

## **Team name: Psychological Services**

## **Team managers: Paula Hesford and Katinka Bryan**

Northumberland's Educational Psychologists work with educational settings, children and families. We support children and young people who are experiencing difficulties, differences or delays in their development. For example, their communication, interaction, cognition, learning, social and emotional needs, and mental health.

## **Who are we?**

Our team comprises a group of Educational Psychologists, Assistant Educational Psychologists and Trainee Educational Psychologists who work with school staff, children, and families. We are supported in our work by a great admin team.

The goal of Psychological Services is to support schools and settings to achieve better outcomes for children and young people and improve wellbeing.

We use our knowledge of educational and psychological research and theory to:

- Promote and develop approaches to support learning
- Promote and develop approaches to support social/emotional wellbeing

## **About us**

We work with young people and the adults in their lives to:

- Identify additional/special educational needs, and suitable interventions to address these
- Prevent additional/special educational needs and requirements developing
- Support those with ongoing additional needs and requirements
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults

Our work can be:

- With individuals or groups
- Directly with children and families, or with teachers and other adults working with them
- At class or whole school level, to support schools in developing their policy and practice

We can offer support in identifying, assessing and understanding the needs of children with SEND, in relation to the areas outlined in the Code of Practice. These include:

- Social, emotional, and mental health needs
- Cognition and learning
- Communication and interaction
- Sensory and/or physical needs

We currently operate a Service Level Agreement with schools in which EP time can be purchased annually through the schools' portal. Schools who buy into EP time have a named link Educational Psychologist who supports that partnership. You will have planning meetings with your EP where you can discuss and prioritise the work you would like them to undertake. When you have agreed the work, you complete a request for support form, which contains signed parental consent if the work relates to an individual. The EP will then make appointments to carry out the work in school.

In addition to the SLA work, Educational Psychologists have a statutory role where we contribute to the assessment process of any child where an Education Health and Care Assessment has been agreed. Educational Psychologists from the team will contact schools to carry out these assessments but we have also developed positive working relationships with a team of locum EPs who will contact the schools and families before conducting their assessments remotely.

Psychologists are also involved in activities to support wider work such as running ELSA training courses, supporting schools with critical incidents, supporting strategic initiatives within the council or developing work with Early Help. We call this core work.

## Contact us

- Manager for Psychological Services: Paula Hesford
- Manager for Psychological Services and Senior Educational Psychologist: Katinka Bryan
- Senior Educational Psychologist: Helen Tamworth
- Office Manager: Dorothy MacDonald

If you have any questions or queries about the general work of Educational Psychologists, please use the following details to get in touch:

- Email: [psychservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:psychservices@northumberland.gov.uk)
- Telephone: **01670 624813**
- Address: Psychological Services, Northumbria House, Manor Walks, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6UR.
- [Click here to view our Psychological Services web page.](#)