

# Context Statement

To accompany Job Description and Person Specification

Job title: Educational Psychologist

Directorate/service/team: Children's Services – Learning and Belonging

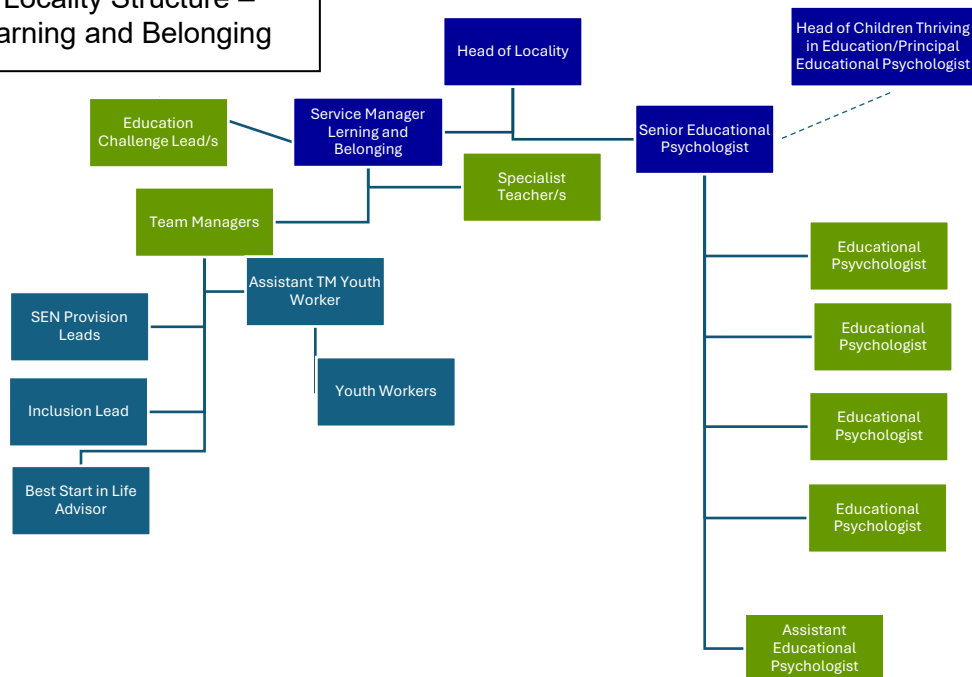
Grade: Soulbury EDPSY 4-9 (+3SPAs)

Location: Locality – to be confirmed

Reports to: Senior Educational Psychologist

## Organisational Structure

### Example Locality Structure – North Learning and Belonging



## Context of the Work

The role of an Educational Psychologist within a locality will be to work with a group of schools and the children and young people and their families who live within that area especially those from vulnerable groups.

The post-holder will support the Education and Early Help Team Manager (SENCO) to provide a Statutory Service that adheres to professional standards and practice. This could

be providing psychological advice as part of an education, health and care needs assessment in another locality if required due to the demands across Dorset Council.

A Locality based educational psychologist reports to the locality Senior Educational Psychologist who will provide both psychological and management supervision.

The role of an educational psychologist will be to develop strong partnerships with education settings and other colleagues and partner agencies to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups of children and young people (SEND, Children in Care [CiC], Children Missing Education [CME] and Children and Young people who experience EBSA) and their families within a locality area. The role will have a key aim of developing transparent and open mechanisms of communicating with schools and providers around their work.

An educational psychologist will provide consultation and supervision to other colleagues, such as SEND provision leads and social workers, working with children and young people from vulnerable groups to extend the skills and the capacity of other colleagues to deliver evidence-based practice and to develop practice based evidence approaches.

The role will be to provide activities and deliver a service that supports the Head of Locality and Strategy and Senior Educational Psychologist to implement strategic plans. Educational Psychologists with specific expertise and skills will be asked to deliver services and projects in other locality areas working across Dorset Council.

The role will be to work with the Senior Educational Psychologist and Service Manager Learning and Belonging within a locality to collaborate with key stakeholders to build capacity within education settings and the locality to meet the needs of children and young people from vulnerable groups.

