

This leaflet outlines the background and intentions of Psychological Services in the Lothian area in developing PSPS; it aims to support a consultation process in order to identify stakeholder need and negotiate future service delivery.

Introduction

“All the agencies and organisations which provide learning opportunities and support for young people should encourage and promote a culture of inclusiveness which ensures that the needs, abilities and aspirations of young people are recognised, understood and met within a supportive environment.”

(Beattie Committee Report 2.27 page 16)



The Scottish Executive has recently made funding available to twelve Pathfinder Educational Psychological Services for the development of Post-School Psychological Services. Overall the aim is to bring psychological knowledge and skills to assist other agencies in promoting better outcomes for young people aged 15-24 and enhance life-long learning.

As part of this initiative, three Lothian Authorities (West Lothian, Mid Lothian, and City of Edinburgh) will be exploring how Psychological Services might work with existing agencies in this area to reduce barriers to inclusion and promote life long learning.

Why Post-School Psychological Services?

We are applied Psychologists who are concerned with learning, well being and development. We have a range of knowledge and skills that we bring to this process: knowledge of preventative and early intervention approaches, collaborative working, familiarity with research and development methods, solution focused approaches. We have extensive experience of working to support children, young people (0-19)

in all their contexts and through relevant others (families, peers, schools, professionals and the wider community) up to the point of transition to post-school.

Following the recommendations of the Beattie Committee Report, it was recognised that Educational Psychologists should develop services to the post-school sector.

What can Psychological Services Offer?

We aim to work effectively through a range of different roles, maximising limited resources and determined through a negotiated process; these include:

Consultation

The basis of much of our work is problem-solving discussion in which ideas are shared and strategies and solutions developed. We can offer consultation and advice about a range of issues; these range from an individual case to an organisational/policy level (for example transition processes, behaviour management, learning approaches and effective interventions, effective inter agency working).

Assessment and Intervention

We can advise on contextual assessment and assessment tools. Examples of interventions might be suggestions which focus on structuring the environment, reduce barriers to learning and identifying appropriate strategies to support young people with additional needs.

Training and Development

The focus of training and development is to develop knowledge, skills and understanding. We can offer training opportunities to adults who support vulnerable young people who have additional needs; these can be tailored to suit the work of individual agencies as well as collaborative practice.



Projects and Action Research

Projects and research can identify and develop best practice. We are trained in a range of research and evaluation methodologies and can facilitate inquiry through short projects and research.

We would welcome discussion with a range of stakeholders about this initiative.

Further information

Contact:

Liz Gajjar
Ogilvie House
Ogilvie Way
Knightsridge
Livingston

Tel: 01506 775800



Pathfinder Services

Post-school
Educational Psychology Service (PSPS)



West Lothian
Council

Education & Cultural Services