

## Shared Foundation Partnership Annual letter

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the [Shared Foundation Partnerships](#) across York for your continued commitment. Your focused work to keep children's outcomes at the centre of partnership discussions is deeply appreciated and makes a real difference.

Over the summer, there have been several significant updates and new developments across the sector that we'd like to highlight as we move forward together.

One of the key priorities is the government's [Best Start in Life \(BSIL\)](#) strategy. This national initiative aims to improve early childhood development, with a goal that 79% of children reach a Good Level of Development (GLD) by the age of five by 2028. In York, the Best Start in Life (BSIL) strategy will be a key priority as we focus on GLD and how we work alongside settings and schools to ensure the GLD target is reached, striving with early years providers to ensure the foundations that need to come before GLD are in place. We will continue to collaborate with colleagues across services to create the best possible foundations for children from birth to five. This stage of life is critical for learning, development, and overall well-being, and our shared focus is on ensuring children have the right support to thrive. To achieve this, we will work to improve sufficiency and access to high-quality early education and childcare, strengthen family and health services, and provide targeted support through initiatives such as the Best Start Family Hubs and the Families First programme. Aligned with the BSIL approach, we will increase collaboration with [Stronger Practice Hubs](#), which offer regional networks, resources, and opportunities for practitioners to share effective teaching strategies and strengthen professional practice. Alongside developing stronger working relationships with [SEND Central](#) (Clifton) to ensure inclusive practice across the early years and childcare sector.

The [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) framework](#) has recently been updated, with further significant changes coming into effect from 1 September 2025. These revisions focus on strengthening safeguarding practices and improving the monitoring of child attendance. Key updates include the requirement for employers to obtain references for all new staff, the introduction of clear and timely follow-up procedures for child absences as part of a robust attendance policy, and an increase in the recommended number of emergency contacts for each child.

Significant changes will also take place from November regarding the [Ofsted inspection framework](#) including introducing a detailed "report card" to replace the single "overall effectiveness" grade. The report card aims to provide parents with richer detail on a provider's strengths and areas for improvement. Updates also include incorporating references to the recent EYFS changes and making minor adjustments to the inspection handbook content and inspection processes at a setting and school level.

We are also pleased to introduce our newly re-established [Early Years and Childcare Service](#), which will continue to support the development of strong partnership working across the sector. The new service brings together early education funding, sufficiency & quality improvement. Our focus moving forward will be on addressing potential sufficiency and quality challenges, with a particular emphasis on inclusion and transitions - ensuring we work with partners to reduce the gap in outcomes between disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their peers.

### **Partnership contact details**

It is vital that our database holds the most up to date contact details for the following:


- Chairperson
- Main contact for the partnership
- Speech Language and Communication lead
- Nominated partnership 'SENDCo' and 'Early Years Lead'
- Email address for each member of the partnership

We have attached a link to the [partnership contact details form](#). Please could you provide all the information requested and return by **Friday 31 October 2025**

If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

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Early Years and Childcare Quality Improvement Manager

Rachel Lanzillotti



Inclusion Advisor