

## Notes:

\* If a child or young person is considered to be 'Fraser competent', parental consent is not necessarily essential. 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.

\*\* Parent means someone with legal parental responsibility.

## Contact

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## Information for schools, parents/carers and other services/agencies

## Educational Psychology Service



The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is a targeted and specialist service provided by the Local Authority to identify and support children with complex, significant and persistent needs.

### **How do I request EP consultation?**

The EPS offers an open access consultation model and can be contacted by phone or email (see contact details).

Requests for EP consultation will be considered in the light of resources, EPS priorities, professional judgement and the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

Requests for EP consultation from schools or other services should be supported by documentary evidence.

Further information regarding access to the EPS can be obtained on the website.

### **What training and skills do Educational Psychologists (EP) have?**

- All EPs in Buckinghamshire are psychology graduates who have undertaken further training to Masters or Doctorate degree level in Applied Educational Psychology.
- All EPs are registered with the Health Professionals Council.
- EPs study child development and the psychology of teaching and learning.
- EPs have skills in observation, assessment and intervention, consultation, problem solving, counselling, providing training and research.

- EPs share a common core of knowledge and skills but each will develop particular areas of professional interest and expertise. Some may also have specialist or management roles within the EPS.

### **With whom do EPs work?**

EPs work with children and young people aged 0-19 years old and who have complex, significant and persistent difficulties related to their development and/or learning.

EPs work with teachers, parents/carers, educational and other professionals in order to identify and meet children's complex and persistent Special Educational Needs (SEN).

### **What do EPs do?**

- Consult with teachers, specialist support staff, parents/carers and other relevant professionals about children causing concern
- Assess strengths and difficulties
- Support school staff in meeting children's complex and persistent SEN
- Contribute to designing, implementing and evaluating outcomes of interventions
- Work therapeutically with individuals and small groups of children
- Undertake specialist work
- Facilitate drop-in consultation sessions
- Provide training for educational staff, governors and parents/carers
- Undertake research, project evaluation and policy development/review
- Undertake statutory duties in relation to the 1996 Education Act
- Support schools following critical incidents
- Contribute to professional training

### **Trainee EPs**

Trainee EPs are psychology graduates who are completing their second and third year of doctorate training. They work under supervision of experienced, qualified EPs.

### **Psychology Assistants**

Psychology Assistants are Psychology graduates who work under the supervision of qualified EPs.

### **Consent and Confidentiality**

Before an EP becomes involved with a child or young person\*, parental\*\* consent is usually essential.

- EPs are subject to statutory registration with the Health Professionals Council.
- EPs are bound by professional Codes of Conduct and Ethical Principles.
- EP records are confidential they are held in paper files and on a secure database in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. .
- EPs may need to share information with relevant professionals and agencies in accordance with Buckinghamshire County Council information sharing protocols.
- EP records are kept until a young person is 25 years old and then destroyed.