



Welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO & UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Introduction	All	Info
Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting	Headteachers	Info
Consultation: Core Services Charge 2026-27	All	Info
Consultation: Operation review stage 2 - Estates functions in Primary Schools	Primary Heads, SBM/OMs	Action
Draft INSET Days 2026-27	Headteachers	Action
Update on the Gender Service for NSC schools	All	Info
Children's Mental Health week: 9-15 February 2026	All	Info
FINANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Changes to SEND funding in North Somerset	Heads, SBMs & SENDCOs (NS)	Info
TRUST SERVICES & ESTATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Bromcom - Census Processes	SBMs/OMs	Action
Census Day - Primary Food Festival	SBMs/OMs	Action
Changes to Echo (formerly Rainbow) phone security	SBMs/OMs	Info
GOVERNANCE UPDATES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Ofsted Inspection Window - Important Reminder for Clerks	Clerks	Action

Continued...



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CPD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES	AUDIENCE	TASK
Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks	All	Info
Revised LSP Geography Curriculum for Tranche 2 Primary Schools	Primary Heads & Curriculum Leads	Action
SEND Webinar: What does a child need to feel safe and thrive in the classroom environment	All	Info
Young People and Cyber Crime webinar	All	Info
Team Teach Training Sessions	All	Info
ULS Training - Friday 23 January	Primary Headteachers & English Leads	Info
SilverCloud - mental health and wellbeing service	All	Info
Upcoming CPD for Governors	Clerks, Chairs, Governors	Info
Bath and Wells Diocese Governance Training and Events	Clerks, Chairs and LGBs	Info
KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES		



Introduction

Reading this new bulletin in draft, I was struck by the weight of some of the decisions and changes that we are addressing together as a whole Trust.

We all await the long-promised SEND reforms that we expect to be set out in a White Paper early this year. We already know that the reforms to SEND funding will move us away from EHCPs and individual budgets for all but the most complex needs. North Somerset is anticipating that move with some changes to the way that it is disbursing funds to schools. For North Somerset primary schools, we have [drafted a letter](#) to help explain these changes to parents and I suggest that it is worth a read for leaders and governors in our other LA areas as it shows the likely direction.

The other big decision is in our Core Services Charge 2026-27 consultation. There is a very modest change to the way we manage funding in the Trust but it should enable us to operate with greater capacity. In Lighthouse Schools Partnership we do not GAG-pool. That is an almost defining statement of our culture. The reason why we do not do this is that the delegation of decision making allows schools to serve their own community's needs. The local ownership of this power and responsibility also maintains the financial discipline that has been such a strength in our story. But there is a price to pay; when a school faces critical challenges we need to flood in capacity. Similarly, where an awkward configuration of intakes, or other contextual challenge, renders it impossible to set a balanced budget and where every reasonable economy has been found, we need to support the school. Until now we have held a very tiny central reserve. The proposal to pool our contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme would allow us a very modest capacity to hold back some of the gains from the revaluation and thereby create some additional capacity. Because the actuarial revaluation of the scheme is a financial good news story this will not exacerbate the financial pressure in any school beyond what is currently faced. Have a look and please respond to the consultation.

Lastly, [Burrington's Ofsted report](#) was published last week. It is our first in the new format. Congratulations to Sarah Joskey and her team.

As ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting

As you are aware the next LSP Headteachers' Meeting is taking place on **Thursday 22 January** from 8.30am at Nailsea Baptist Church (BS48 2DS). Car sharing is encouraged, otherwise you can park on surrounding roads/in local car parks (but please ensure you read parking restrictions/limits).

[Click here](#) to view the agenda for this meeting.

Consultation: Core Services Charge 2026-27

In [last week's bulletin](#) we launched the consultation on the Core Services Charge for 2026-27.

Louise Malik, Chief Finance and Operating Officer held a session earlier today (Wednesday) outlining the consultation in more detail to help you make an informed response to the consultation. You can [click here to view the recording of this session](#). Slides from the session are also [available on Foldr](#):

LSP Communications\Consultations\Core Services Charge for 2026-27

Louise will also be sharing the same content at the upcoming Chairs' Forums, later this week.

A reminder that the policy and consultation documents for this consultation are available [on Foldr](#) (see pathway above) and the proposed changes have been tracked for your information.

Please submit your comments on the consultation to enquiries@lsp.org.uk by 5.00pm on **Friday 23 January 2026**.

