

Educational Psychology Service

Hillingdon Educational Psychology Service (EPS) works with children and adults aged from 0-25.

The EPS has three linked functions:

- A statutory service providing psychological advice for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments
- A core service providing support to all of Hillingdon's schools via training, panel attendance and critical incident support
- A traded service for schools wishing to buy between 2 and 50 days of Educational Psychology time to support the children and staff within their schools.

The Educational Psychologists within our service are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and are ethically bound by the principles of this.

What was the equality issue?

- One of the main issues affecting all of our functions is the role of the schools and parents in deciding which children require the support of an Educational Psychologist.
- A further issue is how to represent the child's narrative in terms of culture and diversity in written reports.

How was this addressed?

- In terms of all functions, we have provided training on equality and equity in terms of which children should be referred for early intervention and further specialist support. We have done this with both the SEND and School Advisory Service (SAS).
- We have added an Equality monitoring question to our traded planning meeting format.
- We have discussed as a team how to include reference to equality and cultural information within written reports
- We quality assure reports regularly (background section features cultural issues)

What was the outcome?

- EPs have become more focused on ensuring that ethnicity and cultural information are included in referral discussions and assessments completed.
- We are devising an Equality and Diversity policy for our service and are currently discussing next steps to improve this aspect of our practice.