dates for your diary for the Autumn Term, as well as a reminder of the Terms and Conditions for our course bookings for the new academic year, which includes our Cancellation Policy. Please do take the time to read this information.



Nottingham City Early Years Leadership and SENCO Networks

We are pleased to be able to offer both the Leadership Network and the SENCO Network for Nottingham City Early Years Providers throughout the 2025/26 academic year. Each Network can also be attended as a stand-alone Network, and we are excited to share that our Spring 2026 Leadership Network will be taking place face to face!

Our Networks cover different topics each term and will keep delegates up to date on relevant early years issues, developments or new initiatives as well as providing invaluable networking opportunities.

Registering for the Leadership Network also includes access to the Room Leaders Network, which will be free of charge to Leadership Network members. Further details for the Room Leaders Network will be shared later in the Autumn Term.

As a Nottingham City Provider, we hope you will take advantage of both these Network opportunities, particularly our new discounted membership offers for joint memberships or multiple settings, when you apply before 31st October 2025 (further information on the next page).

Some Key Information about our Networks:

- To attend any Network Meeting, your Setting must have completed and returned the Annual Registration Form - which can be downloaded [here](#).
- In addition to the Annual Registration Form, you must [book on](#) to each individual SENCO and Leadership Network date, as you would for any other training course, in order to receive details and confirmation prior to each session. To ensure the correct person receives these confirmations, providers are asked to notify eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk if there are changes in personnel over the year that alter the details on the Annual Registration Form submitted.
- Network Meetings are online via MS Teams and run from 10am – 12 noon, except for the Spring 2026 Leadership Network, which will be taking place face to face at the Indian Community Centre.
- All Network Meetings are led by members of the Early Years Team, accompanied by relevant Guest Speakers.
- There will be a bonus Prize Draw at every Network, with prizes such as discounted training!

Leadership Network:

- Designed for PVI Leaders, Managers and Proprietors in Day Nurseries and Pre-Schools
- Autumn Term: Wednesday 19th November 2025
- Spring Term: Wednesday 18th March 2026 (Face to Face)
- Summer Term: Wednesday 24th June 2026

SENCO Network:

- Designed for SENCOs in Day Nursery, Pre-Schools, Schools who provide 2-year-old places and Childminders supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Autumn Term: Thursday 6th November 2025
- Spring Term: Thursday 5th March 2026
- Summer Term: Thursday 4th June 2026

Network Membership Annual Registration & Terms and Conditions

The SENCO and Leadership Networks are charged at an annual rate, and providers must complete an Annual Registration Form prior to attending. **Joint and multiple setting discounts are available for Annual Registrations received before 31st October 2025.** New Registrations can be accepted throughout the year, but full membership charges will apply, regardless of how many networks are attended.

Membership Options for 2025/26

Please note that it is not permissible to share links for Networks between settings unless you have purchased the Multiple Setting Membership options and details of each setting are recorded on your Annual Registration Form.

Number of Settings	Membership Type	Annual Cost for 2025/26
Single Setting Membership	Leadership Network Membership Only	£50
	SENCO Network Membership Only	£50
	Leadership & SENCO Network Membership <i>Only available to Membership Registrations received before 31 October 2025</i>	£80
Multiple Setting Membership (for 2 or more Settings from the same Organisation)	Leadership Network Membership Only	£85
	SENCO Network Membership Only	£85
	Leadership & SENCO Network Membership <i>Only available to Membership Registrations received before 31 October 2025</i>	£150

Find out more about the [Leadership Network](#) and [SENCO Network](#) on the CPD Opportunities Page of the Website!



Open Your Eyes to the EYFS

This series of training sessions is designed for all Nottingham City Practitioners in mainstream schools or PVI settings who are working within Early Years. Whether you are just starting out in a new role, have previous experience and have changed year groups or wish to refresh or deepen your knowledge of the newly updated early years framework, then this is the course for you!

The training is delivered over four sessions, through a combination of face to face and online sessions and is designed to provide delegates with a deeper understanding of all aspects of the new early years statutory framework.

These sessions will provide an opportunity to consider how to develop effective teaching and learning, both through the training and through a series of gap tasks designed to encourage new learning to be rehearsed within the setting.

Over the course sessions, we will cover:

- The key principles of the EYFS; the unique child, building positive relationships, enabling environments and learning and development
- Effective early years pedagogy
- The critical role of the adult in the early years
- The observation, assessment and planning cycle
- What good teaching and learning looks like in the EYFS and how to be 'Ofsted ready'

We also look at the statutory and non-statutory guidance to see how these can support practitioners in their understanding of child development, and we will spend time finding out about the areas of learning, educational programmes, characteristics of teaching and learning, observations, assessments, planning, timetabling, environment, continuous and enhanced provision.

The cost of the four sessions is £120 per delegate and details of the sessions are as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 8th October 2025	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish
Wednesday 26th November 2025	10.00am - 11.30am	Online
Wednesday 10th December 2025	10.00am - 11.30am	Online
Wednesday 21st January 2026	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish

To find out more, please visit the [CPD pages of the website](#), or contact eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and to book on, please [click here](#)

Safeguarding CPD Opportunities

Considering the September 2025 Safeguarding Reforms, we would like to take this opportunity to direct providers to the Safeguarding Training that we are offering during the Autumn Term.

