South West Initiative for Training (SWIfT), part of Somerset’s Children and Young People’s Integrated Workforce Development Team, aims to support early years practitioners across the South West in gaining recognition for their role and achieve the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS). This is a new graduate practitioner role which gives individuals the opportunity to achieve their own free standing title. EYP’s will be trained to work in a range of early years settings and take responsibility for leading and managing play, care and learning across the new Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Government’s priority for EYPS at this stage is to ensure that all private, voluntary and independent settings (including childminders) have access to the status. **If you work in a maintained school then you are not eligible at present, however, there are other development opportunities available via our Integrated Workforce Development Team (See over page).**

The following pathways available are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway</th>
<th>Qualification required</th>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Training Expenses</th>
<th>Supply Costs for Settings</th>
<th>Experience required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short EPD (Extended Professional Development) (6 months)</td>
<td>Degree in any subject</td>
<td>Employed in private Voluntary and Independent (PVA) sector or Children’s Centre</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>£1000</td>
<td>Quite experienced but may lack in knowledge and understanding in certain age range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long EPD (Extended Professional Development) (15 months)</td>
<td>Degree in any subject</td>
<td>Employed in private Voluntary and Independent (PVA) sector or Children’s Centre</td>
<td>£1500</td>
<td>£2000</td>
<td>Some experience but may be lacking in certain age range/areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long EPD Top up (Extended Professional Development) (15 months)</td>
<td>Foundation Degree/Level 5 qualification preferably in Early Years</td>
<td>Employed in private Voluntary and Independent (PVA) sector or Children’s Centre</td>
<td>£3400 This pathway may be able to secure additional benefits/funding. Contact your University/Training Provider Direct.</td>
<td>£4000</td>
<td>Quite experienced but may lack in knowledge and understanding in certain age range/areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Training Pathway (12 months)</td>
<td>Degree in any subject</td>
<td>Employment not required – candidates must be able to access full time (term time training)</td>
<td>Training Fully Funded with a £5000 bursary paid termly.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Little or no experience with early years children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Validation Pathway: See over for details*
Our training is offered at a variety of locations throughout the South West with training days organised as near as possible to where candidates live or work. The more candidates within a specific geographical area, the more training locations we can provide. If you, as a setting or as a group of settings within an area, have a minimum of eight prospective candidates, please contact us and we will try and accommodate your specific needs. Training and development needs are candidate led with the support of an experienced mentor. You will also need to have achieved a GCSE C or above in English and Maths or recognised equivalent at the end of your training; further information is available on request.

Training costs are fully met which means no costs to individuals or settings. PVI settings should contact their local authority for access to the Graduate Leader Fund which can help them with the cost of employing a graduate leader.

*Please note the Validation Pathway is now only available to collective groups of highly skilled practitioners e.g. Advisors who support the 6 areas of learning & development with the Early Years Foundation Stage. **Whilst Advisors and Early Years Teachers are eligible they are not entitled to supply costs unless working 50% or more time in a Children’s Centre.**

All training and assessment will be co-coordinated and delivered by SWiFT which is a partnership between the nine Local Education Authorities in the South West plus, University College Plymouth St Mark & St John, University of Plymouth, Bridgwater College, Bournemouth University and Weymouth College.

If you would like more information about the Early Years Professional Status please contact the Integrated Workforce Development Support Team on: 01823 410186
Email to: IWDT@somerset.gov.uk
www.eyps-swift.org.uk

Cornwall Contact: Mandy Turton
01209 721424
mturton@cornwall.gov.uk

Alternatively if you are interested in other professional development opportunities please contact your local Integrated Workforce Development Support Team for an informal discussion. Opportunities may range from subsidised to free courses in a wide variety of occupational areas.