

Job Title:	Principal Educational Psychologist
Team/Service Area:	Education
Salary/Grade:	Soulbury Scale B Points Range 9-12 + up to 3 SPAs
Line Manager:	Strategic Lead SEND
Direct Reports:	Senior Educational Psychologist, Educational Psychologists and Business Support Staff
Location:	Bunny Hill (or any other TfC establishment as directed) / hybrid working

About the Role

The Principal Educational Psychologist will provide strategic leadership, professional oversight and operational management of Together for Children Sunderland's Educational Psychology Service.

Working closely with the Senior Educational Psychologist and reporting to the Strategic Lead SEND, the postholder will provide strong leadership to prepare for and deliver Expert at Hand systems aligned to national legislation, maintaining statutory advice functions, supporting traded service activity, contributing to SEND and Inclusion priorities, and ensuring the service remains responsive, financially viable and focused on improved outcomes.

The postholder will work collaboratively with regional partners, universities, and PEP colleagues to ensure the service remains at the forefront of national developments. A key priority will be supporting consistent approaches to the recruitment, training, and retention of Educational Psychologists, including increasing the number of Trainee Educational Psychologists undertaking the doctoral training programme.

The Principal Educational Psychologist will oversee the design and delivery of an ambitious, high-quality CPD programme that responds to the needs of service users and children and young people with SEND and other disabilities, while fostering staff development, career progression and strong staff satisfaction throughout a period of transformational change.

This role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore requires a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead, manage and provide strategic direction to maintain an effective Educational Psychology Service for children and young people aged 0–25 years with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.
- Provide leadership for service transformation, including the development of robust infrastructure aligned with SEND Reform and local SEND and Inclusion priorities.
- Plan and provide a strategic voice regarding leadership of the delivery of psychological interventions associated with national SEND reforms including the Experts at Hand initiative.
- Ensure high-quality and timely psychological advice for Education, Health and Care needs assessments, and support effective engagement with appeal-related activity.
- Develop integrated and holistic models of consultation, assessment, intervention and training across locality clusters, Family Hubs and wider partnership arrangements.
- Manage recruitment, supervision, professional development and performance systems for Educational Psychologists and relevant support staff.
- Plan, organise, implement and review service resources and systems to maintain standards, secure value for money and support a financially viable traded service offer.
- Represent the Educational Psychology Service at strategic meetings, TfC panels and multi-agency partnerships, communicating effectively with partners, stakeholders and service users.
- Build and maintain effective relationships with universities and regional partners to support training placements, workforce development and longer-term recruitment.
- Provide expertise in psychologically informed practice, emotional wellbeing, mental health, early years inclusion and post-16 transition and employment initiatives.
- Design and manage an ambitious CPD programme throughout the Service.
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Champion equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of work and the communities you assist.

Our Expectations

You must undertake this role in accordance with the requirements set out below:

- Maintain registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and comply with relevant professional standards for educational psychology practice.
- Comply with Together for Children's Code of Conduct, People policies and procedures, Health and Safety Policy and EDI Statement.

- Uphold all relevant professional policies, standards and legislative requirements
- Adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles in relation to the management and handling of personal and/or sensitive information and respect the privacy of personal information managed by Together for Children Sunderland.
- Comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- This position is a politically restricted post as identified by Together for Children Sunderland and in accordance with The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (LGHA).
- Follow Together for Children Sunderland's information security standards.

This job description is a guide to the duties you will be expected to perform. It is not an exhaustive list, and you may be required to undertake other tasks and duties not listed that are reasonably commensurate with the job role and grade of the post. Where a fundamental change to the job description is needed this will be discussed with the postholder prior to any changes being made

Date: August 2026

