



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGISTS - The similarities and differences

This paper was produced following a series of Buckinghamshire Headteacher meetings where the request was made for clarification regarding the differences between private EPs and their reports produced for parents and the work of Buckinghamshire Educational Psychologists.

Information has been updated following the statutory requirement for registration of all practitioner psychologists with the Health Professions Council (HPC) from July 1 2009.

The following provides some bullet points that may be useful in this area.

Buckinghamshire County Council Educational Psychologists	Private Psychologists
<p>All Buckinghamshire (BCC) employed Educational Psychologists (EPs) are registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC). The HPC regulates and sets standards to protect the health and wellbeing of the public. Many EPs also are members of and have chartered status with the British Psychological Society (BPS). The BPS has a professional Code of Conduct that must be followed by its members. The BPS role is to promote excellence and ethical practice.</p>	<p>All practising psychologists are now required by law to be registered with HPC. Some private psychologists are members of BPS and have chartered status. Some private practitioners may not have specialist professional EP training. Only psychologists who have undertaken professional training as educational psychologists can use this title. In order to find out you can consult the HPC register www.hpc-uk.org or BPS www.bps.org.uk</p>
<p>BCC EPs use a consultation model which takes into account the environment and contexts around children/young people, such as school, home, peers and how this affects them as well as the issues they have within themselves. Assessment usually takes place over time.</p>	<p>Many private psychologists assess children in a one off session which isn't able to take into account or see first hand issues which may be occurring in school, with peers etc.</p>
<p>BCC EPs will always liaise with other professionals who are involved with the child/young person.</p>	<p>Private psychologists may liaise with other professionals.</p>



BCC EPs cannot charge a fee to assess a child/young person	Private psychologists charge a fee for assessment
BCC EPs usually gather information about a child/young person from a wide range of sources, including the school, parents, other professionals, EPS or SEN file information etc.	Private psychologists' primary sources of information are usually the parent/carer and individual assessment.
Monitoring and follow-up of assessments and interventions are usually timetabled into regular school consultation.	Follow-up usually involves extra payment.
When a school or parent requests a statutory assessment under 1996 Education Act (EA96), BCC Consultation records/EP reports can be used as part of the evidence submitted.	When a school or parent requests a statutory assessment (EA96) private psychologists' reports will be taken into consideration by the LA.
BCC EP reports for statutory assessment (EA 96) are a requirement of the SEN Code of Practice (2001) to provide psychological advice.	Private psychologists' reports cannot be used as part of a statutory assessment (EA 96).
Parents/carers can contact the BCC EPS directly to discuss involvement regarding their child	Parents can directly refer their child/young person to a private psychologist.
BCC EPs are governed by priorities and resources available. Some concerns about children/young people therefore may not be seen as a top priority by the service	Parents are paying for the service of a private psychologist, and so their child/young person may be seen more quickly.

Jenny Pearce (Principal Educational Psychologist) February 2005
Updated by Jane Turner (Deputy PEP) August 2009

