



ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

AEP Membership and the Employment of Assistant Educational Psychologists (AsEPs).

Document created: June 2019

Date of review: June 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Background

Assistant Educational Psychologist (AsEP) is a post defined within the scope of the Soulbury Committee Report (2019) as a step towards training to become an Educational Psychologist.

The role of AsEPs is intended to complement the work of Educational Psychologists within Educational Psychology Services in delivering high quality services to children and young people. AEP membership should help support employment of AsEPs in a positive way.

The AEP voted to admit AsEPs into membership at the AGM on 16 Nov 2017; this was then ratified by a postal vote where 93% votes were in favour of admitting AsEPs into membership.

The arguments presented to include AsEPs into AEP membership included:

1. To provide trade union membership and employment support for individuals in the workplace.
2. To support individuals seeking to train as an Educational Psychologist in obtaining appropriate experience and professional guidance.
3. To help protect the use of the title 'Assistant Educational Psychologist' as an identified route leading to training as an Educational Psychologist;
4. To help differentiate between the role of the Assistant Educational Psychologist and other ancillary workers who also may work with/support the work of Educational Psychologists.
5. To promote clear terms and conditions of employment.
6. To promote an attractive salary structure for individuals seeking to make an application for EP training.
7. To promote dialogue with employers about supervision of unqualified staff and the requirement supervising Eps meet Health Care Professional Council standards.

Membership Criteria

Membership is designed to support a defined training route of Educational Psychologists in gaining relevant additional experience that will support application to an EP university training course and achieve qualified status as soon as possible.

The AEP will admit an AsEP into membership if he/she satisfies **all** the following:

1. Is employed within an appropriate workplace setting.
2. Is managed and/or supervised by a qualified HCPC registered Educational Psychologist.
3. Is paid on the Soulbury Scale for Assistant Educational Psychologists or equivalent.

4. Possesses an honours degree in psychology or an equivalent qualification which would be acceptable to the British Psychological Society as the graduate basis as a Chartered Psychologist.

Membership benefits:

[Appendix 1: page 45 Members' Handbook]

- ✓ Academic Journal
- ✓ Regular mailings and emails
- ✓ Vacancy alerts
- ✓ Notice of courses and events
- ✓ Legal support
- ✓ Employment advice
- ✓ Professional advice
- ✓ Union support
- ✓ CPD / Annual course
- ✓ Postal voting rights
- ✓ Attendance at AGM
- ✓ Speaking at AGM
- ✓ Voting in person at AGM
- ✓ Propose and second AGM motions
- ✓ Branch membership
- ✓ Stand for branch office
- ✓ Maternity leave discounts

Membership Application.

To apply for membership, go to the AEP website (aep.org.uk) and follow the Join Online tab.

'It is the aim that no ('Soulbury') officer should remain on the Assistant Educational Psychologist scale for more than 4 years. [Soulbury Report (2019) 4.13]. The category of AsEP membership is as a result intended to last for a maximum of four years except in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Membership will cease automatically after four years except in exceptional circumstances which will be decided by the National Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis including the consideration of the impact of any protected characteristic.

Individuals wishing to extend membership should write to the Association Secretary explaining the reasons for their request. This should be done well in advance of termination of membership so that the NEC has the opportunity to fully consider the case presented.