

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

1. Children's Services Procurement – Approval to Spend (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology)

- 1.1. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology (HIEP) provides psychological advice as an input into the production of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- 1.2. The average demand for input into EHCPs per month has risen from just under 150 per month in 2019 to 225 written advice per month in 2022, with increased demand expected in 2023 and beyond.
- 1.3. There is a national shortage of Educational Psychologists and only a limited number are trained each year. The locum market is limited, and few providers are able to provide in bulk. The market rate for locum EPs has increased in recent years, and currently stands at around £1,100 to £1,200 per written advice.
- 1.4. It is not possible to recruit enough Educational Psychologists to the service, due to the national shortage, and the service is reliant on the use of locum Educational Psychologists, who typically provide psychological advice remotely to meet increased statutory demand.
- 1.5. Expenditure on locum Educational Psychologists within the service over the past three years has been: £1,558K (22/23), £991K (21/22) and £789K (20/21).
- 1.6. At their decision day on the 11 July 2023, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved to spend up to the value of £3,348,000 over a five year period for the commissioning of locum Educational Psychologists to support the production of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Further details can be found at the link(s) below:

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services - 11 July 2023 Decision Day](#)

COUNCILLOR EDWARD HERON
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services