Safeguarding Children Refresher - Multiple Dates Available

This course ensures that people who have previously attended training specific to their role are updated on safeguarding children issues, including changes in national context and local policies and procedures. Guidance on best practice will also be explored.

More information can be found [here](#).

Safer Recruitment in the Early Years - Thursday 18th September 2025

This course will provide you with the knowledge to ensure procedures are in place to recruit people who share your commitment to safeguarding children. The course will be covering the Government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'.

More information can be found [here](#).

An Introduction to Safeguarding Children - Monday 29th September 2025

This course will give new and trainee practitioners a thorough awareness of safeguarding children as well as the local context, policies and procedures of Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP).

If practitioners have attended a Safeguarding Children course within the past three years they should book onto the Safeguarding Children Refresher Training.

More information can be found [here](#).

Designated Safeguarding Leads - Thursday 9th October 2025

This course is specifically tailored to support practitioners new to the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or practitioners who are being developed to take on the role.

More information can be found [here](#).

Nottingham City PVI DSL Network - Wednesday 12th November 2025

The Nottingham City PVI DSL Network is free to attend for Nottingham City DSLs and overseen by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP). Featuring regular guest speakers, the network provides valuable information to ensure all DSLs are kept up to date with current issues and developments.

A bonus to attending these termly networks is that DSLs need not refresh their Safeguarding training as they will be kept abreast of any developments and current practice. DSLs attending the network are also supported with website resources.

The aims of the network are to:

- Develop and enhance safeguarding practices and processes across the Early Years sector
- Improve communication between the Early Years sector and the Safeguarding Children Board
- Provide support to DSLs in their role as a DSL

The Autumn DSL Network is free of charge for Nottingham City PVI Settings, book your place [here](#).

New Training Offers!

Providing the 'Best Start' in Pre-School/F1 (Suitable for All Sectors)

Following the recommendations in the 'Best Start in Life' document produced by DfE, and in line with recent changes to the Early Years Inspection feedback, this training has been designed to explore and develop provision for this unique age.

With this documentation in mind, and in response to sector needs, our EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists have developed this two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the children in pre-school/F1.

This training will be delivered through a mixture of theory and practical activities which aim to put a spotlight on provision for all of those involved in this unique age group of children and provides an opportunity to reflect on current lifestyle challenges faced.

Key themes explored through the sessions include:

- Developing knowledge and understanding of the prime areas
- Exploring opportunities to develop specific learning
- Early maths and phonics
- Early support strategies and interventions
- Effective environments and appropriate interactions
- Preparing children for 'Starting Reception'

Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Part One: Tuesday 30th September 2025	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish	£50 for both sessions for City Practitioners Book here
Part Two: Tuesday 14th October 2025	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish	





Building a 'Strong Foundation in Reception' (Suitable for Schools)

In response to sector needs, our EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists have developed a two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with children in Reception.

Through a mixture of theory and practical activities we will consider the unique needs of a Reception class, including how to ensure curriculum depth and coverage, whilst considering different teaching techniques and how to balance this with the statutory assessment.

The course will support you to look at your data, helping identify areas of learning to look at, as well as children who you may wish to target for additional support.

Please note: Guidance on how to complete the assessment will not be covered in this session, this will be covered in the [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile training](#).

Key themes explored through the sessions include:

- Increasing practitioner knowledge of age and stage development for 4–5-year-olds, including supporting pre-writing and writing skills
- Exploring an effective learning environment to support a broad and balanced curriculum
- Supporting effective data analysis and how it can be used to inform practice
- Preparing for an effective transition to Key Stage 1

Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Part One: Wednesday 11th February 2026	9.00am - 12.00pm	Castle Cavendish	£50 for both sessions for City Practitioners Book here
Part Two: Wednesday 25th March 2026	9.00am - 12.00pm	Castle Cavendish	

Exciting CPD Opportunity for PVI Leaders and Managers (Suitable for the PVI Sector)

Early Years Leaders face a multitude of pressures, often with the need to balance pedagogical leadership with business management to develop and maintain a supportive environment for both children and their early years staff team.

Resilience, motivation and self-awareness are just a few key essential skills not only needed as leaders, but for leaders to foster within their teams.

All day, every day, we promote high quality teaching and learning across the seven areas of learning under the EYFS, but do these teachings end with our children?



In a new, one-off session '***Practising what we teach! Would you reach the expected level of development as an adult?***' Senior Managers from the Early Years Team will utilise the teaching principles of our daily practice to help Managers and Leaders explore and reflect how these can be applied to ourselves and support the mentoring and supervising of those we manage.

Specifically utilising the Early Learning Goal of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, which teaches children about self-regulation, managing self and building relationships, we will look at how we do this for ourselves and for our staff.

Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Tuesday 7 th October 2025	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish	£35 – For City PVI Managers and Leaders Only Book here

Please note that **places are limited** for this one-off session, so **book now** to ensure you don't miss this opportunity!



Agreement Trialling Evaluation 2024/25

Our Agreement Trialling sessions continued to be a success throughout 2024/25. We delivered 24 sessions to **283 practitioners representing 79 different settings** (61 schools and 18 PVI's) from 11 different school trusts, nursery chains, maintained schools and independent nurseries and received overwhelming feedback from 97% of those who attended.