Consultation: Operational Review Stage 2 - Estates Functions in Primary Schools

In 2024 we undertook the first stage of the Operational Review, which changed our operating model for business functions in primary schools. As part of this process we considered some changes to the operation of estates functions in primary schools. The Board of Trustees agreed to progress with the proposed changes but delayed implementation to enable the Central Estates Team to carry out a review of the role, hours, job description and grades for estates staff. We believe that there is still value in exploring these proposals and that some changes could improve our estates management and health and safety activities. We are, therefore, launching a consultation to take this forward - [see Foldr](#):

LSP Communications \ Consultations \ Management consultation on Primary Estates functions

This is a management consultation to seek the views of Headteachers, School Business Managers, Office Managers, Hub Estates Leads and other leaders on these proposals. Once the outcome of this consultation has been determined we will undertake a full consultation with the primary school estates staff that could be directly impacted and their union representatives. The content of the staff consultation will be dependent on this management consultation. This consultation will run until **Friday 13 February**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and please submit any responses to the proposals to enquiries@lsp.org.uk

Draft INSET Days 2026-27

We are proposing the following INSET/Trust Training Dates for next academic year (2026-27). These apply to all schools within LSP.

We will be having five INSET days and one Trust Training Day (same as this academic year). A key thing to note is Monday 22 February 2027 is a Trust Training Day - it is not an INSET day (it is a normal working day for staff) which is important for contractual reasons (especially for part time and support staff).

The drafted dates are as follows:

Primary Schools

- Thursday 3 September 2026
- Friday 4 September 2026
- Friday 20 November 2026
- Friday 15 January 2027 (potentially for Moderation, confirmation on content to follow)
- Monday 22 February 2027 (Trust Training Day)
+ one further date of your choice

Secondary Schools

- Thursday 3 September 2026
- Friday 4 September 2026
- Friday 20 November 2026 (collaborative content across all LSP secondaries)
- Monday 22 February 2027 (Trust Training Day)
+ two further dates of your choice

Action

We believe these dates meet school and Trust requirements, following the conversations you have had with the Education Team. If you have any significant objections please email them to enquiries@lsp.org.uk by Friday 23 January.

You will see that Headteachers have the option of setting one (primary) or two (secondary) dates themselves. Please [use this form](#) to submit your 'school choice date(s)' (both primary and secondary) to the Central Team by Friday 30 January.

A reminder that the term dates for 2026-27 for the Trust are as follows:

- **Term 1** - 3 September 2026 to 23 October 2026
- **Term 2** - 2 November 2026 to 18 December 2026
- **Term 3** - 4 January 2027 to 12 February 2027
- **Term 4** - 22 February 2027 to 25 March 2027
- **Term 5** - 12 April 2027 to 28 May 2027
- **Term 6** - 7 June 2027 to 23 July 2027

Update on the Gender Service for NSC schools

North Somerset Council have shared the following update:

As some of you may be aware, North Somerset Council conducted a review of Gender Services following the publication of the Cass Review in 2024. As a result, regional hubs have been set up to support young people, children and families seeking specialist gender related care. There is still a significant wait for specialist gender service, but there is a new pathway for referral in. Any families who wish to seek this support can be referred to CAMHS who will then complete a full assessment of needs and consider what support might be most suitable. CAMHS can then refer directly into the Gender Service.

If you have children, young people and families in your school that might want to access this service, you must seek consent from the parents/carers to complete a CAMHS referral form. For further information see the recommended signposting below;

Resources for children and families:

- National Referral Support Service for The NHS Gender Incongruence Service for Children and Young People - NHS Arden & GEM CSU - has the most up to date list of resources
- Mind Ed - MindEd Hub
- NHS Livewell -Worried about your gender identity? Advice for teenagers - NHS
- Gender identity | NSPCC

Children's Mental Health week: 9-15 February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week takes place 9-15 February and is a great opportunity to raise awareness of children's mental health and wellbeing. This year's theme is *This is My Place* with a key focus on 'Understanding Belonging' and 'Feeling connected at school, home and in the community'. Place2Be have a wide range of resources to support schools in marking this special week. These include assemblies for EYFS/KS1, KS2 and Secondary Schools as well as a Primary Schools Pack and Secondary Schools Pack which include lesson plans and art activities linked to this year's theme.

