

Children attending Funded Providers of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Outwith their Home Address Local Authority

Protocol for Provision of Educational Psychology Services (EPS)

**Funded Provider of ELC
seeking support for
INDIVIDUAL CHILD**

Request considered by the
the EPS of the local authority
where the child **LIVES**

**Funded Provider of ELC
seeking support for
DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING**

Request considered by the
EPS of the local authority the
FP is in **PARTNERSHIP WITH**

Referral / Request for Support Protocol

A small number of children access their funded ELC hours in a provision outwith their home address local authority. As with all children, these children are entitled to receive an educational psychology service as needed. As any involvement at this stage is likely to involve transition planning, the child's home authority's Educational Psychology Service (EPS) will take the lead on providing consultation, assessment and intervention as is appropriate for the child. In the case of split placements (families can choose to use their entitlement across more than one setting), again the EPS in which the child lives takes the lead. The lead EP may find it helpful to liaise with the EPS for the local authority in which the funded provider is situated. Each EPS will choose how they provide access to training, research and any other development work to funded providers who are in partnership with their own local authority.

Note: A Funded Provider of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) may be a private nursery, childminder, play group or other provider of ELC that is in 'partnership' with local authority to deliver funded ELC hours.

Relevant Policy and Legislation

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

- The Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) expansion, implemented in August 2021, made 1140 hours of ELC provision available annually to all 3 and 4 years olds, and eligible 2 years olds, known as their 'entitlement'⁽¹⁾.
- The expansion was designed to be 'provider neutral', using a 'Funding Follows the Child' model. This means parents and carers can choose to use their child's entitlement at any ELC provider that meets the national standard, has a place available, and is in contract with the local authority (in which they are situated). The choice of setting available to families is not restricted to their own local authority boundary, and it is expected that local authorities and funded providers do their best to grant requests if there are spaces available^[2].
- Guidance on the Funding Follows the Child model states its unlikely that a setting would need to apply to become a funded provider in more than one local authority. Good practice would be for local authorities to keep details of these arrangements and evidence of checks for suitability to be a funded provider centrally, alongside evidence of funded providers in their own area^[3].

TRANSITION AND SCHOOLS

- Most children and young people attend schools in a catchment area administered by the local authority where the child lives^[4].
- By law, education authorities must identify, provide for and review the additional support needs of their pupils. Almost all children and young people with additional support needs are educated in their local schools under the management of the education authority responsible for the area to which the child or young person belongs. This is the education authority for the area in which they usually reside with their parents^[5].
- The ASL Act dictates that planning for transition to school for children with additional support needs must begin at least 12 months in advance^[6].

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

- There is a statutory duty on every education authority in Scotland to provide a psychological service in their area^[7].
- The function of each psychological service is to provide consultation, assessment and intervention, training and research^[8].

References

- [1] <https://www.gov.scot/policies/early-education-and-care/early-learning-and-childcare/>
- [2] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/funding-follows-child-national-standard-early-learning-childcare-providers-operating-guidance-2/>
- [3] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/funding-follows-child-national-standard-early-learning-childcare-providers-operating-guidance-2/pages/6/>
- [4] <https://www.gov.scot/policies/schools/school-curriculum/>
- [5] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-childrens-learning-statutory-guidance-education-additional-support-learning-scotland/pages/5/>
- [6] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-childrens-learning-statutory-guidance-education-additional-support-learning-scotland/pages/7/>
- [7] Education (Scotland) Act 1980
- [8] Scottish Government, (2002). Currie Report: Review of Provision of Educational Psychology Services in Scotland. Association of Scottish Principal

LA Area Protocols and Contacts For Referring Children

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

If any organisation was planning to refer a child to EDC EPS they should direct their enquiry to the ASN manager (Martyn Cosh)

Martyn.Cosh@eastdunbarton.gov.uk who chairs the Early Years Community Assessment Team (EYCAT) which meets monthly. The appropriate referral forms and paperwork required, and the process of referral would be explained by the ASN manager on request.

GLASGOW CITY

Funded providers wishing to refer a child for EP support should use the forms and processes available from:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/glasgowpsychologicalservice/about-our-service/partnership-private-nurseries>

RENFREWSHIRE

Funded providers, who are not Renfrewshire based, wishing to have an initial discussion about a child for EP support should firstly ask the parent or carer of the child for permission to send details to Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Service. Once this is done, please send details of the child's initials, the main concerns, the zoned primary school and the Funded Provider contact name and phone number to:
REPS@renfrewshire.gov.uk

INVERCLYDE

Funded providers should contact Inverclyde Educational Psychology Service to discuss potential referrals:

Inverclyde EPS, c/o Inverclyde Academy,
Cumberland Road, Greenock.

Phone: 01475 715430.

Email: psychologicalservice@inverclyde.gov.uk.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Funded providers can request support from the Educational Psychology Service through the Early Years Intervention Group (EYIG) which meets on a monthly basis. Providers are advised to inform parents and carers of the function of the EYIG and the professionals who attend. More information and the online application form can be found at:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/public/eyig/uploads/sites/18690/2024/09/20164151/EYIG-leaflet-Oct-2022.pdf>

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Funded providers wishing to refer a child to WDC EPS should direct their enquiry to psoffice@west-dunbarton.gov.uk. Thereafter an EP will make contact to discuss early years processes.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE *note different protocol

South Lanarkshire will take referrals for any child in any partnership nursery based in South Lanarkshire. South Lanarkshire will not take referrals for children with a South Lanarkshire address, attending a partnership nursery in another authority. A contact address is provided, for general advice, including relating to SLC placement processes and timelines:
sam.march@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

NORTH LANARKSHIRE *note different protocol

In their role as host Authority North Lanarkshire Educational Psychology Service will consider referrals from North Lanarkshire Funded Providers who are supporting children who do not have a North Lanarkshire address. Contact with the Service can be made through
EducationalPsychology@northlan.gov.uk