These **FREE sessions** provide an opportunity to hear about local and national updates as well as providing networking opportunities and focused discussions for early years practitioners. They also provide practitioners with ideas to enhance their practice and provision and enable them to develop confidence and consistency with assessment judgements and planning next steps.

Sessions are suitable for those working across the sector and we offer age specific sessions for those teaching 3–4-year-olds (pre-school) and 4–5-year-olds (rising 5s/reception).

We are currently planning the sessions for 25/26. These will provide an opportunity to address and share the changing national initiatives for early years along with addressing the current priorities highlighted in City data trends.

Please note, we have reduced the number of sessions to ensure that we can continue to offer them for free this year and we have responded to feedback requesting that sessions were available on different days. We also have a new venue for the in-person sessions, this will now be at the Indian Community Centre (ICCA), 99 Hucknall Road, Nottingham, NG5 1QZ, which offers ample free car parking for delegates.

The dates and venues for the Autumn Term are shown below:

	Age	Focus Areas	Date	Venue	Time Options
Autumn Term	Preschool / 3-4s	Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Expressive Arts and Design	Tuesday 11 th November 2025	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30
				Indian Community Centre	13:00-16:00
	Reception / Rising 5s	Communication and Language & Writing	Thursday 20 th November 2025	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30
				Indian Community Centre	13:00-16:00

[Book a space here](#) and come and join us!

Still not sure? Check out some of the evaluation feedback from last year:

- I now have a better understanding of 'expected' and 'best fit'
- I have lots of ideas to take back and use straight away – friendly and informative
- I am new to these sessions and felt supported throughout discussions which has boosted my confidence
- It is always reassuring to know you are on the right track
- Updates and resources always give ideas to take back to my setting
- The sessions are always warm and welcoming
- This was a valued opportunity to talk about a SEND child and get ideas to take back
- I now feel ready to properly reflect on our curriculum and provision
- Thank you! Brilliant session as always

Key Autumn Term Dates for your Diary

This is a summary of key dates from the Early Years Term, including dates relating to Early Years Funding, Training and Networks and SEND Funding, which have been colour co-ordinated for ease as follows;

	Early Years Funding Related Dates
	Training and Network Dates
	SEND Funding Related Dates

For full information on all training courses, including timings, venues and cost, please visit the [CPD pages of the Early Years Website](https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking) and book all courses online at https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking

If you've not yet registered your Annual Membership for SENCO and/or Leadership Networks for 2025-26, please see the article on pages 4 and 5.

September 2025	
5 th September	Deadline for Additional Estimate Payment Request For working parent entitlement children extending to 30 hours from 1 st September
9 th September	Childcare Expansion Funding Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors
11 th September	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
12 th September	SEND Funding – Moderation Deadline for Autumn Interim Funding Moderation must be completed prior to submission of funding requests. Please contact eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to book as soon as possible
17 th September	Safeguarding Refresher Training (FULLY BOOKED) Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
18 th September	Safer Recruitment Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders– Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
19 th September	SEND Funding – Submission Deadline for Autumn Interim Panel
22 nd September	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
23 rd September	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
25 th September	Introduction to SEND Suitable for the PVI Sector
26 th September	Headcount task closes for Autumn Term funding claim <i>Last day to submit claim</i>
29 th September	Introduction to Safeguarding Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer

30 th September	Providing the 'Best Start' in Pre-School / F1 – Part One Suitable for the PVI Sector and Schools
October 2025	
1 st October	Part Two – Autumn Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>Based on Summer Term portal claim</i>
1 st October	Childminder Briefing Information session for those interested in becoming a Childminder
1 st October	SEND Funding – Autumn Panel Meeting
2 nd October	Childminder Network Suitable for Nottingham City Childminders Only
7 th October	Practising what we teach! Would you reach the expected level of development as an adult? Suitable for Leaders/Managers in the PVI Sector
8 th October	Open your Eyes to the EYFS – Part One Suitable for Schools and PVI Sector
9 th October	Designated Safeguarding Leads Suitable for the PVI Sector new to DSL role – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
10 th October (provisional date)	Confirmation Report Deadline <i>You may also be contacted about double claims</i>
13 th October	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
13 th October	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
14 th October	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
14 th October	Providing the 'Best Start' in Pre-School / F1 – Part Two Suitable for the PVI Sector and Schools
14 th October	Ofsted – Changes to the Education Inspection Framework See page 25 for further information
15 th October	Childminder Information Workshop – Part One For prospective or newly registered childminders or those requiring a refresher
November 2025	
1 st November	Part Three – Autumn Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>Based on Summer Term portal claim</i>
5 th November	Childminder Information Workshop – Part Two For prospective or newly registered childminders or those requiring a refresher
6 th November	SENCO Network For Nottingham City PVI SENCOs & schools delivering 2-year-old places

