

**Children and Young People Committee**  
**“Reporting In” Review – Educational Psychology**

**Outline Scope**

<p><b>Scrutiny Chair:</b> Councillor Carol Clark</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny Link Officer:</b> Judy Trainer</p>
<p><b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Diane McConnell</p>
<p><b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b></p> <p>Council Plan Objective –</p>
<p><b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b></p> <p>The Educational Psychology Service in Stockton is a small team of staff who provide support for schools. They fulfil a statutory role in completing assessments as part of a child’s Educational Health and Care Plan. They support children with special educational needs in the Additionally Resourced Provisions. This work is funded through Dedicated Schools Grant and SBC funding. They also provide support to schools through training, advice and guidance and expertise around responding to children’s experiences of loss and anxiety. The service trades with schools through partnership agreements and raises income.</p> <p>The present Educational Psychology Service in Stockton has failed to recruit to vacant posts for a considerable amount of time. The service is able to cover its statutory work with assessments of children for Education Health and Care Plans. Due to the understaffing, however, it is unable to respond to the full demand from schools and is unable to contribute as widely as is wished to broader working with early support, health and family services.</p> <p>The review of SEN provision in Stockton which intends to revisit the Additionally Resourced Provision for children with special needs will be a further driver to reconsider the model of working for the EP service.</p> <p>This review is an opportunity to explore different service delivery models and propose new ways of working.</p>
<p><b>What are the key lines of enquiry:</b></p> <p>Drawing from best practice in other local authorities and research projects locally and nationally, how can the service be reshaped to better support outcomes for vulnerable children?</p> <p>How can the service be best positioned to enable recruitment of strong staff to the team?</p> <p>How can the service be best funded to enable it to work in a broader way in the Borough than just in statutory assessments – this would include in early support, family interventions and Future in Mind work across the school sector?</p>

**Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?**

Cabinet, service review board.

**Expected duration of review and key milestones:**

Scope – 13 July 2016  
Baseline – 16 November 2016  
Options and Recommendations – 22 March 2017  
Cabinet – 20 April 2017

**What information do we need?**

**(Background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):**

Reports of local and regional research;  
Examples of different models of service delivery locally and regionally;  
Government White paper on Educational Excellence Everywhere;  
Background information on the present service delivery model in Stockton– staffing levels, budget position, information on case loads, training and work with schools;  
Outcomes of the SEN consultation;  
Feedback from Early Help work;  
Feedback from service users.

**How will this information be gathered? (eg. Financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)**

Summary reports will be presented to the committee.  
Attendance at committee by council officers.  
Invitations to committee by service users including Headteachers.  
Survey outcome reports.

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:**

There are financial implications for the funding of the service with the possibility of reducing staff, externally commissioning the service or growing a more traded service.  
The opportunity to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families with more access to educational psychology expertise.