

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Child and Educational Psychology Service



What is a Child and Educational Psychologist?

We are often called a 'CEP' for short– it's easier to say.
A CEP is a qualified psychologist who works for Cheshire West and Chester Council.

All CEPs have specialist training in:

- How Children and young people develop and learn
- Helping adults and children bring about positive change



Cheshire West
and Chester



What Is Group Consultation?

This is when Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENDCo's) from different Schools and a Child and Educational Psychologist come together to discuss children's needs and then engage in some joint problem solving around what might help to develop and Action Plan.

Muchenje and Kelly (2021) describe it a "A group which provides a clear facilitated structure for group discussion, with a primary aim of supporting problem solving". Farouk (2004) points out the advantages of drawing on the expertise of professionals from other settings, as they can bring new knowledge and experiences that might not otherwise have been accessible.

During the Consultation, children and young people will be discussed only using their first name or as , for example, "Year 4 girl" or "Reception class child". Ground rules will be established at the beginning of the Group Consultation and it will be made very clear to all attending that what is discussed in the group is confidential.

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Why have I been asked for my child to be discussed?

Sometimes children and young people don't make as much progress as we might wish at school.

Schools will try different things to help but, if they feel a bit stuck about what to do, they can ask a Parent or Carer for consent to discuss their concerns at a Group Consultation.

In summary, working together in this way helps to generate an Action Plan which will hopefully result in a child or young person being happier and more successful in School.



CONFIDENTIAL

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Consent and record keeping

School will ask you to complete a consent form and they will keep a copy of it with your child's school records.

Before the Group Consultation meeting, the SENDCo will complete a form to help them remember all the information they want to share about your child during the meeting. They will ask for your views too.

This will include things such as, their strengths and areas of interest, as well as the things they are having difficulty with.

As a result of the Group Consultation, the SENDCo adds more information to the form, such as:

- Ideas they think will be useful
.....
- Actions they are going to take
.....
- How they will let you know about the actions
.....

Again, this form is just for school's use and will not be shared with anyone else. It will be kept on your child's school record.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your School SENDCo in the first instance.