

## Newsletter Spring 2025



Hello Everyone,

We will soon move into the Summer term and hopefully lots of sunny days. I know that there are many challenges facing the sector at present and the team raise these with our contacts at the DfE regularly. I would like to thank all those settings who have created new places for babies and toddlers using capital funding. A total of 240 new places should become available by September 2025. DfE Wraparound funding has been allocated and so far 424 new places have been created or provision extended.

On behalf of the Early Years Team I would like to thank you for all the hard work that goes on in our nurseries (Schools and PVI) and childminder settings.

**Lisa Seymour**  
Early Years and Childcare Team Leader



**Honey Buns Day Nursery -  
Good**

**Church Street Day Nursery -  
Good**

# *Your Stories!*

## **High Ercall Day Nursery's ducklings!**

High Ercall Day Nursery have been very busy raising some little ducklings. We were fortunate to have the experience of watching them hatch from eggs in the incubator, transforming into five beautiful, fluffy ducklings. We enjoyed two weeks of fun with them splashing in the paddling pool and enjoying lots of cuddles before they went off to their forever homes.

This experience helped teach the children a wide range of new skills, including exploring life cycles, understanding habitats, and developing personal, social, and emotional skills.

What an amazing experience!



## *Lilleshall Pre-School Lambs*



The children have really enjoyed exploring their surroundings here at Lilleshall Pre-School. On a Tuesday afternoon we all walked over to the field where some lambs have just been born.

The children loved it when the lamb made a loud noise chasing after its mommy.

We spoke about our special people in our lives and how they make us feel.



# Early World Hadley Park



Here at Early World Hadley Park we have been working hard in getting the environment right for our children. Staff have undertaken training to understand the importance of the environment, setting up provocations and making the environment a warm, homely space for children to develop. By changing the environment we have thought hard about what new experiences we can offer our children to encourage their awe and wonder, bringing curiosity and open-ended invitations to their play through use of 'real' objects, which have been sourced from Facebook marketplace, charity shops and local markets offering our children 'real' items to reuse and repurpose. Staff observe how children use the room and tweak areas if it is not used enough.

In our pre-school room the current cohort is boy heavy so therefore our staff have adapted the environment which has had a massive impact on reducing unwanted behaviours and children being more engaged and excited to learn. It has also increased their independence.

Being carefully resourced has enabled children to have a deeper level of learning, by being able to return to the source of learning when the child wishes, by following their interests and being scaffolded by staff. Each room has a gentle approach to lighting, steering away from the large artificial lights, setting the scene as cosier and calmer. We have introduced number for a purpose within the rooms (such as birthday cards as part of play). We have used our children's current interests to provide stimulation such as collecting the twigs and leaves for the dinosaur area, encouraging children to build on whatever they choose with loose parts in the activity rooms and outside. This approach has had massive impact on our children here at Hadley Park, we have noticed our new children settle quicker, building up their confidence and resilience at a smoother pace. Our children are more driven to learn and engage in areas for longer periods.





*A Successful Transition to reception class for a child with Autism*



Theo started reception class in September 2024 and soon after in October was given a diagnosis of Autism. To allow a seamless transition to school, staff worked closely with Theo's parents to ensure they had all the information needed to plan his classroom space. Theo loves logos so ultimately, this is what engages and motivates him to learn and progress!

Logos are used every day and have been used in Maths and as part of a reward. It's just those little accommodations and that flexibility that makes the world of difference. Staff use logos to transitions into school, these were especially useful the first half-term, and he would arrive to a new logo at the entrance with his TA each morning to help that transition in. The same is still done with transition to the toilet/personal care room as he takes a logo from his desk and sticks it on the Velcro wall in the toilet. The number of logos on his desk depends on how regulated he is, they remove some on days when he is heightened so not to overstimulate him. Logos were also planned into the schools emotion stations so that these were also accessible to Theo.

Parents said "it's just those little accommodations and that flexibility that makes the world of difference."



