

Management Information Sheet

Services Provided by Educational Psychology and Specialist Support

This Information Sheet gives details of services provided by Educational Psychology and Specialist Support (EPSS) following implementation this month of changes authorized by the Children's Services Leadership Team.

Local Authority Commissioned Services

From April 1, EPSS is commissioned by the Local Authority to provide the following services:

1. Consultations to clusters, schools and settings, commissioned as part of the Local Authority SEN Core Offer. Within the specified time limit of three days per cluster per year this includes:
 - Termly consultation meetings with clusters, attended by one EPSS professional
 - Email consultations throughout the year
 - Telephone consultations with an EPSS professional
 - Prioritised consultations with an Advisory Learning Support Teacher (until the end of the 2012/2013 school year)

These activities aim to provide an early intervention and prevention service for learners, schools and cluster of schools, through consultative, capacity building services.

2. Statutory services directed by the Local Authority, comprised of:
 - Statutory Assessments that arise from decisions made by the Early Years and Special Educational Needs Panel
 - Professional input at Early Years and Special Educational Needs Panel and Specialist Resource Base Panel
 - Statutory Reviews where there are serious questions regarding:
 - Educational provision for a child
 - Transition to a special school / setting
 - Boarding options
 - Expert witness input to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal.
3. Targeted services comprise EPSS professional specialist services for vulnerable groups of children, following Norfolk County Council's priorities.

These services include:

- Monitoring learners' education, wellbeing and safeguarding, for those placed at independent special schools
- Targeted interventions (e.g. Cognitive Behaviour Intervention, Therapeutic Story Writing, specialist teaching of children with dyslexia, support for children with ASD, stress management)
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration for vulnerable pupils (e.g. LAC, NEET).

Traded Services

EPSS also provides enhanced professional services to schools and educational settings at extra cost, reflecting the delegation of SEN funding to clusters and schools.

Information is contained in the EPSS ***Guide to Traded Services in Educational Settings*** leaflet.

The following traded packages are offered by EPSS:

1. Enhanced Core Offer

This package is most suited to school clusters or other groups of schools. It involves purchasing a specific amount of EPSS staff time over a school year (i.e. one day a week or multiples of this amount), in order to support key functions within a cluster.

The activities within this package could include, but are not be limited to:

- Regular mini-consultation meetings with schools within the cluster / group of schools
- Systemic work at schools and/or cluster level
- Professional input at cluster meetings beyond the Core Offer
- Individual casework as negotiated with clusters / group of schools

2. Block Purchase

This package, suited for individual schools, involves purchasing a specific number of days from EPSS, over a year. This time is not necessarily tied to any individual professional and therefore the nominated lead professional is able to tailor EPSS provision to most appropriately meet needs.

Depending on the needs of a school, activities available for purchase are chosen from the EPSS Professional Support Menu.

3. Bespoke Packages

EPSS Bespoke Packages have the unique benefit of being tailored to the individual needs of a school or cluster and are generally intended to address systemic issues rather than individual casework. They consist of discrete groups of sessions offered to help address particular themed difficulties within clusters or schools (perhaps ahead of or following Ofsted inspection).

Depending on the needs, some bespoke packages could be delivered in partnership with other teams within Norfolk County Council, health professionals and / or voluntary organisations, as appropriate.

Examples of bespoke packages are:

- Addressing mental health needs
- Raising achievement for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties
- Addressing bullying issues

4. Direct Hire

Direct Hire is designed for clients requiring a highly personalised service outside the formal framework of a cluster package.

Through the Direct Hire package, a school or cluster can purchase a percentage of time from a particular EPSS staff member (i.e. Educational Psychologist, Advisory Learning Support Teacher, or Specialist Teaching Assistant) for a specified period.

In this package, the activities provided are chosen by the school/cluster from within the competencies of a particular professional.

Schools should make confirmation of commitments by 19 April on the Services for Schools web site (for Block Purchase) and by 30 April to James Thatcher (at the address below) for the Enhanced Core Offer and other arrangements. Requests for service beyond those dates can be made to the General Enquiries contact points listed below.

Contact regarding EPSS traded services

Expressions of interests can be made through EPSS members currently available in your school / cluster (formerly known as SST).

Alternatively, to discuss further, you can also contact Dr James Thatcher, Divisional Senior Educational Psychologist on:

Tel: 01603 307562

Email: james.thatcher@norfolk.gov.uk

Formal arrangements to enter into a trading agreement with EPSS can be made as follows:

- **Block Purchase:**
Contact the Services for Schools web site
- **Enhanced Core Offer, Bespoke Packages and Direct Hire:**
Contact Dr James Thatcher, Divisional Senior Educational Psychologist
Tel: 01603 307562
Email: james.thatcher@norfolk.gov.uk
- **General enquiries regarding traded services:**
Children's Services
Educational Psychology and Specialist Support
Carrow House
Level 2
301 King Street
Norwich
NR1 2TN
Tel: 01603 307550
Fax: 01603 223513
Email: csbusinesssupport.epss@norfolk.gov.uk