

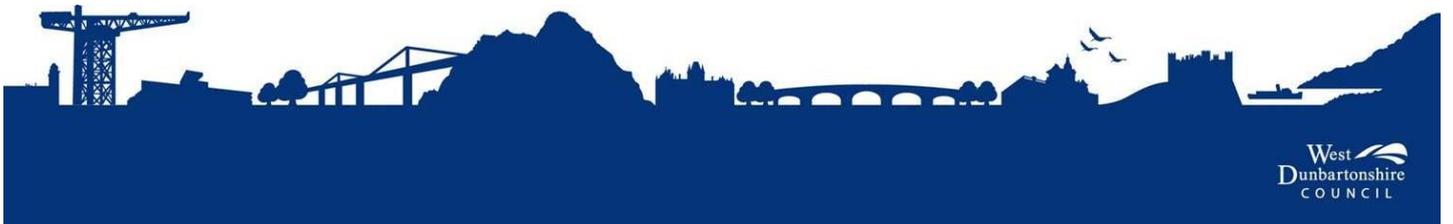
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE

Supporting children
and young people
to be:

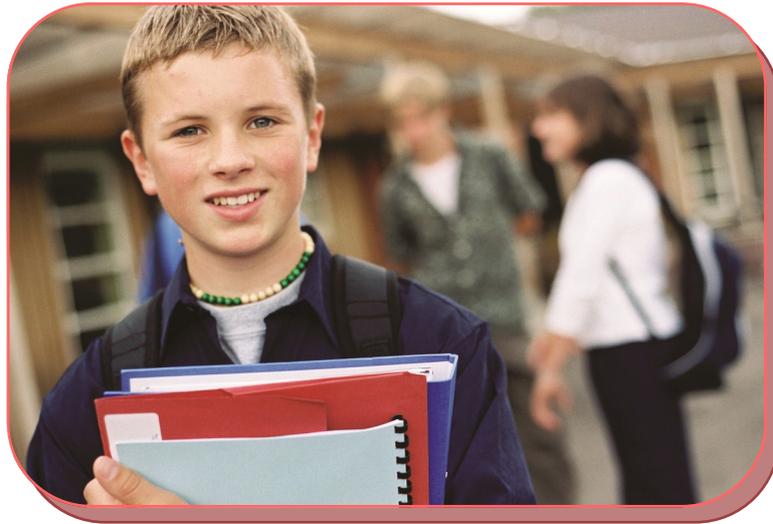
- Safe
- Healthy
- Active
- Nurtured
- Achieving
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

getting
it right
for every child

Getting It Right For Every Child



About the Psychological Service



The Educational Services' vision is to enable everyone in West Dunbartonshire to become

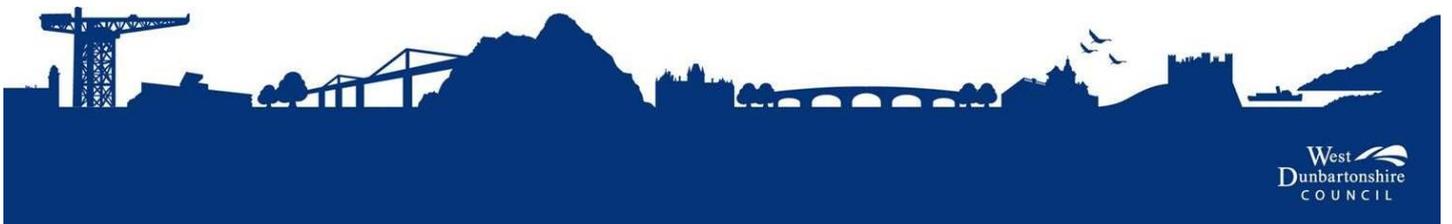
- **Successful learners**
- **Confident individuals**
- **Responsible Citizens**
- **Effective contributors**

Now and throughout their future lives

The Council provides a number of services that assist schools and early years' centres to achieve this vision.

The Psychological Services is one of these services. The Service sits within the Educational Services Department. It is a statutory provision for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years including those who have additional support needs.

