



## 14. Educational Psychologists

Our team of educational psychologists work mainly with children and young people aged 0-25 who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Educational psychologists use psychology to help children and young people with the development of learning, communication, physical and sensory needs, and social and emotional skills needed for adulthood/independence.

Most children and young people with SEND will have their needs met through their nursery, school or college. This could be from trained staff, or the staff might get advice from specialist teachers.

However, sometimes an educational psychologist may be asked to help.

### What we do

Ways in which we work include:

- **Consultation** — we meet with key adults involved in children and young people's education and care to discuss their needs and how best to help them.
- **Direct work** - this may include observation, talking to the child or young person to gather their views and/or one-to-one activities.

- **Statutory role** – we have a statutory role for the council in providing psychological advice as part of education, health and care needs assessments and associated statutory processes.
- **Supporting staff development** – this may include delivering training and providing advice around the delivery of interventions.
- **Supporting parents/carers** – during term times, we offer a weekly telephone helpline to parents/carers.
- **Research and evaluation** — we are sometimes involved in planning, carrying out and evaluating research.

### Our team

Our team of educational psychologists are practitioner psychologists and are registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC).

Within our team, we also have trainee and assistant educational psychologists who are supervised by experienced educational psychologists. They complete a range of duties, with appropriate supervision and support. Trainee educational psychologists are undertaking training to become educational psychologists and work here on placement. We also employ assistant educational psychologists. They have a psychology qualification and relevant experience of working with children and young people.

We also have a number of associate educational psychologists who are practitioner psychologists and who are registered with the HCPC. They support our team with our service delivery to schools.



## **Group and individual consultation meetings**

Educational psychologists maintain their links with schools through the cluster consultation model. Through this model, educational psychologists offer group and individual consultations to special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs). This enables educational psychologists to optimise their contact with schools and support action planning.

Group consultation meetings are offered in the first half of each term and individual consultation meetings are offered during the second half of each term. Each school has a link educational psychologist who will provide the dates and times of the group and individual consultation meetings to the SENCO.

SENCOs should refer to the [Schools' Portal](#) for guidance regarding how to register their intention to discuss a child or young person at a consultation meeting with an educational psychologist.

## **Annual reviews**

If a child or young person has an education, health and care (EHC) plan and a SENCO has significant concerns that:

- their needs are no longer accurately identified in the EHC plan and/or
- the outcomes and provision detailed within the EHC plan are no longer meeting their needs

they should contact their link educational psychologist for a telephone discussion to agree the next steps.

For further guidance and documentation related to educational psychologists and consultation requests please click [here](#).