All of these resources can be found by following this link: [Resources and activities for Children's Mental Health Week](#)

Further resources to support this week can be found at: [Children's Mental Health Week 2026 - School of Kindness](#) and at [Resource hub : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)

Changes to SEND funding in North Somerset

North Somerset Council (NSC) have now issued their new and updated SEND funding for schools, and allocations for individual schools have been sent to Headteachers. Linked below is the generic information that North Somerset Council have provided:

- [SENDCo briefing note on funding changes](#)
- [Parent briefing for SEND mainstream funding changes](#)

We have also [drafted a letter](#) and some [Frequently Asked Questions for](#) families which builds on the NSC briefing note and also explains our Trust Learning Partners model. We would encourage you to share both of the NSC & LSP communication with parents as you see fit.

We would advise schools to carefully check the data used by NSC to calculate the flexible funding element. Your Master Scenario in IMP can then be updated as part of your December forecasting. You should use the new nominal code 1087 for the flexible funding element of SEND funding and continue to use nominal code 1086 for individual TUF. The Central Finance Team have also devised a spreadsheet tool to help with forward projecting the flexible funding for future years with the information we currently have that will be useful for forecasting and budget planning. The tool has been [saved in Folder:](#)

School Business Managers - Trust Wide- Information for 2025-26 Budgets - 2025-26 NSC Flexible Funding Calculator.



Bromcom - Census Processes

Further to the article in [last week's bulletin](#), Bromcom have confirmed that the Spring Census Training should be undertaken by those schools undertaking their first Census return within Bromcom. The support desk is available to assist once the training has been completed. The return date deadline is Wednesday 11 February 2026.

Census Day - Primary Food Festival

If you have any children (particularly KS1) who haven't yet signed up for a meal on Census Day, then please consider sending one last reminder out to parents today to ensure they know they can order up to the usual cut off time on the Census Day. Schools want to be in the best position possible for achieving the maximum amount of funding.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing all the photos from the event.

Changes to Echo (formerly Rainbow) phone security

We recently had a phone hacking incident in one of our schools, with international call charges being incurred as a result.

To mitigate the risk of this occurring again, Echo (formerly Rainbow) have confirmed that for all the schools for whom they provide services, they have (where feasible, and where not already in place):

- Implemented Two Factor Authentication (2FA) for all users
- Barred international calling
- Restricted permissions for users who previously had access to the admin side of the portal. While only a few users from each school had this access, they will no longer be able to modify call barring settings or any advanced configurations. If any changes are required in these areas, please contact Echo directly.

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Ofsted Inspection Window - Important Reminder for Clerks

If your school is currently within the Ofsted inspection window, we ask that you check your emails on a Monday morning (circa 11am). This is to ensure you are promptly aware should the school receive the inspection notification call as we may need your assistance in preparing for the inspection.

Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2025-26 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Wednesday 14 January 3.30-5.00pm	Secondary Maths, MFL & Curriculum networks Online via Teams (Natalie Wilcox to circulate)	Secondary Maths, MFL, T&L Leads
Thursday 15 January 3.30-5.00pm	Secondary English Networks Online via Teams (Natalie Wilcox to circulate)	Secondary English Leads
Monday 19 January 1.00-4.00pm	Trust-wide SEND network Online via Teams	SENDCos (all phases)
Wednesday 21 January 3.30-4.00pm	Secondary Raising Standards Network Online via Teams	Secondary Progress Leads
Wednesday 21 & 28 January 3.45-5.00pm	Primary Geography Curriculum Training for tranche 3 schools <i>Sign up link to follow</i>	Tranche 3 primary staff
Monday 26 January 8.30-11.30am	Primary AHT/DHT Network In person, at St Peter's Primary, Portishead	Primary AHTs/DHTs
Monday 26 January 1.00-4.00pm	Primary Early Years Network In person, at St Peter's Primary, Portishead	Early Years Leads
Monday 26 January 3.00-4.45pm	Trust-wide DSL Network Online via Teams	DSLs (all phases)
Monday 2 February 3.30-4.45pm	Primary Maths Network	Primary Maths Leads

Revised LSP Geography Curriculum for Tranche 2 Primary Schools

We are really excited to let you know that the revised primary phase Geography curriculum is now complete and ready to be viewed on/ downloaded from the curriculum share point.

On Wednesday 21 and Wednesday 28 January we will deliver online training to all schools that have signed up to begin delivering this curriculum from Term 3.

Please note that if your school is signed up you will need to attend both sessions as it is a two-part training session.

It is really important that your staff can access these materials during the training session so please can you make sure they have been downloaded onto the school share point and you have communicated their location to your staff so that they can make the most of the time in this session.