10 th November	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
11 th November	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
11 th November	Pre-School Agreement Trialling Suitable for PVI Sector and Schools
12 th November	DSL Network Suitable for Nottingham City PVI Practitioners
14 th November	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
15 th November	Wraparound Childcare Conference See page 24 for further information
19 th November	Leadership Network Annual Membership suitable for Proprietors/Leaders and Managers in the PVI
20 th November	Reception Agreement Trialling Suitable for PVI Sector and Schools
24 th November	Prevent Duty For Nottingham City PVI Sector & Childminders – Led by Louise Cox, Prevent Officer
26 th November	Open your Eyes to the EYFS – Part Two Suitable for Schools and PVI Sector
December 2025	
1 st December	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
2 nd December	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
3 rd December	Workshop for schools on claiming the funded early years entitlements Specifically for new School Office/Business Managers to support with the claiming process
9 th December	Refresher workshop for providers delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
9 th December	Workshop for providers new to delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
10 th December	Open your Eyes to the EYFS – Part Three Suitable for Schools and PVI Sector
11 th December	EYFSP Full Data Briefing Suitable for Schools
15 th December	Autumn Term Balance Payment <i>Only paid if estimate has not covered earnings</i>
31 st December	Deadline to submit Early Years Entitlement Funding Adjustment Form <i>Used to inform us of any late starters/early leavers which will be paid/invoiced at the start of Spring Term</i>

For any **funding related queries**, please check the Funding Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

You can **book all these courses online** at https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking and if you have any questions please contact eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

For any **SEND Funding related queries**, please check out the Equality and Inclusion Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

WFD Terms and Conditions

As we start another CPD Programme for the new academic year of 2025/26, please see the following information as a reminder of our course fees and Cancellation Policy.

Confirmations

Please note that completing the online booking form does not automatically guarantee a place on the course requested. Following submission of your booking form, you will receive a confirmation email of your place allocation within 10 working days, and a reminder email will be sent no later than 3 working days before the course takes place. Any specific instructions for the course will be included on your confirmation email. Please bring a copy (or email) with you to the event.

If there is an issue with your booking, such as the course being oversubscribed, you will be contacted within 10 working days of submitting your online booking form.

Course Fees

All course fees can be paid by debit/credit card over the phone by calling Lucy on 0115 87 65620 or Desiree (Monday – Thursday) on 0115 87 64545. All course fees under £30 must be paid in this way. Invoices will only be raised for courses totalling over £30 and will be raised after the course date.

If invoices are issued and not paid, pre-payment over the phone will be the only option for booking future courses until outstanding invoices are settled.

Cancellation Policy

Our courses/briefing sessions, whether online or face to face, paid for or free of charge, are subsidised in some way, therefore we are required to put measures in place to enable us to continue to provide a quality programme for the Early Years sector. Please ensure you have read the below terms and conditions regarding required notice of attendance or cancellation. Once you have submitted your online course application form, your place will be allocated and confirmed. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you must cancel your place, please do so by emailing eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk not less than 2 working days before the course commences.

- **Chargeable Course Cancellations** – Whether the training is online or face to face, if the session is a paid for course and you cancel less than 2 working days before the course is due to start, or don't attend on the day, you will be charged 100% of the **course fee** and no refund will be made if you have paid in advance. Where courses run over more than one session, you will be charged for the full course, even if subsequent sessions are missed.

- **Agreement Trialling Cancellations** – Whilst these sessions are free to attend, if you cancel less than 2 working days before the course is due to start, or don't attend on the day, you will be charged a £30 cancellation fee due to room hire and/or trainer/facilitator costs being incurred.
- **Network Meeting Cancellations** – Due to the Annual Registration Charge for these Networks, they are exempt from an additional cancellation charge if you cancel at short notice, or don't attend on the day. However, as you must book on to each Network date, we request that you contact us not less than 2 working days before the event if you are no longer able to attend.
- **Free Course Cancellations** - These are primarily linked to our statutory duties and whilst they are free to attend, we do need to show a good attendance to continue to be able to offer them for free. We would therefore request that you contact us not less than 2 working days before the event if you are no longer able to attend.
- **In House / Bespoke Training Cancellations** – Once your request has been confirmed by email, any cancellations will incur a 10% administration charge and if the course is cancelled less than 2 working days before the course is due to start, you will be charged 100% of the agreed course fee.

If you need to check the Cancellation Policy for a specific course, or need to contact us to make a cancellation, please do so by emailing eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Start Times

It is important that you arrive for all courses on time, or ideally 10 minutes beforehand, so registration can commence on time and you do not miss vital information or disrupt the session. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the advertised start time of the session, our trainers reserve the right to turn latecomers away, and in these circumstances, the Cancellation Policy will be implemented.

All Course/Networks/Briefing Information

Please ensure that you read individual course information on our website as there may be course pre-requisites. For example, you may need to bring something to the course, read something beforehand or simply be aware that the course has practical elements, so you may need to wear comfortable clothing or footwear.

National Year of Reading 2026

Announced by Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson and The National Literacy Trust, the campaign will engage new audiences in reading, encourage reading for pleasure and change the nation's reading culture for good. Multi-sector partners are joining forces to get the nation reading and we can all get involved to be part of the story.

Find out more at <https://www.nationalyearofreading.org.uk/>



Speech & Language Advice Line

The Speech and Language Advice Line is a service operated by trained Speech and Language Therapists and is open to those living in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.

The advice line is available for parents and carers of children aged 0-19 years who would like to call for advice, if they have questions or concerns about their child's talking or communication.

It would be great if you could share this information with parents and carers in your settings!



Nottinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Speech & Language Advice Line

**NEW OPENING HOURS
FROM AUGUST 2025**

(For parents and carers of children aged 0-19
and for young people aged 16-19,
who would also like to call us for advice.)

