

Early Years (Speech, Language and Communication) peer review programme

FAQs

I do not work for a Local Authority or the NHS. Can I still be an EY peer reviewer?

Yes, we welcome peers who have an excellent understanding of services for disadvantaged children and families, and the drivers of outcomes at the age of five.

For an early years peer review we typically use peers from Local Authority Education, Early Years, Head Teachers and Nursery Managers, Speech and Language Therapists, Health Visitors and officers from Public Health.

Is this role voluntary?

The majority of our peer reviewers undertake the role on a voluntary basis. Their employer releases them to undertake the training and the review. They both offer excellent opportunities for continued professional development for the individual and they often take back to their own organisation ideas and best practices. Being involved in peer reviews helps to build professional networks across the country.

Occasionally, because of people's availability or because we are looking for a particular expertise, we may need to engage with an independent consultant as one of the team members. In this instance, this role is usually funded for 4 days for the onsite work and 2 days for the pre-reading and post review report contributions.

How much preparation and reading is required before a peer review?

This will vary from one review to another depending on the Council hosting the review and how much information they have shared in advance. On average you will need to spend a working day before the review reading the supplied documentation and doing some online research, for example their website and use of social media.

Where might I go to do a peer review and how much notice will you provide?

Once you have completed the training and an Expression of Interest form we will contact you about reviews that are taking place and try to provide 3 months' notice. We try to use peers from outside the region of the Council that is taking part in the peer review. This helps to ensure a level of independence between the peer team and the host Council. This will require some travelling but we do cover the costs of travel and accommodation for the duration of the review.

Once the onsite review has taken place is that the end of my role?

No, we will be asking you, usually via email, to contribute to the drafting of the final report to the council. We may ask you to clarify information and to read the final draft report to ensure it reflects the review.

How do I apply to become an Early Years Peer Reviewer?

If you would like to become an Early Years Peer reviewer please email Liz Hodgman, Programme Manager Elizabeth.hodgman@local.gov.uk and she will be able to advise you of the next available training dates and book a place for you.

What happens at the two day training event?

The first part of day 1 is spent going through the process of a peer review and learning about the Early Intervention Foundation's Maturity Matrix. The remainder of day1 and all of day 2 involves the delegates carrying out a mock EY peer review. Support is provided by LGA officers. There are opportunities to engage in a focus group and an interview with a DCS as well as delivering the final presentation. Feedback from previous participants has been very positive.

Where are the training days held?

The training events are normally held at Warwick University in their business facilities. They are of a very high standard and the overnight accommodation, meals and refreshments are all provided by the LGA. The LGA do not cover the cost of transport.

What happens after the training event?

We will ask you to complete an expression of interest (EOI) form. This is like a mini CV and includes information on your experience related to the review. We will then add you to our database of EY peers. When we then agree a review with a council, a member of the LGA team will contact you to check your availability for the dates. If you are available we then share your profile with the council to ensure they are happy with the proposed peer review team. An LGA review manager is appointed to the review and they will then work closely with the team to ensure everything is ready. They will be onsite to support you during the review and will be responsible for writing the final report.