



LAMBETH 
ELSA

SUPERVISION & REGISTRATION

ELSAS ARE WORKING WITH SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AND SOMETIMES CHALLENGING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS. FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY AND THAT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEY ARE SUPPORTING, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ELSAS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SPECIALISED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT THAT ENABLES THEM TO REFLECT ON THE QUALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE ASSISTANCE THEY ARE OFFERING.

WHAT IS AN ELSA?

In Lambeth, the title of ELSA is only recognised to legitimately apply to those who have undertaken the designated Certificate training with Lambeth Educational Psychology Service and continue to receive regular supervision from educational psychologists

Once the Certificate course is completed the ELSA's name will be put onto Lambeth's ELSA register and you can legitimately be recognised and call yourself an ELSA. However going forward- to maintain Registration and ELSA status you **must be in receipt of regular supervision from educational psychologists**. This is key in helping the ELSA deliver their role effectively and ethically.

Schools need to have due regard to the skills and competence of the ELSA and not be asking them to work beyond their competence. EPs may also advise further discussion with line manager when a young person's needs seem to be beyond the skills and competence of an ELSA and require more specialist support.

WHO SHOULD SUPERVISE ELSAS?

As ELSAs are employed directly by schools, they should receive management supervision from a nominated member of staff. This may be the SENCo or another manager within the school.

The line manager is responsible for supporting ELSAs in their day-to-day work by ensuring that they have designated time for planning and delivery, a suitable space in which to work with children, and a budget for purchasing resources appropriate to their work. The line manager will also liaise with the ELSA about children in need of support, and help other staff to be aware of the role of the ELSA within school.

It is the responsibility of the line manager to ensure that ELSAs are released from other responsibilities to attend training and supervision. In addition, because of the nature of their work, ELSAs also need regular access to professional supervision with educational psychologists. EPs are responsible not only for initial training but also the ongoing professional development and support of ELSAs. The principal means of providing continuing support is through local supervision groups facilitated by EPs.

SCHOOL LINK EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

In addition to group supervision twice a term, We encourage ELSAs to seek individual consultation with the school's link EP if they are uncertain of how to proceed in a particular case or with respect to a specific issue that ought not to be left until the group next meets. Since ELSAs are known to be supporting youngsters with complex emotional needs, best practice is for link EPs to have some regular contact with ELSAs in the course of school visits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF AN ELSA DOES NOT ATTEND SUPERVISION?

You **do not** have to register but you will **no longer** be able to call yourself an ELSA and your name will be removed from Lambeth's ELSA Register.

To maintain their registration and use the ELSA title, ELSAs are required to demonstrate that they are receiving regular supervision/CPD- once every half term with an Educational Psychologist

The EPs facilitating the groups keep a register of attendance. ELSA attendance is then recorded centrally to ensure that they are receiving adequate professional support. Inevitably there will be occasions when, for reasons beyond their control, an ELSA is unable to attend a group supervision session. In such circumstances, apologies should be sent to the facilitating EP. If non-attendance is noticed to be a regular occurrence, the link EP will be asked to make enquiries of the school and attempt to rectify the situation.

Where there is more than one ELSA in a school and releasing two or more people at the same time creates difficulties for the school, the EP service will be happy to allocate the ELSAs concerned to different groups.

If an ELSA chooses to discontinue attending supervision meetings or is prevented by the school from doing so, they will be assumed to be no longer functioning in an ELSA role and their name will be removed from the register of county approved ELSAs. They will no longer be eligible for places at further ELSA training events.

This is to ensure that ELSAs are given the necessary professional and ethical guidance to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities to children

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF REGISTERING?

There are clear benefits of registration which include:

- Access to appropriate supervision by an educational psychologist.
- casework support through the application of psychological perspectives
- additional training in areas not covered in the initial 6 days
- dissemination information about useful resources
- access to peer support from other Lambeth ELSAs
- Opportunities to share practice, experiences and problem solve with other ELSAs
- Access to the ELSA on line network and support community and resources.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- £100 per ELSA for 6 Supervision sessions and Registration. **This is non refundable.**
- 20% discount where there is one than one ELSA per provision

HOW DO I BOOK AN ELSA IN FOR SUPERVISION?

Booking a place for Registration and supervision sessions can be done through the Lambeth Schools on line service at: www.lambethschoolservices.co.uk

Booking on line will commit you to signing up for a place and paying for 6 supervision sessions. Payment of £100 will be requested in the Summer term 2018.

We will the invoice the school yearly unless we hear otherwise.

To ask any further questions please contact Sharon Synmoie on ssynmoie@lambeth.gov.uk