**Do you have any questions or concerns about
your child's talking or communication?**

**We are happy to help,
please call the advice line on:**

CALL NOW

0300 123 3387 OPTION 1

NOTTINGHAM CITY AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ONLY

Tuesday 9am to 12.30pm

Thursday 9am to 12.30pm

Opening hours may change, please contact your school, health
visitor or look on our website for more information.

www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/specialist-childrens-speech-and-language-therapy



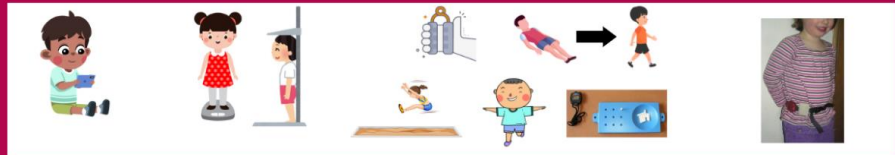


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Hallam
University**

Parents of 3-year-olds in Nottingham, take part in the iKids study!

Help us explore how children aged 3 use
mobile devices and tablets, and how
these shape cognitive development and
health outcomes.

**£50 voucher
for taking
part!**



www.ikidsstudy.com



**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

WHAT:

Fun activities measuring motor and cognitive skills, height, and weight. Questionnaires for parents and we will help you download an app measuring screen activity.

WHEN:

There will be a few slots available on set days, with each slot lasting 75-90 minutes.

WHERE:

**Nottingham Central Library
NG1 7FH**

www.tinyurl.com/iKidsJoin



For more info/to book
your slot, scan here!

Email: ikids@shu.ac.uk

Phone: 07917846358

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2025 Update & Childcare Expansion Funding

As part of the government's transformative reforms to childcare, from September 2025 working parents will be able to access 30 hours of funded provision, for 38 weeks, from the term after their child is 9 months old to when they start school.

As a Local Authority (LA), Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient, high quality childcare places.

What is the LA doing to ensure sufficient 30-hour places?

The LA completes an annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) to identify and address any concerns on the number of available childcare places. As part of this assessment, we ask schools and childcare providers to complete a CSA Provider Survey.

Completed surveys provide the LA with current childcare place data, which we compare with the number of potentially eligible children across the city. We also take into consideration the number of place vacancies to then make a judgement on sufficiency.

The Spring Term 2024 CSA had a focus on assessing our readiness for the 30-hour extended offer. The data allowed us to identify potential sufficiency concerns and priority wards for expanding childcare places, to target the LA's capital grant programme. This year, we have refreshed the data to show what progress has been made in those priority wards and any remaining sufficiency concerns which require expansion.

CSA 2025 – What is the data telling us?

There are sufficient childcare places for eligible children from 9 months to statutory school age in **most** wards across the city. The following wards have been identified with potential sufficiency concerns and are therefore our **priority wards for expansion**:

- Bestwood – possible expansion of baby places and places for 2-year-olds
- Dales (Sneinton) – possible expansion of baby places
- Meadows – possible expansion baby places
- St Ann's – possible expansion of baby places

What are the LA's next steps?

The Early Years Team are currently contacting existing childcare provision and schools in the above priority wards to explore their current offer and any scope to expand. Where we are unable to secure expansion in existing provision, we may need to consider inviting the creation of new childcare services.

For providers considering expansion, there are 2 remaining panels for the LA's Childcare Expansion Funding. This is a capital funding opportunity to create places for under 3's and the priority wards have been updated to reflect the updated data. Application deadline dates for the final 2 funding panels are:

- 19th September 2025
- 23rd January 2026

Further information and guidance on the Childcare Expansion Funding, please see the information on our website - [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

SEND Update

SEND Funding - Key Dates for Funding Applications

Autumn Interim Panel	Moderation Deadline	Submission Deadline	Panel Meeting
	Friday 12 th September 2025 (12 noon)	Friday 19 th September 2025 (12 noon)	Wednesday 1 st October 2025

Moderation **MUST** be completed prior to submission of request. Please contact eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to book in for moderation discussions.

A full list of key SEND Funding dates for the academic year 2025 -2026 can be found [here](#)

Please remember to complete an [Amendments Form](#) for any children who are in receipt of SEND Funding and are moving to school.

Disability Access Fund (DAF) Reminder

This year the number of children applying for two-year-old places via the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) route has dropped by 50%, with one possible reason being that more parents are accessing the Early Years Entitlements for Working Families, however we want to ensure all eligible children claim funding they are entitled to.

We would encourage settings to continue to ask parents whether they are claiming DLA on admission and if they were, we would encourage them to apply through the route for families receiving additional support (formerly the disadvantage 2-year-old offer) as this enables the setting to claim the £938.00 of DAF for the child, which can provide valuable support and resources.

Language Leads Opportunity

Following on from the successes seen with the Language Leads project last year, the Speech and Language Team are looking to recruit new practitioners who wish to become a Language Lead in their setting.

The Language Lead approach is an evidence-informed programme which supports the development of speech, language and communication in the early years. This approach enhances the current offer of speech, language and communication support within settings and provides a significant opportunity for early intervention for all children including those with speech, language and communication needs. It is based on an interactional pedagogy and the intervention is carried out within typical EYFS provision.