**Theo's Zones of Regulation**

What zone is Theo in?	What might this feel like for Theo?	What can Theo do to help?
	Scared Angry Frustrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Go to a safe space</li><li>Go to the sensory den</li><li>Use visuals to show what is wrong</li><li>Blow some bubbles</li></ul>
	Worried Nervous Anxious Silly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take a break with Mrs Naughton</li><li>Count to 20</li><li>Squeeze something</li><li>Play with some sensory toys</li></ul>
	Sad Tired Bored Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Talk to someone</li><li>Play with some kinetic sand</li><li>Go into the sensory den</li><li>Go for a walk with Mrs Naughton</li></ul>
	Happy Calm Focused Ready to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ready to learn</li><li>Ready to play</li><li>Ready to play with a friend</li><li>Ready to do something enjoyable with Mrs Naughton</li></ul>

## Early Years Funding

From April 2025 Funding Term Periods have changed:

Term	Summer	Autumn	Spring
Weeks	13	14	11

# Childcare Choices

Don't forget that 9mo and 2yo funding will expand to 30 hours from September 2025 for Working Families!

If your setting needs to advertise job vacancies or available places why not send through to us to advertise on our Facebook page? Please send through to the childcare-funding@telford.gov.uk inbox and a member of the team will update the page for you.





# Early Years Funding

Summary Estimates Actuals **Adjustments** Eligibility Checker

Child Details Parent / Carer Details Funding Details Documents **Pending Adjustment** Notes

**?** Please enter total number of adjusted hours for the term (not hours per week)

This is for both increased or deducted hours, when children move settings this includes leaving early and starting later (after the actual headcount is closed).

Number of hours x weeks = total (6 weeks x 15 hours = 90 hours)

## Expanded Pending Adjustment

Number of Hours

2.

Reason (500 characters)

- 1.
- More Hours
  - Less Hours

3.

## Maximum Values Allowed:

Expanded Termly Hours: 120.00

Expanded Yearly Hours: 360.00

1. Select whether you have a new starter (More Hours) or if a child has left (Less Hours).

2. In the next box, type the total number of hours being added or removed for the term.

3. Add the reason for adjustment (e.g. child is moving to another setting, family have moved to the area etc).

3 & 4 year olds will have two boxes, one for the 15 universal hours, and one for the 15 extended hours (30h code).

Save

Cancel

\*denotes mandatory fields

**You can now make your own adjustments on the Portal - if you wish to book onto Portal training please email [childcarefunding@telford.gov.uk](mailto:childcarefunding@telford.gov.uk)**



**Photos from the SENCO Network with well-being coach Jo Plimmer**

# Family Fun Day 2025

We are still looking for providers to attend our Family Fun Day on Saturday 14th June 2025 11AM– 3PM.

We would like you to come along and join us and offer some interactive activities, games for children and families. It is important to make your activities as interactive as possible to encourage families to stay and network with services. If you have giveaways or special offers for parents/carers this is always a bonus, last year we gave away finger puppets to our younger children and a water bottle and draw string bag to the older ones.

You can also use this opportunity to advertise any childcare vacancies and employment vacancies.

If you are interested, please could you let us know as soon as possible.







Coming soon...

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025: Wraparound Childcare, HHAH and Play Network Meeting

**Are you looking for fresh ideas and inspiration for your before school childcare, after school childcare or holiday childcare?**

We have invited the Embrace Group and Creative Station to deliver workshops at the network meeting.

**Embrace Group Workshop** – This workshop will explore fun and entertaining ideas for physical play activities and games for school aged children. To support and promote daily physical activity during before, after school and holiday childcare provisions.



**Creative Station Workshop** – This workshop will look at different craft and messy play activities from slime to loose parts crafts. Looking at different ways to inspire curiosity in creativity tap into children's imagination and support this within your provision, also provide some fresh ideas.



*We will be running two identical sessions for the network meeting that you can book on to 9.30-12pm or 6.45-8.45pm.*

*The Network meeting is open to all Breakfast and Out of School Club Leads and Practitioners, Childminders and childminder assistants, HHAH leads and HHAH practitioners. Don't delay and book your two FREE places (funded by the DFE Wraparound Childcare Programme).*

*To book your place please email: [Talkingchild-care@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Talkingchild-care@telford.gov.uk) and don't forget to state which time you would like to attend we look forward to joining us.*



**Easter HHAH 2025 is back in Telford!**

**With a range of activities available over the Easter holidays, don't miss out on a space.**

**For all enquiries regarding HHAH please email [holidayactivityhub@telford.gov.uk](mailto:holidayactivityhub@telford.gov.uk)**





## Are you interested in being part of the ELSEC Project in September 2025?

ELSEC (Early Language for every child).

