

Delivering Educational Psychology Services

January 2019

This report aims to update Select Committee Members on issues regarding recruitment and performance of the Educational Psychology Service (EPS).

1. Update on the current position:

At the start of the 2018/2019 academic year there was a backlog of cases. This backlog is due to a range of factors, including a significant influx of cases. So far, during the 2018/2019 academic year, 155 new assessments have commenced reflecting a significant increase than the number assessments commenced during the same period of 2017/2018 (95 more cases). Each new assessment will require an Educational Psychologist (EP) to submit an Appendix D. Reduced opportunities to engage in preventative work, working alongside schools, and operating with reduced staffing levels for a sustained period are also contributing factors.

The EPS continues to work hard to address the backlog and is showing steady improvements.

- For the 2018 calendar year to 30th November, 52.8% of Appendix D's have been completed within 6 weeks (384 out of 727). (Cumulative figure).
- During November, 58 Appendix D's were completed, of these 24 were completed within 6 weeks = **41.4%**. This represents a steady increase when compared to figures for previous months within the autumn term (During September, 27 Appendix D's were completed, of these 7 were completed within 6 weeks = 25.9%; During October, 94 Appendix D's were completed, of these 26 were completed within 6 weeks = 27.7%).

	2018		
	Number completed	Number in 6 weeks	Percent in 6 weeks
Statutory Assessments (STASS)	645	371	57.5%
Statutory Re-Assessments (STRE)	82	13	15.9%
Total Appendix D's	727	384	52.8%

2. Looking to the future:

There are currently 40 children awaiting assessment. These children are being prioritised over other casework and according to length of time on the waiting list. They will be allocated to EPs and locum EPs to ensure assessments are completed as quickly as possible.

2.1 Associate Model

The Service is in the process of moving to an Associate Model to support the completion of Appendix Ds. This will mean the use of high cost locums will cease and a payment by results approach will be adopted. The Service is working with existing locums to move them across

to Associate contracts with a view to this model being fully implemented from 1 January 2019.

2.2 Management Oversight

An interim Head of SEN and interim Principal Educational Psychologist (PEP) are both now in place to provide leadership and drive improvement across the Service. Permanent posts will be recruited to as part of the SEN restructure. The staff consultation relating to this commenced on 20 November and will run until 5 February 2019. It is anticipated therefore that key posts in the EPS will be filled permanently by 1 April 2019 and this will provide stability to the Service.

2.2 Early intervention

Valuable work strands, including Nurture group, Holding Hands (Parenting Group) and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training programmes continue to operate.