This free suite of training will include face to face sessions with the Speech and Language Team and will include a follow up support visit in your setting. For further information or to register your interest, please contact amy.burton@nottshc.nhs.uk

Early Years Funding

Final Phase of the New Working Parent Entitlement

September 2025 is the final phase of the new working parent entitlement! Eligible children from aged 9 months + (the term after they are 9 months) will be eligible for up to 30 hours free childcare from 1st September 2025, as long as they have reached the eligible age, and applied for a code by 31st August 2025. Don't forget that you can request an additional estimate payment for this cohort of children. For more information and the form to submit, please check out the article on our [Funding Pages](#). The deadline to request an additional estimate payment is **5th September 2025**.

2 Years Olds Eligible for Both Working Parent Entitlement and Families Receiving Additional Support (formerly disadvantaged)

A reminder that 2-year-olds who are entitled to both entitlements from 1st September 2025 must be recorded on the portal using the additional support hours first and then working parent hours for any hours above 15 (for example, for a full 30-hour claim, 15 must be recorded in both the universal and extended columns).

Early Years Pupil Premium Distribution

An email was sent to the sector and information is also on [our website](#) in regards to how EYPP will be distributed from the Autumn Term, this includes a clause that supersedes the information in the published Provider Agreement, so please ensure you are aware of this information.

Change of Provider Bank/Supplier Details

Where providers require a change to their payment details (change of bank etc) they must do this directly with East Midlands Shared Services (EMSS, which is the Council's Central Finance Department), using either the Supplier Portal if they have access, or raising a support ticket at <https://emss.org.uk/support>.

Please be aware that the Early Years Funding Team don't always get informed of these changes in time for payments so if you are contacting EMSS to make changes, please drop us an email as well to eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to enable us to look out for these changes. This will ensure we are using the most up to date information in order for payments to be processed smoothly. If you are changing bank it is also important to retain access to your previous bank account until you receive confirmation that this has been changed or if it clashes with an upcoming payment that cannot be redirected.

Eligibility Checking Service Replacement

The Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) provided to Local Authorities by DfE to check eligibility for Free School Meals, the 2-year-old Disadvantage Offer, Early-Years Pupil Premium, and the Working Families Entitlement, is being replaced.

The ECS links directly with the portal and so when providers add working parent codes, or details for EYPP, these go directly through to the ECS in order to check eligibility.

We have been told that the data that is required for the checks is not changing and that the DfE has been engaging with Capita to support them in preparing to move to the new system from November 2025. More information will follow as we are informed!

Autumn Term 2025 Headcount Information

Autumn Term Estimate Funding Payments

Providers will have received part 1 of their estimate payments as they are made around 1st September 2025, part 2 will be paid around 1st October 2025 and part 3 around 1st November 2025. Please remember that these are based on the Summer Term Headcount and therefore do not include the cohort of working parent entitlement hours which will increase to 30 hours from September. We can make an additional estimate payment on request to support this final phase of the new entitlements, please see the information on the previous page, noting the 5th September 2025 deadline.

Autumn Head Count Task- 1st September – 26th September 2025

Please remember that although your portal return will be submitted by 26th September, your estimate payments will remain the same amount during the Autumn Term as these are based on Summer Term figures and are signed off for payment in advance of the current term.

Autumn Term Balance Payments

These will be paid around 15th December 2025 and as per the Provider Agreement, any debt owed will be taken off from any amounts we may owe you this term (i.e. you owe us for a 2-year-old, but we owe you for a 3-year-old). If, after this, there is an outstanding debt, we will work with you to agree whether to take this off future payments or raise an invoice.

Confirmation Reports

Please look out for the email for actual deadline, but this is provisionally set for 10th October 2025. Please ensure you look through your Confirmation Report within the deadline given. It is crucial that the details on your report are accurate, and this is the time to amend, add any new starters or reduce hours for any leavers.

It is particularly important to look at both the universal and extended/expanded columns to ensure that you are claiming the correct hours for all entitlements.

All changes will be included in main balance payments on 15th December 2025, unless we receive the reports late, or require further information, which may take us over the deadline for them to be included in the balance payments.

Adjustments

Any amendments, due to leavers or starters after the Confirmation Report stage, will need to be made using the [Adjustment Form](#). Please remember that Adjustment Forms need to be completed and sent by 31st December 2025 to receive payment.

Important Information on Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

Due to a reduction in funding from the Household Support Fund in 2025/2026, Nottingham City Council are unfortunately no longer able to provide Free School Meal vouchers during school holiday periods, with immediate effect. This decision has not been made lightly, and it is understood that this change may have a considerable impact on many households, especially during times when children are not in school and access to meals may be more limited.

Please do encourage families to check with local community organisations and food support services, which may be able to offer help. Additionally there is further information on the City Council's website - [Household Support Vouchers - Nottingham City Council](#)

Wraparound Childcare Programme

Childcare Expansion Funding

As part of the government's transformative reforms to childcare, the local authority received capital and revenue funding to support wraparound places for primary school aged children across the City. 182 new places were opened before the Summer, with a further 216 due to open in Autumn 2025. Opportunities to apply for funding under this programme are now limited, with only 2 application rounds remaining. The deadlines for these application rounds are:

- 19th September 2025
- 23rd January 2026

Potential applicants can attend a [free online Briefing Session](#) on applying for Childcare Expansion Funding and more information can be found on our [Wraparound Childcare Programme](#) pages.

