SEND DISTRICT TEAMS

(Educational Psychology, Specialist Teachers, Specialist Practitioners)

SCHOOL/SETTING

TIME ALLOCATION
Cambridgeshire Context – Educational Psychology (EP)

Most Local Authorities offer a traded Educational Psychology (EP) service for all non-statutory work. This means that schools and settings buy their EP time directly from the Local Authority. Some schools buy a lot of time and some schools buy very little.

In Cambridgeshire we do things differently

- Cambridgeshire Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) District Team want to reduce the barriers to accessing our services and encourage schools to support children and young people with SEND as early as possible. We know that early intervention has the greatest impact and follows the requirement of the Children and Families Act (CFA) 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015.

- In Cambridgeshire our access to educational psychologists is funded directly by the Local Authority (LA) and is free to our schools. This means that we can ensure that all LA maintained schools and academies receive some support from an educational psychologist.

- Each new academic year (September) we calculate the amount of time (Time Allocation) each school/setting gets using set criteria which includes the size of school, SEN population and the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDAQI).

- The aim of this time is to provide schools with support around early intervention, training and whole school support, and to enable schools to adhere to the graduated approach within the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

- The amount of time available for the schools ‘Time Allocation’ depends on the number of EPs we have and the amount of statutory work that is undertaken. As a result of this, ‘Time Allocation’ may change from year to year and may need to be changed during the year.

- Cambridgeshire complies with the CFA legislation for deciding when to request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA).
As well as keeping the ‘Time Allocation’ free at the point of delivery, Cambridgeshire has removed a threshold model for receiving SEND District support. If a school is concerned about the progress of a child/young person they can use their hours to explore this further with their link members of the SEND District Team.

Specialist Teachers (STs)

- Specialist Teachers work within the SEND District Team and work closely with our EPs and Specialist Practitioners (SPs)

- Each new academic year (September) we calculate the amount of time (Time Allocation) each school/setting gets using criteria including: the size of school, SEN population and the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDAI). The aim of this time is to provide schools with support around early intervention, training and strategic support and to enable schools to adhere to the graduated approach within the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

- The amount of time available for the schools ‘Time Allocation’ depends on the number of ST’s we have and the statutory needs of the teachers and may change from year to year.

Specialist Practitioners (SPs)

- Specialist Practitioners work alongside the EPs and STs.

- Their time is not allocated in the same way but is used on a ‘needs led’ basis

- SPs are involved in providing direct individual and group support to children/young people both in settings and in the home.