

## Context statement

To accompany job description and person specification when required

**Job title:** Principal Educational Psychologist  
**Grade:** Soulbury SCP12-15equivalent to G16  
**Hours:** 37 per week  
**Contract:** Permanent

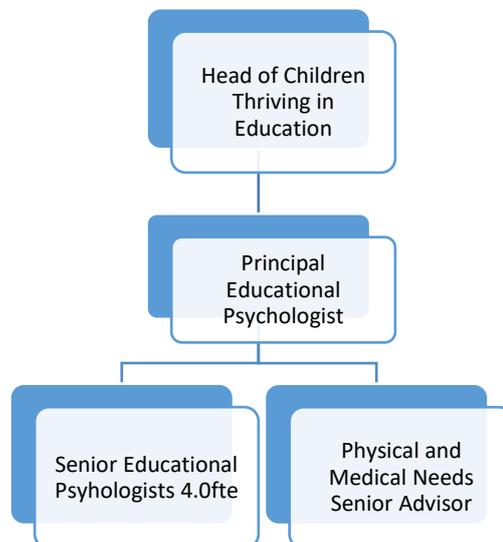
### Purpose and impact

This position will be responsible for the practise leadership and supervision of the Educational Psychology Team that deliver services for children and families within the Directorate. This role provides strategic leadership, development, and supervision for the work of all psychologists and specialist teachers in localities contributing to the graduated approach offer.

Working with central, locality teams and partners the role provides strategic direction for educational inclusive provision, whole school approaches in improving outcomes for children and young people who have different needs.

The wider remit of the post will hold an overview of work to support children with SEND and emotional wellbeing across the directorate.

### Organisation structure



### Context of the Work

The post holder will be responsible for the performance and practice of educational They will be responsible for the timeliness of psychological advice and ensuring there is an effective quality assurance process in place. They will lead and work with the senior educational psychologists to quality assure the practice of educational psychologists and specialist teachers to ensure there is equity of service and we are providing a transparent needs led offer which improves children's outcomes.



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**The role will evidence progress against the following key areas:**

### **SEND Delivery Plan**

The post holder will be responsible for providing regular reports to Dorset SEND Partnership Board on the impact of practice and specific projects aligned with the SEND delivery plan priorities specifically in relation to early identification and inclusion.

The post holder will be the lead for the implementation and evaluation of the graduated approach and ordinarily available provision to develop inclusive practice in Dorset schools. This will include leading on the implementation of such projects such as the VSEND tool using it to inform targeted support and embedding evidence-based practice. This will include working with Dorset Parent Carer Council, young people, education settings and partners as well as working within the Dorset Thrive locality model.

The post holder will work with the special schools and learning centres to deliver outreach that is consistent and shares the same approach as Dorset services. They will collaborate with the Head of Service Education, Health and SEND Commissioning to evaluate and provide reports to the Outreach Partnership Board and other partnership meetings when requested.

The post holder will collaborate and work with commissioning and capital assets to develop sufficiency of provision working with special school leaders and mainstream schools. They will be a systems leader for sharing good practice and facilitating and brokering relationships across the partnership to develop inclusion aligned with SEND priority 2. They will work with the special school schools to develop an effective admissions process and lead and chair admissions panel meetings. They will be responsible for sharing data set which can be used to inform sufficiency planning.

### **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health**

The post holder will be the lead for emotional health and wellbeing in schools and settings working in partnership with NHS Dorset and Dorset Healthcare. They will be responsible for leading on the implementation of evidence-based practice and work in collaboration with locality practitioners and Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. For example they will lead the development of a strategy and plan for Emotionally Based School Avoidance. They will lead educational psychologists and specialist teachers to deliver training and provide supervision and coaching to school and locality practitioners. This will include being the lead for Critical Incident and Sad event support to schools and settings when needed.

They will work in collaboration with and take the lead from the Head of Children Thriving in Education to meet the emotional health needs of Children in Care and quality assure commissioning of any external providers. They will contribute to the Corporate Parenting Board and informal Corporate Parenting Board to ensure we are hearing and responding to the voice of our children and young people.



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### Physical and Medical Needs

The post holder will be responsible for supporting and leading the work of the senior advisor. They will be accountable for ensuring the accessibility strategy is implemented and reviewed. They will work with the senior advisor to make funding decisions about providing support and equipment for children with physical and medical needs.

### Other duties

- The post-holder will contribute to the development of strong partnerships with schools, Police, NHS, voluntary and community sector and other local stakeholders to develop a place-based approach to promote the safety, well-being and achievement of children and young people in their locality.
- To work as a member of a senior leadership team within allocated areas responsible for the joint delivery of identified outcomes for vulnerable adults, children, young people and their families.
- To deliver and manage a range of services efficiently and effectively in accordance with Directorate policy and procedures.
- To deputise for Head of Children Thriving in Education and other appropriate Heads of Service
- To identify required strategic outcomes and to plan and oversee the implementation of programmes to deliver services and meet identified performance targets
- To monitor service delivery in relation to identified performance measures and to plan and deliver performance improvements where required.
- To monitor and manage allocated budgets.
- To provide the leadership to several services/professionals regarding their specific area of operational service delivery.
- To be responsible for taking professional decisions on complex matters within appropriate timescales.
- To provide a clear line of governance regarding decision making on high risk and complex case issues and to escalate as appropriate.
- To write reports, work plans, and service plans as and when required Education and SEND Partnership Board as well as service leadership meetings
- To lead and/or relevant leadership and management meetings as required.
- To manage delegated budgets effectively and efficiently in line with the authority's scheme of cost centre management and delegation.
- To ensure that there is compliance with health and safety in allocated service areas.
- To provide strategic leadership.
- Undertaking any lesser or comparable duties as identified.

This role holds line management for the senior educational psychologists and the Physical and Medical Needs senior advisor.

NB: The duties and responsibilities of this post are not restrictive, and the post holder may be required on occasion to undertake other duties. This will not substantially change the nature of the post.



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### **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 in order 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**

This post involves working with children and/or vulnerable adults and/or having access to significant information about them. It will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check. See our [policy on the employment of ex-offenders](#).

The post holder will have a substantive base but there will be a requirement for them to work in an agile manner across the County. There will be an expectation that they are available for in-person meetings and are visible and available to their teams.

Additionally, there is an expectation that they will be available outside of the normal working hours to manage complex situations where their advice, guidance or a decision is being sought. This is a role where there is a high expectation of commitment and flexibility from all managers at this level.

The post holder will be required to work flexibly and be available for work across the working week. May be required to attend evening meetings, to participate in duty and cover systems. They may be required to respond to urgent resilience calls and emergency situations out of hours.

### **Supervision and management**

Reporting to: Head of Children Thriving in Education

