

**Principal Psychologist’s Report on the Arrangements for When Training has Finished and the Financial Implications.**

**Number of Educational Psychologists at Present**

Psychologist	Total time	Time in schools	Time in Anglesey	Time in Gwynedd
Principal psychologist	1.0	0.1	0.1	-
Senior psychologist	0.2	-	-	-
Senior psychologist	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.7
Psychologist	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
Psychologist	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3
Trainee psychologist	1.0	0.3	-	0.3
total	6.9	4.9	1.8 (37%)	3.1 (63%)

**Proposed Plan for the Future**

This is the plan we were considering for the new system in Gwynedd, before Anglesey came into the negotiations.

Principal psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
total	7.0

With Anglesey taking part in the system, this would increase to the following.

Principal psychologist	1.0
Specialist senior psychologist	1.0
specialist senior psychologist	1.0
Specialist senior psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
total	10.0

## **Other Services**

As we have discussed, educational psychologists have the skills to be able to contribute in a number of areas other than working with children directly in schools, including the areas below.

### **1. Training for individual schools or clusters of schools**

Where the need for training in a particular area arises through the psychologist consulting with the school, and she arranges this locally with, sometimes, the support of other team members

### **2. Training at the level of the authority**

Where the authority arranges for the Educational Psychology Service to provide more formal training, on matters concerning ALN, including learning difficulties, behavioural difficulties, varieties of techniques and ways of working, the results of research in the area, etc.

### **3. Working with the education officers**

In developing more strategic arrangements involving provision and arrangements for ALN, and when considering complex individual cases.

### **4. Conducting research**

Following work to discover new information, for example how effective a given type of provision or intervention is, compared to others.

### **5. Producing Materials**

There is a lack of assessment tools in particular, especially in the Welsh language.

### **6. Attending training**

In order to ensure we keep up with developments in the field, to inform our daily work, and to be the basis of training we can then give to others. It is also necessary according to the national regulations for educational psychologists that we keep up to date with our skills and ways of working.

### **7. Working together with other agencies**

There are regular meetings with agencies such as CAMHS, Derwen/SCS, Speech and Language Therapy, the Offending Team, and there is some co-operation with these with individual cases and on other matters

### **8. Recent local developments**

Gwynedd Authority, now working together with Anglesey, have already made plans which give more responsibilities to psychologists, especially through working together with specialist teachers in areas such as Early Years, Cognition and Learning, Language, Speech and Communication, Behaviour, Emotional and Social, Sensory, Physical and Medical.

### **9. Proposed national developments**

The education authority will have responsibility for making arrangements for Additional Learning Needs for a broader range of children and young people during the next few years, including children and young people up to the age of 25yrs, and Further Education colleges.

## **The Number of Psychologists for the Future**

These figures suggest that we will need four new psychologists to ensure this level of service.

Advertisements could be made for the time these arrangements come into being.

Should this be, which seems unlikely, after September 2017, the time the two psychologists we are supporting finish their course, we would be able to interview them and any other appropriate applicants for these posts. We are now aware of Welsh-speaking psychologists who may be interested.

If the new arrangements come into being before this date, I suggest that we consider interviewing the two who are in Cardiff for these posts

It would then be possible to employ them from September 2017, of fill only two posts and interview them again closer to the time they finish in the University.

**Gareth Payne March 2016**