



EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

HOW TO REQUEST A CONSULTATION WITH AN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Open Access

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) offers open access to schools, professionals, parents and young people* to request a consultation with an Educational Psychologist (EP). The EPS focuses on children and young people aged 0 – 19 where there are significant and/or complex barriers to learning or development.

For schools/professionals

The first step is to discuss the proposed request with the child or young person's parent or carer to gain their consent. Once you have obtained consent to consult an EP you should contact the EPS to discuss your concerns. Written consent from those with parental responsibility will be required before any direct work with the child or young person can proceed. An information leaflet about the EPS and guidelines for EP consultation can be obtained at www.buckscc.gov.uk/schools/eps or by contacting the EPS.

For parents/carers or young people wishing to self-refer

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person or a young person who wishes to self-refer*, please contact the service to discuss this with an EP. EPs are able to accept requests from a young person who is considered to be competent* to make their own decisions.

Consultation process

A discussion will usually take place with an EP over the telephone, although a face-to-face meeting can also be arranged if you have particular requirements. The EP will talk to you about the child or young person and will be able to decide whether a request is appropriate or not.

If the EP agrees that a request **IS** appropriate, you will be given a form to complete.

If the EP considers a request is **NOT** appropriate at this time, the EP will suggest other people, services or agencies which might be able to help you.

If the EP is **UNSURE** about the appropriateness of the request, it will be discussed at the next EPS meeting, held every two weeks, for a decision. You will be informed of the outcome.

EPs' professional judgement will be used to consider requests for involvement according to the EPS core principles, published priorities and consideration of the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.



***Fraser competency:** The term arises from the case in the early 1980s when Victoria Gillick attempted to set a legal precedent which would have meant that medical practitioners could not give young people under the age of 16 treatment or contraceptive services without parental permission. The ruling was initially successful but then the House of Lords ruled that young people who are under 16 are competent to give valid consent to a particular intervention if they have sufficient understanding and intelligence to enable them to understand fully what is proposed and are capable of expressing their own wishes. Lord Fraser was the leading Law Lord for the review.

Contacting the EPS:

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