

April 2017 – March 2020

Eligibility Criteria used by the Educational Psychology Service for Devon Mainstream Educational Provision

Who are we?

We are a team of Educational Psychologists, Trainee Educational Psychologists and Psychology Assistants with qualifications, knowledge and experience in the fields of psychology, education and special educational needs. We deliver strategic support to a range of schools, alternative education settings and businesses across Devon and other local authorities. As part of Babcock LDP we are commissioned by Devon County Council to support the most complex and vulnerable groups of children and young people. We also trade with schools, offering a wide range of support packages.

Essential Criteria for all work requested of an Educational Psychologist:

- The child or young person is resident, or receiving education in Devon
- The child or young person is in the 0-25 years age range for support from an EP as identified in the Code of Practice (2015)
- The request has been discussed with the EP with signed consent obtained either from those with parental responsibility or from a young person considered to be competent
- The request is within the Educational Psychologist's area of competence as defined by Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) and the British Psychological Society (BPS)
- The request is within ethical boundaries as defined by HCPC and the BPS

NB: Cross border arrangements (South of England PEP, Nov 2015) will be complied with for all CYP in relation to special educational needs and those in care.

Educational Psychology Service Principles:

Educational Psychologists will:

- Work towards positive, inclusive outcomes for children, young people and families.
- Work ethically within agreed professional protocols.
- Incorporate multiple hypotheses and a range of evidence and information into advice-giving.
- Support schools and settings with perceived inequalities.
- Seek to actively collaborate with key stakeholders.

Traded Packages of Support for schools

We offer a wide range of traded support to schools. Schools can use funding such as Pupil Premium funding and their delegated SEND funding to support this work. Some examples are listed below.

- Bespoke training and whole-school/ staff development: literacy; numeracy; personalised learning; low-incidence difficulties; loss and bereavement; behaviour management; emotional wellbeing/mental health awareness/anxiety.
- Strategic whole-school work: coaching; action research; supervision and stress management for staff; collaborative problem solving/‘Circles of Adults’
- Work with children and young people: representing their views; individual or group therapeutic support, individual assessment, consultation and advice; supporting with statutory assessment/single plans monitoring, program planning and progress; direct individual work to support access to the curriculum
- Work with parents/carers and staff of other agencies: mediation work; support for transition; signposting and liaison; solution focused consultation; workshops and support groups

We welcome any school requests for traded work and are happy to consider all areas of work related to our area of expertise that fall within our essential criteria above. Traded packages include all work for the school such as preparation/research/phone calls/e-mails and reports.

Support for Special Schools and mainstream specialist provisions:

Special Schools, Free schools and South Devon College/Exeter College and Petroc have a finite allocation of time. Mainstream specialist provisions attached to schools have a specific amount of extra time allocated to them. Criteria for support is based upon professional discussion, using the EPS principles and criteria below to use the time available effectively for the school/provision. Additional traded time can be purchased for further work.

Support for C&YP in schools outside Devon:

Devon EPS complies with the cross border arrangements agreed by local authorities and supports C&YP in schools outside Devon on this basis (Nov 2015). Children and Young People in Specialist Provision outside Devon are supported via the Visiting Officer roles organized by Devon County Council.

Criteria for support to schools-Funded by Devon County Council

These criteria sit within the following frameworks: Early Help Strategy (*Right for children*) and Devon Safeguarding Children's Board/ Children's alliance

According to the Educational Psychologist's judgement:

For individual pupils/young people all three of the following criteria must be met:

a) Complex and significant learning and/or behavioural difficulties

AND

b) Difficulties that show they are persistent and resistant to appropriate intervention, which have documented evidence of a plan, do, review cycle in line with a graduated response, over a two term time period;

AND

c) One or more of the following :

- Out of school or educational placement
- Where a change to or from a specialist placement may be appropriate
- Highly mobile CYP with SEND (more than 2 moves in a school year)
- Serious mental health issues impacting on education
- Chronic health needs impacting on education
- Persistent substance abuse impacting on education
- Young offender
- Refugee or asylum seeker
- Child in Care or adopted and at risk of education placement breakdown.
- Child/young person subject to a Child Protection Plan at risk of education placement breakdown.
- Severe bullying or bullying of others with evidence of impact on the young person's education: causing significant harm either as perpetrator or victim
- C/Y/P from a military family whose parent is about to be deployed, is deployed or recently deployed to a zone of conflict, or bereavement
- Living in a refuge or known to MARAC

For Early Years cases only: a) and b) are considered essential (1 term only necessary) and; No other significant input has been received from other appropriate professionals, or EP involvement would provide a necessary, unique contribution.

For Specialist Provisions and identified Colleges: A specific amount of available time is allocated. Criteria for support are based upon professional discussion, using the EPS principles and criteria above to use the time available effectively for the provision.

For whole school issues the support offered:

- Advice and signposting to other agencies
- Advice and support with SEND national changes
- Advice/support and challenge for local SEND processes and procedures
- Link Educational Psychologist and one planning meeting per academic year.
- Critical Incidents/Acute issues

Exceptions to the Criteria:

- Educational Psychologist will, on occasion, use professional discretion to agree cases outside the criteria
- Cases outside the criteria may, on occasion, be referred to the Principal Educational Psychologist for consideration by Devon Cc Commissioning managers.
- C/Y/P who fit the eligibility criteria may not always be seen due to time constraints and external pressures such as supporting the current SEND legislative changes. In these situations the most complex and vulnerable groups will be prioritised by the EP in liaison with Commissioners and education providers.