

Educational Psychology Service News

Term 1 2020

We hope that you are all settling in well to the new academic year, albeit it a very different start from the usual.

There is lots of news to share with you about developments in the Educational Psychology Service for 2020.

Team updates:

- The Educational Psychology Service now has a dedicated page on the Rainbow Resource. Keep checking it, as we will be adding new documents: <https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/educational-psychology-service-information-for-professionals>
- I am really pleased that the Area SENCO Team is now part of the Educational Psychology Service. The Area SENCOs are Bobbie Rogers and Verrity Simons. They have a dedicated page on the Rainbow Resource which has lots of useful resources as well as information about their offer: <https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/early-years-area-senco/early-years-toolkit/covid-19-information-for-early-years-sencos>
- We continue to work remotely, carrying out assessments, consultations, supervision sessions and multiagency meetings in accordance with our risk assessment. Our consultation model is proving to be successful in supporting educational staff, parent/carers and other professionals in developing a joint understanding of need and developing agreed actions to support children and young people. If you have any questions or feel that it is essential for us to carry out a face-to-face meeting, please contact the EPS directly.
- We are hoping to trial new software so that we can reinstate our advice line. I'll keep you updated. In the meantime, please contact your link EP if you have any queries or issues which you would like to talk through. The list of link EPs is on the EPS's Rainbow Resource page.
- We are planning to offer video support sessions through the Wellbeing for Education Return project which is Government funded and will provide training to all schools and colleges in England on supporting pupils with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their mental health and well-being. We will be working alongside CAMHS and Public Health. More information to follow.

- During the lockdown period, we suspended our consultation work for children and young people who have an EHCP. I'm pleased to report that this has now resumed. Please find request forms on the EPS's Rainbow Resource page.
- Josie Bainton is the EP for the Virtual School while Alish Rodgers is on maternity leave. She is providing training, support groups and consultation work through the Virtual School team. Please see the Virtual School website for more information: <https://virtuelschool.bathnes.gov.uk/vs-home>

Congratulations and celebrations:

- Congratulations to Emma Siddall who is expecting her second baby in January 2021.
- Josie Bainton has just had news that part of her doctoral thesis has been published in the School Psychology International Journal! The title is 'The impact of reduced sleep on school related outcomes for typically developing children aged 11–19: A systematic review'. It's well worth a read. It can be found on the EPS's Rainbow Resource page.
- Gemma Ellis (senior EP) has been appointed as a tutor on the Cardiff Doctoral training course and will be working there for one day a week. This is a great progression in her career and will be of benefit to the EPS as well. Well done Gemma!

Other news:

- Sue Davies and Leanne Thomas continue to provide a great service for all the behind-the-scenes and first point of contact running of the EPS. They can be contacted via the psychology admin email address: Psychology_service@bathnes.gov.uk
- Holly Bruce, our Year 3 trainee educational psychologist, is well under way with her thesis. She is exploring aspects of the consultation process which will provide insights and development opportunities for the profession. Holly continues to be well-supported by her supervisor, Katie Birch.
- Katie Birch continues to be the EPS representative on the early years SENDIP panel.
- Richard Barker continues to offer advice and training on Precision Teaching. Please contact him directly if you would like to access this free service.

- Sarah White and Josie Bainton are excited to be offering ELSA training and supervision for the current cohorts and will be offering new training during the academic year – watch this space. Information can be found on the EPS's Rainbow Resource page:

https://5f2fe3253cd1dfa0d089-bf8b2cdb6a1dc2999fecbc372702016c.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/uploads/ckeditor/attachments/7742/ELSA_Training_2020-21.pdf

- We're really pleased to announce that Hannah Fleming will be joining the EPS in October 2020. She has a vast amount of experience working as an EP in a London borough. She has a particular interest in social, emotional and mental health and ELSAs.
- Jess Knight has returned to the EPS to work as a casual EP. It's great to have her back.

Final thoughts:

The current pandemic and associated impacts have presented many challenges on many levels. The EPS recognises the impact on children, young people, families, educational staff and those within our community. We are available for you to talk through any concerns which you might have. We have also contributed to the many useful resources on the Rainbow Resource Professional page:

<https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/covid-19-professionals-information>

The past few months have also raised issues and discussions around racism and diversity within our own communities which have also been echoed through the Black Lives Matter movement. The EPS is committed to an anti-racist approach in all of our work and a commitment to promoting diversity.



We look forward to our work with you all over the forthcoming academic year.

Jane De Ste Croix

Lead Educational Psychologist

01/10/2020