#### Localities

- This post will work within one of the localities

#### Required Behaviours

Responsibility: We act with integrity. We are honest and we don't attribute blame when something goes wrong. We are all part of the solution.

We:

- give constructive feedback and seek out feedback on our own performance and behaviours
- deliver what we promise
- are open and transparent
- learn from mistakes
- take ownership
- stand by and support difficult decisions

**Respect:** We are aware of our impact on others. We treat people fairly and have high expectations of ourselves and others, and value differences in approaches and opinions. We instigate and lead through positive behaviour.

We:

- are welcoming and friendly
- adapt our approach to help build good working relationships
- recognise and value the differences between people, placing a positive value on those differences
- manage our reactions professionally and calmly
- keep promises
- demonstrate empathy and recognise alternative perspectives

**Recognition:** We appreciate and value the contribution of individuals and teams for work well done. We lead by taking time to provide feedback and share lessons learned and achievements to support the organisation's development. We celebrate commitment and success.

We...

- give positive feedback
- acknowledge good behaviour and respectfully challenge poor behaviour
- value every contribution in success
- create a positive team spirit

**Collaboration:** We work with colleagues, residents and partners to achieve the best possible outcomes. We feel confident to share ideas, we listen and respect other points of view and set this example to each other. We value the power in combining our personal qualities, skills and experience to achieve a shared goal.

We...

- spend time building positive relationships
- are flexible in our attitude and approach
- share information and expertise without being asked to
- invite and support others to try new possibilities
- work through conflict to create conditions for successful working
- work to find the simplest way to do things
- work together, not in competition

#### Service Information

The Educational Psychology Service delivers a core service providing psychological advice for children and young people as part of an Education, Health and Care Needs assessment, solution focused consultation to improve outcomes for children and young people with vulnerabilities, and psychological frameworks to multidisciplinary working practices. The purpose of the Educational Psychology Service is to apply psychological models and theories that are a barrier to a child or young person developing and learning and collaborate with stakeholders to overcome these drawing on research and evidence-based practice. The Educational Psychology Service adheres to quality standards and expects all educational psychologists to comply with HCPC registration and must understand the



theoretical basis of, and the variety of approaches to, consultation and assessment in educational psychology.

## Our Mission

### Our mission

- Children in Dorset thrive, are happy and are the very best that they can be.
- We inspire and enable children, young people and their families to find solutions that enable them to develop sustainable, safe and secure relationships with each other and within their community.
- We listen and act so that the voices of children and families is at the heart of everything we do.
- We work together to collaboratively shape, support and develop communities

### Our vision is that we want to

- Shift our efforts to early help
- Get it right first time
- Work to meet need, rather than manage threshold
- Co-produce services with families

### Therefore, our approach will be:

- Collaborative – we want to work with our communities, not do things for or to them
- Strength based – we work with people, building relationships and resilience by focusing on strengths not problems and preservation of family and community
- Restorative – we want to stop harm and repair relationships

We want to fundamentally change our model of service delivery to one which has the following design principles:

- Children, young people and families will be central to everything we do – their voices will codesign services and drive their plans.
- We will focus on getting it right first time proactively providing early help as needs arise
- Our services will be rooted in communities, be easy to access, and delivered by multi professional teams.
- We will provide good quality, efficient services that reduce bureaucracy for staff and families and reduce 'hand offs' between professionals.
- We will measure our success on how we have made life better for children and young people
- We will operate one children's services leadership approach based on trust, accountability, and valuing employees. Our skilled and confident workforce will be well trained, supported and enabled to take decisions and operate effectively within a clear accountability structure.
- We will always learn and strive to improve so we can deliver better outcomes for children and young people

- We will be digital by default and deliver services only where we are required by law, and where we can do this more effectively and more efficiently than anyone else

Travel Requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the county council) to be available on most working days to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period.

Other Information

The postholder will require to work evenings and weekends as required to deliver marketing and training events.

Context statement prepared by:	Miriam Leigh		
Designation:	Head of Children Thriving in Education/Principal Educational Psychologist	Date:	02/01/2025