The strategic purpose of the Psychological Service is to apply psychological knowledge, skills and expertise to contribute to the Council's strategic objectives and to meet the needs of children and young people in relation to their learning, behaviour and development. We seek solutions for children, young people and their families that build on their strengths and enable them to be successful and included in their community.



Core Tasks

The statutory basis of Psychological Services is very wide ranging. It is estimated that 1 in 5 children may have additional support needs at some point in their childhood and adolescence. These needs may arise from

- **the learning environment**
- **family circumstances**
- **the child's disabilities or health needs**
- **social and emotional difficulties**

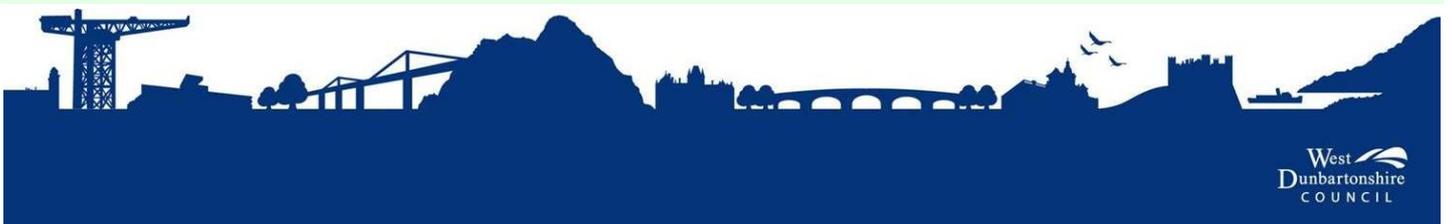
The Educational Psychologist is trained to deliver a service that has five core tasks:

Assessment and Intervention

This involves the assessment of the child or young person in the context of their family and home, their school and in the wider community. The Psychologist works collaboratively with all the key adults in a child's life. A wide range of activities and techniques are used with the aim of planning and enabling effective intervention to improve the individual's wellbeing.

Consultation and Advice

The Psychological Service offers consultation and advice in order to empower schools, Early Years Centres, parents and other agencies to develop action plans that support strengths and promote resilience in children and young people. Each school has a liaison psychologist to facilitate this process. The Service also advises the Education Department on the resource implications of a child or young person's additional support needs.



Core Tasks

Staff Development

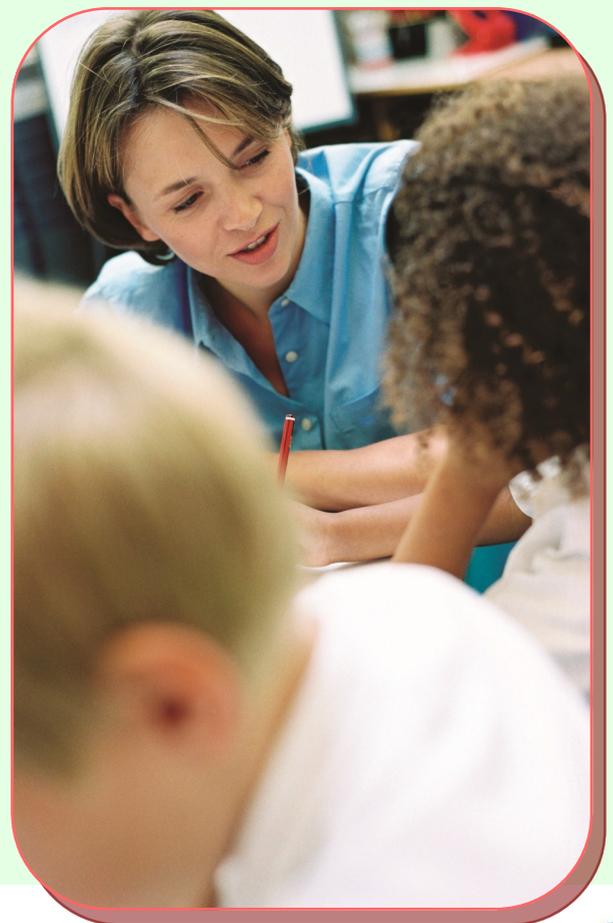
The Psychological Service supports the Education Department in the continuous professional development of its staff by regularly delivering training to school staff, early years staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to other agencies and to parents to help improve children's attainment, achievement and wellbeing.