The latest news from DfE in relation to this programme is an announcement to extend flexibility to enable LAs to fund partial wraparound places, evidenced by parental demand, that don't yet meet the expectation of a full wraparound place (8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday) but could move closer towards it. The key parameters are that LAs can fund partial places in a way that supports the ethos of the wraparound programme. Families should have access to childcare at least 3 days a week, at least 30 minutes before school and at least 90 minutes after school. For further information, please refer to our website pages on the [Wraparound Childcare Programme](#).

Please direct any queries in relation to this funding to earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

New online HUB of free resources for childcare providers

If you're looking for practical guidance and expert advice to develop or expand your early years and wraparound childcare provision, then the Childcare Works online HUB is for you.



The expansion of early years entitlements and wraparound childcare is an exciting opportunity to support more families with high-quality childcare and education. On the HUB, you'll find a bank of good practice guidance, practical resources, business development advice, case studies, templates and training - all in one open access, free to use online HUB. Available to all providers, whether you are a childminder, nursery, play scheme, club or school, the Childcare Works online HUB is designed for you. The resources are created by experts and backed by the Department for Education. Explore the HUB today: Childcareworks.org.uk

WAC MI Autumn Term Data Collection

Providers receiving revenue funding for new wraparound places will be required to complete an Autumn Term Management Information submission. The Autumn Term reporting week will be 10th – 14th November 2025 and providers will have until 21st November 2025 to complete the management information survey.

Further information will be sent directly to funded wraparound providers in October 2025.



WRAPAROUND CONFERENCE

*Exclusively for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire providers,
delivering wraparound care for primary school aged children*

**SATURDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER 2025**

9:30 - 15:30

**EAST MIDLANDS
CONFERENCE CENTRE,
NOTTINGHAM,
NG7 2RJ**

FREE CONFERENCE

**BOOK
HERE**



REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH

Refreshments and pastries available on arrival. Buffet lunch included

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Andy Cope, Art of Brilliance - Keynote Speaker
James Hemsall, Managing Director of Coram Hemsalls -
Opening Speaker

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1- Ben Kingston-Hughes, from Inspired Children - Neuroscience of Play

Workshop 2- Matt Ogle, Entire Club - Creating Inclusive Play Environments

Workshop 3 - Helen Barnett, Toy Library - Interactive Play Session

Workshop 4 - Rebekah Jackson-Reece, Out of School Alliance - Building a sustainable Wraparound Business

EXHIBITORS

A number of exhibitors will be joining us on the day

GOODY BAG

Free goody bag for all delegates, including a free book from our Guest Speaker, Dr Andy Cope!

Provided by



**Nottingham
City Council**



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Ofsted Changes to the Education Inspection Framework



Ofsted is implementing changes to its inspection framework and inspections under the new Education Inspection Framework will begin in November 2025. To support providers to familiarise themselves with the changes, Ofsted are launching their engagement programme which will run from September to November 2025. The programme consists of webinars, blogs and regional events. Providers can attend live webinars that set out the main changes to education inspections.

These sector specific webinars on the Renewed Inspection Framework are taking place in September:

- Registered Early Years Settings (Nurseries and Pre-School) - Thursday 18th September 2025, 6pm – 7pm. [Book here.](#)
- Childminders - Wednesday 17th September 2025, 7pm – 8pm. [Book here.](#)
- Out of School Providers Registered on the Early Years Register – Thursday 18th September 2025, 12pm – 1pm. [Book here.](#)

In addition to these national webinars, the Early Years Team have also secured the following sessions with Ofsted directly to address any local concerns or questions, please do make the most of this!

Date	Time	Venue	Bookings
Tuesday 14 th October 2025	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Online	Places are free of charge. Booking information to follow in Stay Connected!
	6.00pm – 7.30pm		

News from the Department for Education



Department
for Education

Call for Evidence, Safeguarding in Out-of-School Settings

Out-of-school activities form a vital part of community life, with millions of children and young people participating regularly in everything from sports, music and arts to tutoring and youth groups. This vibrant sector is supported by approximately 4.5 million adults who work or volunteer in these settings.

Our Out-Of-School Settings Safeguarding Call for Evidence is a chance to share your views on how we can make these settings as safe as possible. Help us build a clearer picture of what's working and where more support could help.

Submit your views and experience by 21st September 2025 here: [Out-of-School Settings Safeguarding: Call for evidence - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

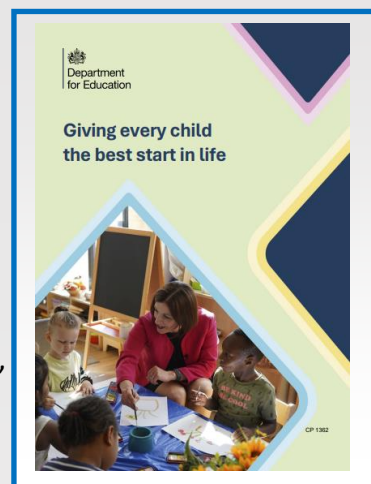
Share your experiences and help shape the future of these important settings.

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life: A National Commitment to Early Years Reform

[‘Giving every child the best start in life’](#) is the government’s strategy for improving child health and development and meeting the ambition that 75% of 5-year-olds in England have a good level of development by 2028, as set out in the Plan for Change.