ELSEC is a 2 year pilot project, commissioned by the DfE, as part of the SEND and AP Change Programme. This year 8 primary schools and 6 private, voluntary or independent nursery settings in Telford are involved in ELSEC. We have noticed that Telford aligns with national findings, with around two thirds of 3—6 year olds having some difficulties with their speech, language and communication. The ELSEC team has worked with current settings to reduce the communication gap by up to 75%, meaning that more children are able to access a full curriculum offer, are more confident socially and have enhanced life chances in the future.

From September 2025 we will be looking to work with a new set of schools and nurseries to expand the skillset, in Telford and Wrekin, for SLCN. As an ELSEC team we can offer:

A dedicated member of the ELSEC team to work, in setting, with you on a weekly basis  
Regular support from a speech therapist/specialist teacher

Working with whole cohorts

Modelling, coaching and support to deliver quality interventions including Talk Boost, BEST (Building Expressive Sentence Therapy)

Communication friendly audits

Parent workshops

Whole school CPD

In return we ask for:

Staff that are excited to work with us on the project

Named staff in each setting as a first point of contact

A quiet space to run interventions and parent workshops

A warm welcome to your setting

**If you are interested in joining the ELSEC project for the next academic year, beginning in September 2025, please look out for an email arriving at the start of the Summer Term with details on how to express your interest, in the meantime if you have any questions please contact [sarah.worrall@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.worrall@telford.gov.uk)**



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council



**Early Years Practitioners/  
Settings** SEND support helpline  
**Tuesday to Thursday | 9am - 5pm**

**01952 380164**



## New Early Years SEND Support Hotline

The Early Years SEND Team have a new phone number and are available to answer any SEND queries from Tuesday to Thursday from 9AM to 5PM.

Our team have significant teaching experience in Early Years learning environments, including identifying and teaching children with a range of additional needs. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to give them a call!

**We received 20 successful applications for our EY Recruitment Incentive which is amazing news for the sector! We will keep you informed on any changes.**



*Well Done!*

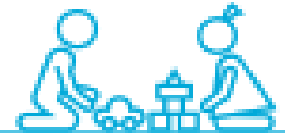


**Well done to Natasha Hopkins, Laura Welch and Lindsay Anson on completing their Early Years Professional Development Programme. This programme is aimed to enhance skills and knowledge of Early Years Practitioners, ultimately leading to better outcomes for young children in our pre-Reception settings. Well done ladies!**

*Make sure you are a member of your regional partnership hub!*



## EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP HUB



# Why join or establish an Early Learning and Childcare Partnership Hub?

EARLY LEARNING AND PARTNERSHIP HUBS HAVE BEEN PROVEN NATIONALLY TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH:

- **Improving the quality of provision** – enabling practitioners to share best practice e.g. through moderation, sharing approaches to learning and development
- **Securing a more seamless transition** into reception class
- **Sharing information** e.g. resources, training, expertise
- **Strengthening respectful relationships** to enable professional challenge to take place
- **Facilitating the opportunity for blended childcare** to enable schools and settings to share the task of providing 30 hours early learning and childcare for eligible working families, thus providing parents with a bespoke childcare and early learning service to meet their individual needs
- **To develop wraparound and holiday care** for school age children, meeting the needs of working parents across the year
- **Supporting the most vulnerable children**, identifying needs, improving transition, sharing expertise and support

**CONTACT US** if you are interested in finding out if there is a Hub near you or you would like to establish one

**Lisa Seymour**

Early Years and Childcare Team Leader

📧 [lisa.seymour@telford.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.seymour@telford.gov.uk) or

☎ 01952 385424



Telford & Wrekin  
COUNCIL



# Making it REAL

Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) is an evidence based and award winning training that develops children's early literacy by supporting parents to create a positive early home learning environment. The training:

- Has a strong evidence base\* and supports early literacy and communication skills through play and every day activities, in the home, and out and about.
- Provides practical strategies and resources to share with parents for low cost and no cost activities to enjoy with their children.
- Prepares practitioners to deliver early literacy sessions including home visits to the allocated families they support.



\*NCB has worked in partnership with Oldham Local Authority since January 2018 to support delivery of the Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL) project in targeted wards. The EYFS Profile results 2019 confirmed a 4% increase in the number of children with a good development in Oldham.