These sessions will be delivered online from 3.45 - 5.00pm (please see the Team links below). It is for school leaders to decide if staff will log in to training as a school, in teams or as individuals. Please could you make sure that staff have been given the link for the webinar well before the meeting as they will need to sign up to receive the link.

- To sign up for the webinar on **Wednesday 21 January** [click here](#).
- To sign up for the webinar on **Wednesday 28 January** [click here](#).

As a reminder:

- The existing materials are still on the share point but have been placed into a newly created 'archive' folder for schools to continue using until they adopt the updated materials.
- EYFS materials have been into the EYFS folder as well as the individual geography folder uploaded as and when they are produced across the year as we are preparing these for use from September 2026.
- Please do not begin using these materials until your school has received training but please let your staff know that resources are there to view before the training.
- All schools have communicated when they would like to receive training. If at any point you need to change your slot simply let me know.
- Training and support will be provided through in-person sessions across the year including how to get the most from the subject leader toolkit materials. Please make sure that your geography leader has signed up to these.

If you have any questions please [get in touch](#).

Neil Lankester,

Director of Primary Education

SEND Webinar: What does a child need to feel safe and thrive in the classroom environment

All LSP staff are invited to join this upcoming SEND webinar, hosted by Louise O'Rourke, Lead for Nurture and Behaviour.

[Click here to book your place](#)

SEND WEBINAR

What does a child need to feel safe and thrive in the classroom environment?

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 3.45-4.45PM

All Lighthouse staff are invited to join this upcoming SEND webinar.

This session will focus on:

- **Introduction**
- **The 'Why'** – Why it is important to create a classroom environment where children feel safe, with a focus on the science and the nervous system.
- **The 'How'** – How practitioners can foster safety, and how they can adapt and respond to ensure this remains in place.
- **Reflection** – Opportunities for staff to reflect on their own practice and identify key takeaways

This session will be recorded and will be made available for a limited time after the event. Please have smart devices available to take part in interactive sections.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Young People and Cyber Crime webinar

South West Police's Regional Cyber Crime Unit are running an online webinar for safeguarding professionals on how to tackle the rising involvement of young people in Cyber Crime.

There are three dates for the webinar called 'Connected, Curious, Concerned'.

- Friday 30 January, 12.30-2.00pm - [click for more info and to book](#)
- Wednesday 29 April, 2.00-4.30pm - [click for more info and to book](#)
- Monday 6 July, 10.00-11.30am - [click for more info and to book](#)

Team Teach Training Sessions

We continue to work with Elementa to deliver accredited Team Teach Training over the coming months. All training will be in the English Hub Building, St Peter's Primary School from 8.30 - 3.30pm (participants must attend for the whole session). Lunch will be provided and participants will need to stay on school site for the whole day.

The cost for each course is as follows and will be recharged to schools:

- **Level 1:** £117
- **Level 2:** £230

We have planned the following sessions for staff to complete their refresher training (previous training must have been completed and expire close to these dates):

- **Level 2 Refresher:** Thursday 12 February, Monday 1 June and Tuesday 29 September
- **Level 1 Refresher:** Thursday 26 March

We have also booked these sessions for staff who need new training/previous training has expired:

- **New Level 1 Course:** Tuesday 15 September
- **New Level 2 Course:** Tuesday 13 and Thursday 22 October (both dates must be attended).

Please use [this online form to book places](#) on any of the above courses.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the [Lighthouse Learning Team](#).

ULS Training - Friday 23 January

A reminder that our next LSP Unlocking Letters and Sounds (ULS) training session is on Friday 23 January. This is for all new staff / those who haven't had ULS training.

Please book here: [LSP Unlocking Letters and Sounds Training 2025-26 - Fill in form](#)

The booking deadline is next Monday (19 January). The course is fully funded by Lighthouse Learning. Please note, there are limited places available at each session and schools will be charged £50 for non-attendance.

SilverCloud - mental health and wellbeing service

SilverCloud, delivered by Northpoint, is a new online mental health and wellbeing service available to children and young people across Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire. [BNSSG SilverCloud referral form](#)

This NHS-approved platform offers self-guided, evidence-based programmes designed to support low mood and anxiety, drawing on the principles of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). Developed by clinical experts, the programmes are free, confidential, and accessible anytime via mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

In addition to resources for young people aged 12 and above, SilverCloud also provides tailored modules for parents and carers of children aged 5 and upwards, helping them to better support their child's emotional wellbeing.