This will be achieved by:

- improving family services, providing high quality support to parents and children from pregnancy to age 5 and beyond
- making it easier and cheaper for families to access early education, childcare, health advice and support on the journey of being a parent
- improving the quality of education and care that children receive in early years settings, with childminders and when they start school.



‘Best Start in Life’ not only encapsulates the strategy, but is also a new cross-government and cross-sector brand that will act as a wrapper and be used to frame all services, offers and support that aim to break down barriers to opportunity, improve health outcomes and drive up the numbers of children reaching a good level of development. While many of these will be focused on the early years, this new brand will bring together wider offers for children and parents to deliver on the ambition in its broadest sense, supporting families on their journey from pregnancy through to their child starting school and beyond.

The new brand, launched at the start of September 2025, demonstrates the cross-sector collaboration and commitment to giving children the best start in life. Replacing Childcare Choices, the new website - beststartinlife.gov.uk – will enable parents to find out about and take up the different offers that will make a difference to them and their child.

Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework

On 14th July 2025, the DfE published the revised EYFS Statutory Frameworks, which come into force for all registered early years providers on 1st September 2025, replacing the previous frameworks.

The new frameworks incorporate the:

- Safeguarding Reforms, check out further information on our [Safeguarding](#) webpage.
- New Nutrition Guidance, which has been developed with nutrition and sector experts
- [Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards](#), which has been updated with minor clarifications

There are two revised frameworks:

- [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework for Childminders](#)
- [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework for Group and School Based Providers](#)

Early Years Financial Incentives

The level of interest in this programme, that was launched at the end of July, has been very high, and whilst this is very positive it does mean that the DfE have now reached the point where almost all the incentives have been reserved. The reservation system will close by 11am on 4 September, and only those who have reserved an incentive will be able to access the application system when it opens in September.

The DfE acknowledge that this will be disappointing for those who are now unable to claim an incentive for their new starters and plan to keep availability under review and contact providers if more recruitment bonuses become available. Further information can be found on the [Recruitment Support](#) page of the website.



Working with... Under Three's

CONFERENCE 2025
PRIDE PARK

Book your place today to avoid disappointment!
Lunch is provided, free of charge.

In collaboration with Derby City Local Authority Early Years Team

Join us for our conference in collaboration with Derbyshire LA, focusing on high quality practice when working with under 3s. Our speakers will include:

- **Dr Louise Hannan** - sharing her research on emotional encology & its importance for the youngest children
- **Amanda Hubball** - sharing a case study on using schemas to inform planning and support learning
- **Sarah Taylor** - leading a workshop on safer practice with babies: safer spaces, safer handling and safer sleep



Take Home
Practical, fun and low-cost ideas that you can use to support the children you work with.

More from THE HUB



[View Linktree](#) to see everything we have on offer



[Register](#) with the hub to be the first to hear about upcoming events



Book Here



Pride Park, Derby
DE24 8XL

Weds 15th Oct 2025
9.00am - 4.00pm

All Early Years Practitioners
School-based, PVI, Childminders



Hosted by
Department for Education



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU



Education Endowment Foundation

The Early Years Team News and Contact Information

Retirement of Nick Lee, Director of Education, Nottingham City Council

Nick has been our Director, and a strong advocate of the work of the Early Years Team, for many years and we shall miss him, and his support, immensely when he retires on 5th September 2025. We wish Nick all the best for his next chapter and will keep you updated on news of our new Director.

New Appointments for the Early Years Team

It has been a busy few months in the Early Years Team recruiting to 3 new members of staff!

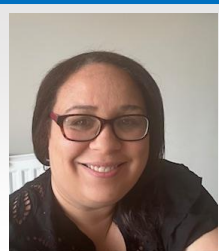


Lucy Mann – Workforce Development Support Officer

After joining the Team just after the last newsletter at the end of April, we are sure many of you have already been in contact with Lucy for your training bookings. Lucy is involved in managing training bookings, working with trainers and venues to ensure courses run smoothly. Lucy has been instrumental in the co-ordination and publication of the new 2025/26 Workforce Development Plan and can also take webpay payments for you. Lucy will assist Max in the development, promotion, coordination and monitoring of the Workforce Development Strategy and associated continuous professional development opportunities.

Max Dahle – Childcare Workforce Development Manager

We are thrilled to welcome Max, who will join the Team at the beginning of September as our new Childcare Workforce Development Manager. Max will lead the development, promotion, coordination and monitoring of the Workforce Development Strategy and associated continuous professional development opportunities, commissioning, negotiating and managing contracts with our training providers and other organisations. Max is joining us from the University of Hertfordshire and brings with him experience in SEND. Max is looking forward to supporting the childcare workforce across Nottingham City and is looking forward to getting to know everyone.



Rochelle Patterson – Childcare Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Also joining us at the beginning of September, we are excited to welcome Rochelle who will be supporting settings to deliver their duties in relation to safeguarding children. Rochelle is a dedicated safeguarding professional and passionate leader with a proven track record of delivering impactful safeguarding and pastoral support across diverse educational settings, from early years through Key Stage 5, as well as within community-based family support services. Rochelle brings extensive hands-on experience with a deep, working knowledge of child protection policies, procedures, and best practices.

Contact Us.....

The Early Years Team,
Nottingham City Council,
Loxley House,
Station Street,
Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Email:

earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Website:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears

X (formerly Twitter):

[@EarlyNottingham](https://twitter.com/EarlyNottingham)