Both parents and practitioners were very positive about the project, and the children developed a real love for reading, rhyme and writing. Feedback from Early Years Practitioners who recently attended this training:

*"An incredible valuable training course. The training has both enabled me to reflect on my practice and provide a foundation of ideas to support children and families going forward."*

*"I really enjoyed both sessions and I learned a lot about REAL that I will use at my setting to encourage parents as well."*

Making it REAL Training will be taking place in: Telford on 09/05/2025 and 16/05/2025 9:15AM until 4PM (both sessions must be attended) settings/school nurseries can request up to 2 places.

At: Mercure Hotel Telford

Please direct any queries to [lisa.seymour@telford.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.seymour@telford.gov.uk)

This programme is being funded via DfE Family Hub funding to support the Home Learning Environment, Ofsted have recently recommended in several reports that this is an area of development. There will be funding backfill provided for the 2 days training and free resources to get the sessions started. To book places please email [talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk](mailto:talkingchildcare@telford.gov.uk)





# PLAY MATTERS

Why Play Matters  
in Early Childhood



Play Matters free resource now available at  
[www.early-years-reviews.com/play-matters](http://www.early-years-reviews.com/play-matters)



Talking Training Schedule - Summer Term 2025

Course Title	Date	Delivery Method & Venue	Start Time	Finish Time	Cost	Notes
PVI Early Years and Childcare Network Meeting for Childminders and Settings	10/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:00	<b>Package Holders:</b> 2 places free per setting. Additional places £20.00 per person <b>Non package holders:</b> 1 free person per setting. Additional places £20.00 per person	
Designated Safeguarding Lead Network Meeting	09/07/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	<b>Package Holders:</b> 2 places free per setting. Additional places £20.00 per person <b>Non package holders:</b> £20.00 per person	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Out of School Club/HHAH and Play Network Meeting (Day time)	09/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	12:00	<b>Wrap Around Providers Schools and Setting</b> and HHAH providers. 2 funded places per setting: Additional places £20.00 per person	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Out of School Club/HHAH and Play Network Meeting (Evening)	09/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:45	20:45	<b>Wrap Around Providers Schools and Setting</b> and HHAH providers. 2 funded places per setting: Additional places £20.00 per person	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision including childminders
SENDCO Network Meeting	20/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	1 place free per setting. Additional places £20.00 per person	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision including childminders
Business Network Meeting	25/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:00	20:00	Funded	
SENDCO Training - Part 1&2 (Both parts need to be attended)	07/05/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	£50.00 per delegate	
	14/05/2025		18:30	20:30		
New- AET Transition Module	05/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	£39.00 per delegate	
Special Approach to Making it Real'	TBC	Online - Microsoft Teams	TBC	TBC	Funded	
Complex needs - Supporting children who require a high level of support	17/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	£39.00 per delegate	
Using Work/ Reward Task Baskets as part of the Structured Teaching Approach in Early Years	12/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:00	£33.00 per delegate	
Designated Safeguarding Lead - 2 Yearly Update	07/07/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:00	£28.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Designated Safeguarding Lead Training in EY, Childcare and Unregulated Settings - Daytime session	19/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	15:30	£72.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Designated Safeguarding Lead Training in EY, Childcare and Unregulated Settings - Part 1&2 (Both parts need to be attended)	12/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	21:00	£72.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
	19/06/2025		18:30	21:00		
Child Protection Awareness Raising	12/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:00	21:00	£44.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Child Protection Awareness Raising - Part 1&2 (Both parts need to be attended)	11/06/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:00	£33.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
	18/06/2025		18:30	20:00		
Child Protection Awareness training	14/07/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:00	21:00	£44.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Child Protection Awareness training	10/09/2025	Face to Face TBC	18:00	21:00	TBC	
TWSP - Brook Traffic Light training - Part 1&2 (Both parts need to be attended)	06/05/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	21:00	Funded	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
	13/05/2025					
Prevent Training	03/06/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	21:00	£33.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	04/06/2025	Online - Microsoft teams	18:30	20:00	Funded	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around Provision
How Domestic Abuse and Trauma impacts children (Participants must have attended Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training )	11/06/2025	Online - Microsoft teams	18:30	20:00	Funded	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around Provision