To ensure professionals feel confident in introducing SilverCloud to families, Northpoint will be hosting a webinar. This session will demonstrate how the system works and provides an opportunity to ask questions, so you are fully equipped to guide parents, carers, and young people who may wish to access the service.

The webinar will be available on these dates;

- Wednesday 28 January from 3.30-4.30pm
- Thursday 5 February from 3.30-4.30pm

To sign up to the webinar, please email bnssg.childrensperformance@nhs.net and you will be provided with the diary invitation and Microsoft teams link. The webinar will be recorded for those who are not able to attend.



Upcoming CPD for Governors

Please see below upcoming CPD sessions available for Governors. Clerks, please share this with all Governors in your LGB.

DATE / TIME	EVENT	LINK
<p>Wednesday 14 January 7.00-8.00pm</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Thursday 15 January 10.30-11.30am</p>	<p>Chairs' Forum</p> <p>An opportunity to discuss the latest governance themes and developments and share best practice.</p>	<p>MS Teams invitations will be circulated in due course.</p>
<p>Monday 19 January from 5.30pm</p>	<p>IDSR Webinar</p> <p>Online webinar for LSP Primary School Leadership Teams and Local Governing Bodies.</p> <p>This session, run by Chris Chamberlain - Senior Primary Advisor, will look at the School inspection data summary report (IDSR) and how to understand and use the data to challenge and improve your school.</p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>
<p>Thursday 29 January 6.00-7.00pm</p>	<p>Ofsted Preparations</p> <p>Online webinar for all LSP LGBs looking at the new Ofsted framework and how to ensure your school, and LGB, can prepare for inspection</p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>
<p>Wednesday 4 February 5.00-6.30pm</p>	<p>Reorganised—SEN for Governors</p> <p>Online webinar for all LSP governors looking at SEN provision in LSP schools and how this can be supported and challenged by the LGB.</p> <p><i>Originally scheduled for 4 December 2025</i></p>	<p>Click here to sign up for this webinar</p>

Bath and Wells Diocese Governance Training and Events

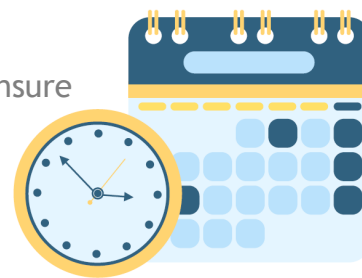
Please see the Governance Training and Forums information below, which should be shared with your schools LGB:

DATE	EVENT	BOOKING LINK
Tuesday 10 February	Foundation Governors Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Wednesday 25 February	Clerks Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Tuesday 3 March	Trustees Spring Forum	Further info and booking
Wednesday 11 March or Thursday 12 March	School Leaders and Parish Partner Conference 2026	Further info and booking
Thursday 26 March	SIAMS for Schools	Further info and booking
Tuesday 28 April	New Chairs of Governors Training	Further info and booking
Tuesday 5 May	Church School Governance* for Renewing Foundation Governors	Further info and booking
Tuesday 12 May	Church School Governance* for new Members and Trustees	Further info and booking
Tuesday 19 May	Church School Governance* for new Foundation Governors	Further info and booking

*Church School Governance: Please note, this Course is required if you are a new Foundation Governor/ Trustee or Member or if you are renewing your term as a Foundation Governor.

KEY DATES, DEADLINES & REMINDERS

These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly (link on next page).



Key Dates

DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
5-15 January 2026	Spring 1 Assessment Window including PSC for Year 1, NFER for Years 2 - 5, 2023 R&M KS2 SATS for Yr6. Data to be uploaded to Insight by 31 January 2026.	Primary Heads
Friday 16 January 2026	LSP Primary Moderation INSET Day	Primary Heads
Thursday 22 January 2026 8.30am-12.30pm	LSP Headteachers' Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church	Headteachers
Friday 23 January at 5.00pm.	Deadline for responding to the consultation on the Core Services Charge for 2026-27	Heads and Chairs
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Deadline for schools to have reviewed their final revenue outturn (2024-25) against their April forecast	Heads & SBMs

KEY LINKS

Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please [let us know](#).



Annual Planner 2025/26

Click to view the Annual Planner for next academic year (Via Sharepoint)

Bulletin Index

Click to access an index of previous bulletin articles



Previous Bulletins

Click to access previous editions of the LSP Weekly News Bulletin

The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of the LSP Newsletter: The Beacon



SHARE WITH US

Don't forget, you can submit your school news stories to be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: newsletter@lsp.org.uk