

Educational Psychology Service News

Term 3 2021

We hope that you all managed to have some rest during the Christmas break. As we are now in another national lockdown, we felt that it was important to reiterate our support. If you would like to speak to an educational psychologist, please contact us through psychology_service@bathnes.gov.uk and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible. School and College SENCOs can also contact their link EP directly (the list is on the EPS page on the Rainbow Resource).

Team updates:

- Please check the Educational Psychology Service page on the Rainbow Resource for relevant information and resources:
<https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/professional-section/educational-psychology-service-information-for-professionals>
- Please also check the Area SENCO Team pages for 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>

EHCNAs and Consultation Requests:

- During the current lockdown, we will continue to carry out EHCNAs through consultations with parent/carers, key staff and, where possible, we will gain the voice of the child/young person. Given the current restrictions, direct work will not be possible. We will review this as Government guidelines change.
- New consultation requests will be put on hold for the forthcoming weeks while we focus on carrying out EHCNAs. We will let you know when the list for these requests will be opened again.
- Where an EP was already allocated for a consultation, the EP will contact the educational setting to agree next steps. In some cases, this might be a telephone consultation or pausing the work until a visit is possible.

Wellbeing for Education Return:

B&NES are offering all schools a comprehensive package of resources to help them support the mental health and wellbeing of students and children as they continue their education in the Covid-19 era. The offer includes:

FREE training on relevant mental health issues led by mental health professionals within the B&NES CAMHS.

A series of FREE network meetings led by the EPS which will focus on a specific topic related to the impact of Covid-19. Sessions will provide tips and advice on common concerns, opportunities to reflect and discuss with colleagues and links to guidance on best practice.

A FREE individual consultation / advice line on which you can talk with an EP about individual concerns relating to your school, staff and students/children.

Further information can be found here:

<https://thehub.bathnes.gov.uk/Page/11238>

Other work:

- We're very excited that Hannah Fleming is now the EP representative on the Virtual School Pilot Project where the focus is on improving educational outcomes for targeted groups of children and young people.
- 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://virtualschool.bathnes.gov.uk/vs-home>
- 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

- Richard Barker continues to offer advice and training on Precision Teaching. Please contact him directly if you would like to access this free service.

Final thoughts – as expressed in 2020:

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.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Wishing you all the best for 2021.

Jane De Ste Croix
Lead Educational Psychologist
11.01.2021