

What Services do Educational Psychologists Provide?

Consultations

We offer a consultation service to professionals and parents who are concerned about children and young people. Children and young people can also request a meeting with a psychologist in their own right.

The aim of the consultation is that, through discussion, users of the service will:

- reach a clearer view of the issues
- feel better able to consider the actions open to them
- have greater confidence in the course of action they choose to follow

A consultation with a psychologist may be enough to help clarify what further steps the client should take.

Assessment

Assessment is a process involving the gathering of information from a variety of sources, in a range of settings, over a period of time. The purpose of assessment is to inform future intervention and promote learning and the wellbeing of the child or young person in their school, family and community. Assessment involves partnership with parents, carers, teachers, young people, children and may also involve other agencies. As part of the process of negotiating an assessment, a referral agreement is drawn up, including information about how feedback will be given on the work.

We may be requested by the Reporter to the Children's Panel to make an assessment of a young person. Within the context of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 we may be asked to assist in the identification and assessment of children who have additional support needs.

The Act also gives parents the right to request a psychological assessment when the education authority has agreed to determine whether the child has additional support needs and/or requires a co-ordinated support plan.

Intervention

Interventions are planned strategies which aim to promote positive learning experiences and support psychological wellbeing. The psychologist may be directly involved in implementing the intervention, or may work alongside others who are delivering the intervention. Interventions are informed by evidence-based practice and subsequent evaluation of the outcomes.

Research and Development

We undertake a range and variety of research on behalf of schools, the education authority, and other organisations, eg services working in the post-school sector. We have training and experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods. We use techniques such as action research, questionnaires and surveys. These methods can be used for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions and for carrying out surveys to determine opinions and needs.

Training services

We offer training to schools, parents, young people, ECS staff, voluntary agencies and other organisations. Training is delivered according to the needs of the group, often to link to local priorities in development plans, and may be delivered centrally or locally.