



Summer 2012

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Welcome to our 7th Newsletter!

We have lots of exciting news to share with you.

First of all, we have moved! We are now based at St John's Campus. For our new address and postal address please see the bottom of the last page.

We also have some staffing news. Sarah Jamieson, one of our Educational Psychologists will be leaving us in June. We will be very sad to see Sarah leave, but we are sure you will join us in wishing her well in her new role in Shetland. We are delighted to welcome Vicky Murray as our new permanent Educational Psychologist. Vicky has been working with us since

September on a temporary basis and we are delighted that she will be staying.

We have also recently appointed two Educational Psychology Assistants, Jennifer Howitt and Siobhan Wilson.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming back Eilidh Lanzani and Ainsley McGoldrick from maternity leave this Summer.

We would appreciate any feedback or suggestions of things you would like to see included in the next newsletter.

New service website launched

We have recently launched our new service website.

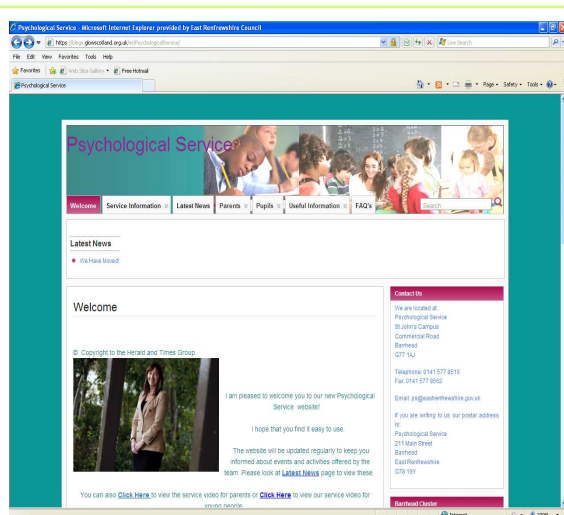
The website is parent friendly and we hope it helps alleviate any fears parents may have about their child being referred to our service.

It contains information on the service, information for parents and pupils as well as other useful information on Dyslexia, Autism and Behaviour.

You will be able to find our website via a Google search or you can find us at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/psychologicalservice>

If you have any suggestions or topics you would like added please get in touch.



Video Interaction Guidance

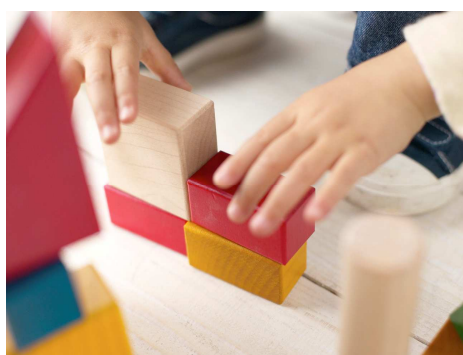
Several members of the team recently completed Video Interaction Guidance training (VIG). VIG is an intervention through which the 'guider' aims to enhance communication within relationships. It is based on the belief that people in troubled situations want to change. It engages clients actively in a process of change towards realising their own hopes for a better future in their relationships with others who are important to them. The client is guided to reflect on video clips of their own successful interactions and supports them to make changes. It is mostly used for interactions between children and their parents and/or children and their teachers.



"VIG aims to enhance communication within relationships"

We hope to be using this approach within East Renfrewshire schools and with families in the near future.

More information is available from the Association for Video Interaction Guidance (AVIG) website: <http://www.videointeractionguidance.net/>



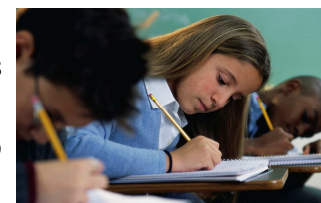
East Renfrewshire Waiting List for Autism Assessment Reduced

Psychological Services are supporting CHCP to reduce the East Renfrewshire waiting list for assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorders. The waiting list for pre-school assessment is on course to be wiped out. The team will be contacting primary schools shortly to begin working on reducing the primary school waiting list.

