



Division of Educational Psychology

Updates: Covid-19 – April 2020

Guidance on the completion of psychological advice for education health and care plans

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant influence upon the role of educational psychologists in writing and producing psychological advice for education health and care (EHC) assessments. Psychologists need to remain legally compliant with the 2014 Children and Families Act when asked to undertake psychological advice, though provision exists in the recent Coronavirus Act to allow for 'exceptions' to be made regarding timescales.

Government guidance states that work should be undertaken remotely where possible. At the current time, educational psychologists should not be undertaking visits to schools, homes or any other setting, to gather evidence to contribute to the writing of advice.

As educational psychologists we are led by professional ethics and values, alongside expected standards of safe and best practice, and these should not be compromised at the present time. Educational psychologists operating under the current social distancing constraints will be required to complete psychological advice for EHC assessments and this guidance is intended to address challenges that may be experienced in this context.

Advice provided for EHC assessments should be made on existing local authority templates, with the constraints under which the advice has been gathered

clearly explained, highlighting the implications that this will have on the scope of the advice.

Reports can be written based on any existing evidence and supplemented through contact with teachers, professionals, parents, and the child or young person themselves.

Reports should state that any limitations in the scope of available evidence should be gathered in advance of the first annual review of any subsequent education health and care plans, or when the current restrictions end, whichever is soonest. This will ensure that the assessment evidence presented highlights the constraints on the working practice of the psychologist providing the advice, and draws attention to any unavoidable omissions of evidence, which may be necessary to inform a clear understanding of the child or young person's needs.

Educational psychologists should continue to expect, and receive supervision to support them in their decision making and in managing workload and expectations.

Get in Touch

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