

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

### SERVICE DESCRIPTION

PCC Educational Psychologists use psychology to support the educational progress, development, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) from 0-25 years with complex special educational needs and, or a disability. The range of specialist psychological skills and knowledge covers the four areas of need identified in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Code of Practice. These are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and/or mental health
- Sensory and/or physical.

The Service is funded by Plymouth City Council to provide a core service to schools for statutory assessment and review of children's needs and specific areas of work that underpin this as part of SEN support. All PCC psychologists are registered with the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#).

- Educational Psychologists (EPs) provide consultation, assessment and advice on strategies to promote positive outcomes. We undertake complex casework and psychological assessment for all children and young people with special educational needs who require a statutory Education Health and Care Plan
- We support families, early years' settings, schools and colleges. Our role usually involves joint working with a range of other professionals as part of a Team Around the Child or Young Person
- We work closely with the Communication and Interaction Team (CIT), Plymouth Advisory Team for Sensory Support (PATSS), and the Early Years Inclusion Service
- We have a number of Trainee EPs (TEPS) and EP Assistants (EPAs) who support us in our work
- We have strategic links with a wide range of statutory processes within the Local Authority and City priority areas
- Training, supervision, consultation and project work is available for adults, such as teachers, teaching assistants and early years practitioners
- The service provides critical incident and trauma support as part of the core offer. A critical incident is defined as a sudden and unexpected event that has the potential to overwhelm the

### Service contact details

#### Website

[Plymouth Educational Psychology Service – Plymouth Online Directory.](#)

#### Email

[psyserv@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:psyserv@plymouth.gov.uk)

or contact your link PCC Educational Psychologist

#### Telephone

01752 224962

### Who is eligible

This service is available to all schools

### Cost

Additional EP time can be purchased on a sessional (3hrs), daily or weekly basis. These costs apply to one or more blocks of time purchased over a year, delivered in a pattern to suit the school's needs.

Pay As You Go:

Sessions (3hrs each) with costs:

1-19 – £270/session

20-29 – £258/session

30-39 – £252/session

40-47 – £246/session

48+ – £239/session

For short term or one-off pieces of work a rate of £90 per hour is charged to cover our costs.

We ask that you make contact or discuss with your link EP as soon as possible, if you are considering purchasing a larger block of time.

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coping mechanisms of a whole school or members of the school community

- Research and evaluation projects can be undertaken in order to support whole school development and high-quality provision
- We also deliver ELSA as part of our core service.

#### **PURCHASED SERVICES DESCRIPTION**

Activities to supplement the revenue funded offer can be purchased. Service level agreements can be individually negotiated for additional EP time for schools. This work directly links to targeted and specialist levels of support for CYP. It can include the following.

##### **Individual casework**

Additional casework to support CYP and their families as part of the graduated approach to inclusion.

Direct interventions for CYP using psychological techniques such as solution focused approaches, cognitive-behavioural interventions etc.

Assessment of learning, behaviour and social/emotional needs, planning and monitoring of interventions.

##### **Group work**

Anxiety and anger management interventions, peer mediation and approaches to bolster pro social behaviour and resilience. EPs can also lead and support school staff in delivering these interventions including social skill enhancement programmes.

##### **Consultation and Supervision**

Group and individual support can be offered. Typical areas include advice around vulnerable children, supervision (which can include TISUK reflective supervision for TIS practitioners), teacher coaching programmes (making use of Video Interaction Guidance techniques) and stress management support.

##### **Project and larger scale interventions**

EPs can speak to senior leaders about specific needs, which may involve aspects across all seven areas of our purchased services. Examples have involved developments in nurture classes (and nurturing classrooms), Rtime (a school-wide social development initiative), restorative approaches and psychological techniques to promoting core literacy and numeracy skills.

##### **Whole school development including training**

Linked to the above we offer bespoke training and development to schools as part of their ongoing school improvement work. Input can be offered across a wide range of themes.

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#### **Support for parents and families**

EPs can offer support for parents/carers through schools and directly within home settings. Successful approaches involve group-based parenting support, conflict resolution interventions, use of Video Interaction Guidance to enhance parent-child attachments, enhancing school staff-family relationships and parent training for promoting literacy and numeracy in the home.

#### **Evaluation and research**

Plymouth Psychology Service is unique in that it has its own dedicated research and evaluation staff with links to universities in the South West. All the EPs are professionally qualified in this area and can work on any aspect of research and evaluation work.

#### **BENEFITS**

- Plymouth Educational Psychology Service is part of the PCC integrated SEND Service. We work closely with the other SEND Advisory and Assessment and Inclusion Teams to ensure a co-ordinated approach to multi-agency planning and delivery.
- The EP Team is positively evaluated with a good knowledge of local contexts and needs. A range of strengths, knowledge and expertise within the service can be called upon to address an issue or develop practice.
- Access to a wide range of expertise is available through links with our specialist psychologists working within other services for vulnerable children across education, health and social care.
- Additional casework can be used to support early intervention. It also enables a greater understanding of the complexity of need for individual CYP focusing on intervention and collaborative planning with schools and families.
- The service contributes to LA practices, procedures and policies to improve outcomes for CYP.
- EPs attend local, regional and national professional development events to ensure that practice is at the cutting edge. They also conduct and undertake reviews of research to ensure they are able to build on recent evidence based practice.

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