Attainment Gap Research

Attainment results have identified that some children and young people of Pakistani descent in the authority are underachieving in comparison to their peers from other ethnic backgrounds. As part of her final year university thesis, Jennifer Hunter (Trainee Educational Psychologist) is undertaking some research to begin to explore some of the factors that may be contributing to these outcomes. Jennifer has been gathering views and perspectives of key stakeholders

in the authority as to what they feel are the factors that contribute to success for these children and young people and the barriers and challenges faced by schools in trying to support their education and learning. Over the coming weeks, Jennifer will be continuing to speak to a range of people in order to build up a picture of the experience of education for these children and young people. For further information contact Jennifer.Hunter@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.




Dyslexia Guidelines Updated

Nick Smiley (Senior Educational Psychologist) and Jennifer Hunter (Trainee Educational Psychologist) have been working with the Dyslexia Strategy Group to update the Dyslexia Guidelines. They were updated to take account of the online Assessing Dyslexia Toolkit for Teachers <http://www.frameworkforinclusion.org/AssessingDyslexia/>. The new guidelines include an updated assessment section and more information about how to support children and young people identified as dyslexic. There is a dyslexia assessment profile/summary that all schools will now use to collate assessment information. Some amendments were made to the draft guidelines following consultation with the school Dyslexia Advisers' Forum. The guidelines have been approved by the SMT and are now available on the staff intranet. Psychological Services continue to offer training on the Assessing Dyslexia Toolkit for Teachers through the staff cpd website.

"We wanted to make the guidelines more practical and informative"

Nick Smiley (Senior Educational Psychologist)



Psychological Service Present at National Conference

Gavin Stalker (Depute Principal Educational Psychologist) and Nick Smiley (Senior Educational Psychologist) were guest speakers at the Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health national conference on 20 April 2012. Nick and Gavin highlighted the high quality practice of East Renfrewshire schools in supporting children and young people who have Childhood Autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

"How Good is our Learning Centre?"



"The tool has the potential to be used by practitioners and managers, alike, all with the aim of improving practice."

An audit tool has been developed by head teachers and practitioners of schools with experience of Learning Centres together with support from Psychological Service and the Quality Improvement Team. The tool has the potential to be used by practitioners and managers alike, all with the aim of improving practice.

Learning Centre staff can use the tool to evaluate and improve practice. Head teachers can adopt the tool when monitoring the work and the impact of Learning Centres in their own establishment. Head teachers and practitioners could also use the audit tool when making reciprocal visits agreeing in advance what themes or strands would be the focus of such visits.

It is not envisaged that the audit tool would be used in its entirety for this purpose; for example, a visit could focus on children's experiences, selecting those strands that particularly relate to this. Visits would help in sharing good practice and in maintaining a consistency of approach in Learning Centres across the authority. The authority may use the tool to support its own quality assurance as part of Support and Protection reviews. Familiarisation with the audit tool could promote understanding of the work of learning centres among staff who have not been trained in

the nurture approach.

The tool has five themes and provides good practice descriptors for each theme.

'How Good is Our Learning Centre?' has now been finalised and will be circulated soon.

Parent Workshops



In line with our ongoing commitment to supporting all parents and carers across the authority, the Psychological Service has successfully delivered parent workshops to over 2000 parents over the past 11 years.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that once again we will be delivering these workshops, which will be open to all parents of children and young people in East Renfrewshire. The course aims to promote positive parenting and to help parents develop better ways of dealing with their children. The workshops will provide an opportunity for parents to learn from each other in a friendly, supportive environment. The course will consist of 5 weekly sessions running in the Tuesday evenings of May.

Isobel Mair Parent Conference

The Psychological Service will be presenting at the parent conference on Saturday 26 May.

We will be providing information on Resilience to Stress. All parents are welcome to attend. For more information contact: ps@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

If you have any comments or suggestions for our newsletter please get in touch.

Psychological Service

We are now located at:

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We also have a brand new service website!

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/>