Policy Development

The Psychological Service supports West Dunbartonshire Council by contributing to the development of policy relating to many aspects of provision for children and young people. Examples include contributing to Educational Services' Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing strategies and the Council's Autism Strategy and Parenting Strategy.

Research and Evaluation

Considerable research is undertaken by the Service in order to inform the Education Department or the Council on the effectiveness of new initiatives. For example evaluation of initiatives to improve the educational outcomes of pupils, evaluation of transition arrangements and evaluation of Nurture Groups.



Psychological Service

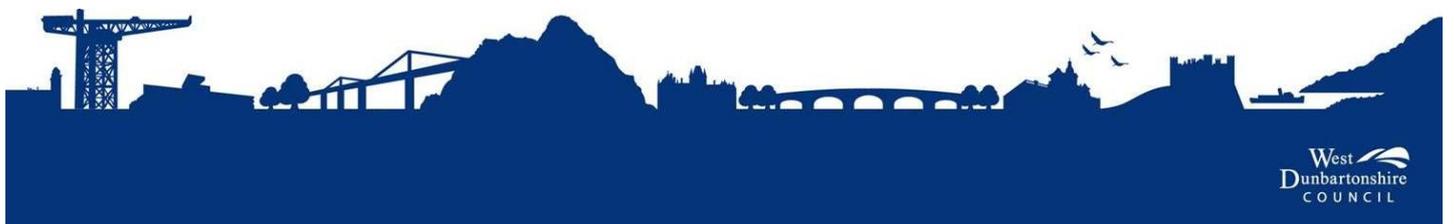
The Service is organised in one team based in Clydebank. The Team is managed by a Principal and a Depute Principal Psychologist.

The Service works closely with colleagues in social work and health to get it right for every child by improving the life chances for young people and their families.

The training of an Educational Psychologist takes at least 9 years and covers all aspects of child development and learning. Educational Psychologists require to be registered to practice with the Health & Care Professions Council (HPCP).

Educational Psychologists are expected to have:

- **Knowledge of child development;**
- **Knowledge of particular learning and/or social and emotional difficulties that can arise;**
- **Knowledge of a range of developmental conditions**
- **Knowledge of approaches to learning which enable children and young people to develop fully;**
- **Skills in the analysis of problems and in problem-solving at various levels: the child, the family, the school, the community;**
- **Skills in counselling and solution focused approaches;**
- **Skills in research and evaluation.**



Requests for Involvement

Requests for involvement can be made by schools, the Social Work department, Health Personnel and by parents/carers or young people themselves.

As the majority of requests for involvement come from schools and early years centres, each school or centre has an educational psychologist allocated to provide a regular visiting service. The amount of time allocated to each establishment is based on the school roll and the deprivation indicators normally used by the Council to denote greater need.

The Educational Psychologist and relevant staff of the school or centre annually negotiate and agree the service delivery priorities, which can include any of the core tasks such as consultation, assessment and intervention, staff development or research. A service delivery agreement is formalised each school session.

A Request for Involvement of the Educational Psychologist should normally be made by the school or early years centre, after securing consent from the parent/carer. Before a request for involvement is made the school or early years staff will normally have completed their own single agency assessment of the child or young person. Discussion with the Psychologist will identify the appropriate response e.g. Educational Psychologist participation in a child's planning meeting (either single or multi-agency), a consultation meeting with parents, training for staff, advice and support.

Parents/carers who wish to request the involvement of the psychologist should speak to the Head of their child's school or Early Years' Centre in the first instance. However parents/carers can contact the Service directly for advice.



Contact details

Further Information

For further information about the Psychological Service please contact:

Principal Educational Psychologist

Psychological Service

c/o Carleith Primary School

Stark Avenue

Duntocher

Clydebank

G81 6EF

Tel: 01389 800491

Fax: 01389 873693

Email: PSoffice@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

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