

# Joint Working With Educational Psychology Service



In Clackmannanshire, Social Workers and Education staff are part of the People Directorate. This means we work very closely with our colleagues in Educational Psychology. Our Educational Psychologists (EPs) can provide advice and consultation to our foster carers. They operate a Phone Consultation Line every weekday morning (9.30-12pm, 01259 226 000) in term time and also attend various meetings that are held to help plan and review supports in place for children and young people (usually referred to as 'TACs' or Team Around The Child meetings or Looked After Children Reviews). Our EPs also offer an Intensive Therapeutic Service where they can deliver Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy for children and young people where the impact of post-traumatic symptoms are having a significant impact on their education. A variety of training is provided by our EPs, including over 50 e-modules on a range of topics on the Council's online training platform, Clacks Academy. Our EPs also recently supported the running of a book group with some of our foster carers and social workers looking at the new book by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey called 'What Happened to You'. Future book groups are planned to continue this learning.

*... (I) see it as such an investment for the future as if you can equip us, as foster carers, with more skills it will lighten your workload in the years to come. Very enlightened, really.*

Quote from a Foster Carer who attended the book group, November 2021

Our EPs are trainers in Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model in Education, which underpins the Council's trauma-informed approach to closing the poverty-related attainment gap, Readiness for Learning (R4L) and they have trained all our schools and other staff within wider Council teams in this.

Our EPs are also very involved in the 'Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks' transformation project which aims to improve the range and quality of mental health supports available for children, young people and their families in Clackmannanshire. This includes a new Directory of Support website that you can access at <http://bit.ly/3BPzwHU> which contains information and supports for a range of mental health difficulties. This includes information on how to access the four digital mental health services available across Clackmannanshire that can provide support wherever and whenever it is required.

