

## **SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT – MAY 2018**

Educational Psychology Service Performance:

The update provided for the March Select Committee meeting noted a much improved picture in relation to the production of Appendix D Psychological Advices within the six week statutory timeframe. It is pleasing to report that the improvement continues.

As at 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 97% of reports requested since 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018 have been submitted in a timely fashion and currently there are no outstanding requests

Unfortunately, two rounds of recruitment for a substantive Principal Educational Psychologist (PEP) have been unsuccessful. Recruitment for this role has now been handed to an executive recruitment agency who are currently sourcing candidates for a number of Heads of Service within the Education Service. The interim PEP is working full-time in Buckinghamshire until the end of the Summer term.

### **Action:**

There has been a continued focus by the Educational Psychology Service management team on the timely completion of work set. Clear timescales are agreed with each piece of work, along with expectations of reporting when problems arise. Each case is then monitored to ensure there are no further problems and that the advice is received.

### **Impact:**

The improved performance has supported the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team to increase the number of Education, Health and Care Plans that have been issued and finalised. This helps to ensure that those in the greatest need get the support they require.

As noted above, 97% of requests for advice since the start of the year have received on time. This is a particularly high level of performance that is unlikely to be maintained given the “real-life” nature of the work.

### **Risks:**

The focus for all educational psychologists has been on the completion of work related to the statutory processes. As a result, there has been little capacity to delivery proactive and preventive support in schools. Time has been protected, as noted previously, for the Special Educational Needs and Disability, Inclusion and Additional Needs (SENDIAN) Pilot.

It should also be noted that whilst educational psychologists understand and accept that statutory work must be a focus, it is not the most rewarding work for them. Nationally, there is a shortage of educational psychologists and services elsewhere are advertising posts offering a mix of statutory and non-statutory work. This may

prove attractive to colleagues if the blend of work in Buckinghamshire cannot be changed.

**Costs:**

The improved performance has been achieved with the support of 11 locum educational psychologist (providing approximately the equivalent of 3.8 full time posts).

Steve Laycock, Interim Principal Educational Psychologist  
24 April 2018