

Educational Psychology Workforce Survey 2012

Briefing paper

Introduction

The Teaching Agency will launch an England-wide survey of the Educational Psychology workforce on 10 September 2012. The survey will close on 5 October 2012, giving respondents four weeks to complete a return. The data will be analysed and a report of the findings will be published by 30 November 2012.

Background to the survey

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned an annual Educational Psychology (EP) workforce survey since 2009. Surveys were previously undertaken on its behalf by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). Since April 2012, responsibility for the survey has transferred to, the Teaching Agency, an Executive Agency of the DfE.

Purpose of the 2012 survey

The survey has three main aims:

1. To capture the current demographics of the Educational Psychology workforce.
2. To identify the context and types of services in which Educational Psychologists are working.
3. To compare the results with past years and identify trends, highlight emerging issues and inform future planning.

The findings from the 2011 survey were used to inform a [national review of Educational Psychology training](#), published by DfE in November 2011.

All of the recommendations in the review were accepted by Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and Families, including that “*regular EP workforce surveys to inform supply and demand*” should continue.

In March 2012, DfE established a National Steering Group for the training of Educational Psychologists, with representation from the profession, professional bodies, employers (including Directors of Children's Services), trainees, regulatory bodies, union and parents. The National Steering Group is supporting the implementation of the review recommendations, including the 2012 workforce survey. Later in the year the steering group will consider the survey's results, as it advises the government on the role of Educational Psychologists and its associated training .

Survey audience

The survey is targeted at employers of Educational Psychologists in both the public and private sector. Local Authorities are by far the biggest employers of Educational Psychologists, so in the first instance the survey will be sent to all Principal Educational Psychologists (PEPs). The Teaching Agency is working with representatives of the Association of Child Psychologists in Private Practice (AChiPPP) to identify private and independent employers.

Content and format of the survey

The survey is split into four key sections as below:

1. The Team (*focusing on workforce demographics, for example FTE, headcount, number of males / females employed*).
2. Commissioning and funding (*investigating current commissioning and funding of EP services*).
3. Service delivery (*investigating the types of settings EP's are currently working in*).
4. The future (*which asks respondents how they expect EP services to be commissioned and funded over the next year*).

Contact for further information / queries

For further information about the survey, please contact:
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