|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Department of Children’s Services  Educational Psychology Team  Floor 5  Margaret McMillan Tower  Princes Way  Bradford  BD1 1NN  Tel: (01274) 439444  Email: ruth.dennis@bradford.gov.uk  Date: 25th July 2023 |
|  |
|  |  |

Dear colleague,

**Re: Educational Psychology Support 2023 - 24**

I am writing to let you know about the support available to you from Bradford Educational Psychology Team in 2023 - 24.

We are looking forward to working with you again this year and continue to offer a range of statutory and pre-statutory services to ensure children and young people gain maximum benefit from their time in education.

You may or may not be aware, but there is a national shortage of Educational Psychologists (EPs). Working with the Local Authority, we are confident that we have made Bradford an attractive place to for EPs to work, but despite this we are still carrying a number of vacancies. This combined with the sustained and unprecedented rise in requests for Education Health and Care Assessments, has resulted in the local Authority requisitioning a greater proportion of available sessions than normal, meaning there is reduced capacity for schools and other customers.

In order to manage this fairly, we have applied an equal reduction to all bookings, meaning you will receive just under 75% of the sessions requested in your original order.

The actual number of sessions you will get, the revised invoice and your named EP will be sent out separately. We will also send our ‘Schedule and Mandatory Policies’ document. This document outlines the expectations of both EPT and school. Please familiarise yourself with the content of this document to ensure you get the most out of your booked time.

We will be recruiting again in early September and should we be successful, additional capacity will become available. Any additional sessions will be offered at a maximum of 6 per term and will be available to book via the Skills4Bradford website: <http://skills4bradford.co.uk/>

Please remember that EP hub consultation sessions area available in your area. These sessions enable you to seek advice from an EP in relation to concerns about a young person or situation in school. Up to two consultations are fully funded for maintained schools, enabling you to seek advice from an EP as and when you need it. Any bookings by non-maintained settings or beyond the two funded consultations will be charged at £150 per consultation.

Information about the EP hub sessions is available on Bradford Schools Online <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/ep-early-help-hubs> and bookings can be made directly via the Skills4Bradford website: <http://skills4bradford.co.uk/>.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the material on our Bradford Schools Online area designed to help in the event of a critical incident. It would be useful for a senior member of staff to familiarise themselves with this documentation as many settings have benefited from reflecting on their potential responses and being ‘wise before the event’.

The following documents are also available on the EPT area on Bradford Schools Online. It would help if Sencos familiarise themselves with the contents of these documents at the beginning of the new term before beginning work with their Educational Psychologist or accessing the EP Early Help hub sessions.

* Parent – Carer / Student Consent Form
* Making the most of your Early Help Consultation
* Educational Psychology Traded Services Brochure 2023- 4

If you have any questions or queries about the content of this letter, please contact me on 01274 439444

Yours sincerely



Dr Ruth Dennis

Principal Educational Psychologist

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bradford Council SEND Local Offer  Description: Description: Description: N:\ES\SEN Services\SEN Team\Secure\Statement\Sarah Pawson Local Offer\LOGOS\LO.png | To find out more about Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the Bradford district, please refer to our Local Offer website where you can find information, advice, services and activities all in one place which can be found at <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/> alternatively if you would like a copy of the Local Offer pocket booklet please call Families Information Service on 01274 01274 434905. |