

Educational Psychology Service

Partner Agencies and the Educational Psychology Service: Working Together

Vision

The Psychological Service is part of the Education Service in Argyll and Bute with Educational Psychologists working along with parents/carers, school staff, social work services, health professionals and third sector organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people. The service supports the delivery of the six key objectives within *Our Children, Their Future*. The Psychological Service vision is to promote the wellbeing and development of all children and young people using the knowledge and evidence base of child psychology.

In accordance with statutory obligations the service aims to fulfil this vision by:

- Undertaking high quality assessment, intervention and consultation
- Working in close partnership with children, parents, schools and other agencies following GIRFEC principles
- Raising attainment and promoting achievement through Curriculum for Excellence by training and developing the skills of others
- Adopting a reflective and evaluative approach
- Contributing to research and policy development

The Psychological Service Team

There are 6.8 full time equivalent Educational Psychologists within the team in Argyll and Bute including the Principal Educational Psychologist. Further information about the team and the delivery of services can be found on the website at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/educational-psychology>

Service Delivery

Each school within Argyll and Bute has an identified link Educational Psychologist. The majority of our involvement in relation to children and young people is identified through schools. The Psychological Service can support schools, Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings and partners to meet the needs of individual children where there is:

- Ongoing and significant concern, including around looked after children, evidenced by staged intervention, Child's Planning and review
- A key point of transition with significant vulnerability anticipated
- A possible need for neurodevelopmental assessment, as a result of significant impact on day to day functioning
- Risk of educational placement breakdown

The service is able to make a distinctive contribution to the development of policy and practice at educational establishment, community and wider authority level by bringing a current knowledge and evidence base of child psychology. This can represent an effective and efficient way for schools, partner agencies and Educational Psychologists to improve outcomes for larger numbers of children and young people and could include supporting the implementation of evidence based universal approaches, such as Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS), or leading professional learning opportunities for staff, for example in relation to mental health and wellbeing.

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Educational Psychologists can work alongside educational establishments and partner agencies to address issues through:

- Consultation, assessment and intervention
- Staff development
- Action research

Consultation

Educational Psychologists can offer consultation to ELC, school staff and partner agencies in a range of ways. This can be through telephone conversations, agreed visits with schools, Joint Support Teams hosted in schools, multiagency locality practitioner forums or working groups. Early discussion with the Educational Psychologist for your area will allow an informed decision on whether it is appropriate to involve an Educational Psychologist, and in what way. Seeking advice and consultation at an early stage can be a helpful way to prevent difficulties escalating and reduce the need for more intrusive interventions.

There should always be a conversation with a member of the Psychological Service team before an Educational Psychologist is invited to a Child's Planning meeting, if the child is not already known to the service. If, through a Child's Planning meeting, it appears that intervention from our service may be appropriate the Named Person or Lead Professional should contact the relevant Educational Psychologist for an initial consultation discussion.

It is possible to check whether a young person is already known to our service through Karen Miller, who is based in Argyll House, Dunoon, karen.miller@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

In all cases, the parent's permission to contact the Psychological Service should be formally sought prior to any discussion taking place. For older children or young people, where they have the capacity to understand what is involved, any possible involvement with the Educational Psychologist should be discussed with them.

Requests for intervention

Please contact the Principal Educational Psychologist via email at roslyn.redpath@argyll-bute.gov.uk or contact the link Educational Psychologist for your area. Information on the contact details for all Educational Psychologists can be found on the website via the link above.

Community Services: Education

Educational Psychology Service

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