*Managing Allegations Training (The role of the LADO)	09/06/2025	Face to Face Meeting Point House	10:00	12:30	Funded	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
Safer Recruitment (Safer Recruitment Consortium) (Both parts need to be attended)	23/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:00	21:00	£72.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
	30/06/2025					
Safer Recruitment (Safer Recruitment Consortium) - Day Time Session	02/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	16:00	£72.00 per delegate	Suitable for HHAH and Wrap Around provision
<b>Making it Real</b> Both dates need to be attended.	09/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:15	16:00	Funded via Family Hub HLE 2 practitioners per setting	
	16/05/2025					
EYFS September 2025 - update	16/06/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:00	1 funded place per setting	
EYFS September 2025 - update	09/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	13:00	15:00	1 funded place per setting	
Oral Health for Early Years Providers	14/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:00	£10.00 per delegate	
Paediatric First Aid Blended (6 hours online training to be completed prior to face to face session)	09/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	16:30	£60.00 per delegate	HHAH and Wraparound places may be funded
Paediatric First Aid Blended (6 hours online training to be completed prior to face to face session) Both sessions must be attended	17/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	21:30	£60.00 per delegate	HHAH and Wraparound places may be funded
	24/06/2025					
Paediatric First Aid Blended (6 hours online training to be completed prior to face to face session)	11/07/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	16:30	£60.00 per delegate	HHAH and Wraparound places may be funded
EYFS: Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements	15/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	£39.00 per delegate	
EYFS: Learning and Development Observing and Scaffolding Play	22/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	£39.00 per delegate	
Brilliant Babies - Ben Kingston Hughes	04/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	13:00	15:30	£44.00 per delegate	
Brilliant Babies - Ben Kingston Hughes	04/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	21:00	£44.00 per delegate	
Creating and Using Treasure Baskets with Babies (make a Treasure Basket)	10/07/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	21:00	£39.00 per delegate	
Bright Ideas and Inspiration for Breakfast, Out of School and Holiday Clubs	22/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	20:30	£39.00 per delegate	
Early Years Funding Portal Training	14/05/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Early Years Funding Portal Training	18/06/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Early Years Funding Portal Training	16/07/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Early Years Funding Portal Training	17/09/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Childminder Briefing Session	13/05/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Childminder Briefing Session	04/06/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Childminder Briefing Session	08/07/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
Childminder Briefing session	10/09/2025	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	20:30	Funded	
<b>Speech Language and Communication Training</b>  <b>The Early Talk Boost Training</b> is funded by the Telford and Wrekin Family Hub programme, all settings can access this training for each nursery class and reception class and for new practitioners who require the training. More <b>Time To Talk</b> is Funded through EYPD funding, this course is suitable for those who have already attended the It's Time to Talk training , which is a targeted intervention aimed at 2 - 3 year-old children with delayed preverbal skills and vocabulary. This course is essential for staff/ childminders who will be delivering the intervention. One free course pack will be supplied per setting who provide 2 year old places. These sessions will be delivered by the Stoke Speaks Out Speech and Language Service.						
Early Years Talk Boost for settings, childminders and Schools (Evening option) Both sessions need to be attended.	11/06/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	18:30	21:00	Funded	
	18/06/2025					
Early Years Talk Boost for Settings, Childminders and Schools	08/05/2025	Face to Face Mercure Telford Centre Hotel	09:30	14:30	Funded	
More Time to Talk	TBC	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	21:00	Funded	

More Time to Talk	TBC	Online - Microsoft Teams	18:30	21:00	Funded
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**Cancellation / non-attendance policy:** All cancellations of course bookings must be made via email. Unfortunately a phone call cannot be accepted as a means of cancellation. All bookings will remain on our system until written confirmation is received.

For courses with a delegate fee, a charge of 35% will normally be incurred if a delegate place is cancelled within 7 days of the course date. The full course fee will be charged for any delegate who does not arrive for a course for which a place has been booked and not cancelled in advance of the course date. In exceptional circumstances, where a course is running again within the same academic year, we will do our best to move delegates across to the next course date.

For courses which are free of charge i.e. either funded or included in your package, any delegate failing to attend, and not cancelling their place in advance of the course date, will incur a £15 delegate fee to cover administration and any refreshment and venue costs.