



Councillor Chris Townsend
Via email

Thursday, 06 September 2018

Dear Chris

RE: Concerns raised regarding Education Psychology Service

Thank you for sharing these concerns in relation to the availability of Surrey County Council's Education Psychology Service. I understand that you received this correspondence in May 2018, although I do not have a record of receiving these concerns.

I can confirm that I have recently responded to very similar correspondence from a Surrey resident. I have since made some additional enquiries into the situation which has informed my response.

I understand that all of the maintained schools and academies in South East Surrey have access to Surrey County Council education psychologists (EP). The Service has maintained (where possible) a system of linking each educational psychologist with a fixed group of schools. This is in order to support a detailed knowledge of schools and their pupils.

Educational psychologists do work across all areas of Surrey in order to ensure a fair distribution of the EP time available. The service also provides locum or agency EPs to support areas with a very high demand, and work is regularly shared between areas should one be particularly stretched.

You will be aware of the increase in the number of children requiring Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). In order to meet this demand, the EP service has had to focus on assessments for children and young people that the local authority has agreed to assess (and likely to lead to an EHCP). Unfortunately, this has impacted upon the EP resource available for non-statutory assessments. I can assure you that the service is working continuously to recruit both permanent and temporary staff and will be letting schools know in September what range and level of service their staffing will support.

I understand that in order to support schools seeking educational psychology advice, the South East Team operates a telephone advice line for schools, Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) as well as parents and carers. The school can also refer to the local authority's specialist teaching services, which include specialist

outreach services from Surrey special schools with expertise in meeting the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability.

In the interim, you may wish to remind parent/carers of students in your setting of the availability drop-in appointment with our specialist children's workers – including EPs. These are for parent/carers or young people with worries or concerns at local youth centres and are taking place over the summer. For ease of reference, I have included the remaining dates below.

Additionally, the Principal Educational Psychologist, Beverley Clarke is most happy to discuss your concerns with you directly. Beverley can be contacted on 0208 541 8667.

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Clare Curran
Cabinet Member for Children
County Councillor - Bookham and Fetcham West

4 th September 2018	Mole Valley	Malthouse Youth Centre, Mill Lane, Dorking RH4 1DU
11 th September 2018	Tuesday: 3.45pm - 5.15pm	
18 th September 2018		
25 th September 2018		