



DECP

Newsletter

August 2019

Children's right to play

In June we launched our position paper on 'Children's right to play'. It focused on the importance of play, barriers to play and stated our position, which was drawn from concerns about diminishing opportunities for play in the lives of children.

Written by educational psychologists (EPs) and play specialists, the position paper proved incredibly popular, with coverage in [The Independent](#), [The Telegraph](#) and [TES](#).

We are keen to build on the success of this paper and have some exciting work planned as a committee and in liaison with the authors. We are particularly keen to seek young people's views about play and indeed about the position paper and will be in discussion with the BPS about various creative options available to us to do this.

DfE expert group on teachers' mental health and wellbeing

The [Department for Education](#) announced recently that it has pulled together a panel of 26 experts to 'drive "real change" in support of teachers' wellbeing'. The DECP is concerned that there are no educational psychologists on this panel.

EPs drive real change for teachers every day in practice. As professionals we are among the few that support

teachers directly (through coaching, supervision etc.) and indirectly through enhancing and supporting school systems work.

Members can be assured that we are committed to ensuring that EPs have the opportunity to contribute on this important topic.

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BPS 2020 Senate campaign

Building on the BPS Senate's 2019 [policy priority](#) of improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, the DECP is supporting the 2020 Senate campaign proposal 'From poverty to flourishing'.

This proposal will highlight the impact that poverty has across the lifespan – latest estimates suggest that 4.5m children are living in poverty in the UK.

As a professional group we are acutely aware of the effect this has on children and young people, particularly in relation to their time in school and their wellbeing.

At our [2018 conference](#) Dr Laura Winter reiterated that the [World Health Organization](#) had identified poverty as a social determinant of mental health problems.

While there is a lot of discussion about supporting individual children who are experiencing particular difficulties, we support a focus on the wider, systemic causes of psychological distress and are keen to support this proposal. We want to ensure government understands the impact of poverty on children, families and communities.

DECP 2020 conference: a 20:20 vision of educational psychology

Planning for our 2020 conference is well under way and our theme this year is: 'A 20:20 vision of educational psychology: play, learning, inclusion and diversity. An exploration of current developments and advancements within educational psychology.'

Last year at conference we displayed an exhibition of children's artwork on the theme of

inclusion and belonging. The exhibition proved hugely popular so we'll be expanding it this year to include children's art, music and poetry.

Of course, what makes conference are the presentations, talks and workshops that our fantastic community brings. The [call for submissions](#) is open and we hope many of you will contribute your work.

Trainee EP handbook

For some time our Trainee EP Associate Group (TEPAG) have been liaising with trainee representatives, the DECP committee and the Programme Directors Group to develop a 'Handbook for Prospective Trainee EPs.'

The handbook will have contributions from current course directors and trainees. It's designed to be a one-stop shop for information

about all the courses that prospective applicants may find helpful. This includes information about the cities that the courses are based in.

TEPAG is aiming for an autumn publication – so keep watching our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for more news.

A day in the life of a TEP

The annual 'A day in the life of a TEP' event took place on Friday 19 July.

Although only a few years old, this always proves a hugely popular and energetic day as trainees from around the country get together to discuss cases, tools and techniques and reflect on their journey through training so far.

The line-up this year was great:

Casework presentations

Gender variance.
Children exposed to drug and alcohol.
Cultural differences.

Workshops

Coaching senior leaders in schools.
Dynamic assessment.
Using therapeutic stories.
Publishing.

Discussions

Ethics of trading.
EPs and multi-agency working.
Children and young people's voice in autism spectrum condition diagnosis.
Boys' social, emotional and mental health.

Award for Outstanding Contributions to Educational and Child Psychology

This award is open to members of the DECP. It is given to an educational psychologist who has made or is making an outstanding contribution to professional practice in the UK.

Nominations should take the form of a narrative (1000 words maximum) highlighting the candidate's achievements and the grounds for proposing them.

The person nominated must be a DECP member and each nomination requires two nominators, who need not be members.

[Make your nomination](#) via the BPS website. You will need the BPS membership number of the person you are nominating.