

THE SOULBURY COMMITTEE

THE REPORT OF THE SOULBURY COMMITTEE ON THE SALARY SCALES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS OF EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S/COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGERS

2024 edition

Employers' Side Secretary: Sarah Ward
Local Government Association, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
soulbury@local.gov.uk

Officers' Side Secretary: David Powell
National Education Union, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD
David.Powell@neu.org.uk

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**REPORT OF THE SOULBURY COMMITTEE ON THE SALARY
SCALES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS OF EDUCATIONAL
IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS, EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGISTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S/COMMUNITY SERVICE
MANAGERS**

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chair:

The Committee shall appoint annually a Chair and Vice-Chair.

Employers’ Side:

Local Government Association	5
Welsh Local Government Association	1

Officers’ Side:

National Education Union.....	4
Education and Children’s Services Group of Prospect.....	5
Association of Educational Psychologists.....	4
The Leader of the Officers’ Side ex officio	1

1.2 If any of the organisations referred to in paragraph 1.1 above fails to appoint the number of representatives provided for by the constitution, such failure shall not affect the decisions of the Committee.

1.3 In the event of any members of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, being unable to attend any meeting, the organisation may be represented by an alternate appointed by that organisation.

1.4 The members of the Committee shall be confirmed on 30th June in every year.

1.5 On the occurrence of a casual vacancy a new member may be appointed by the organisation in whose representation the vacancy occurs.

1.6 The Committee may appoint from their own members such subcommittees as they may consider necessary. The reports of all subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee for approval, and such approval may be given with or without modification.

1.7 The Committee shall appoint annually a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair at any meeting a Chair shall be elected to preside. In no case shall a Chair have a second or casting vote. The offices of Chair and Vice-Chair shall alternate

annually between the Officers' Side and the Employers' Side of the Committee.

1.8 The Committee shall appoint Joint Secretaries and such other as it deems appropriate.

1.9 Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as may be necessary (but at least once per year) and the Chair shall call a special meeting if so requested by six members of either side of the Committee. Any requisition and the notice summoning any special meeting shall state the nature of the business proposed to be transacted and no other matters shall be discussed. Such a special meeting shall be convened by the Chair within 10 days of the receipt of the requisition.

1.10 The voting in the Committee or in any subcommittees shall be by show of hands, unless otherwise determined by the Committee or subcommittee. No resolution shall be regarded as carried unless it has been approved by a majority of members present on each side of the Committee or subcommittee.

1.11 The quorum of the Committee shall be at least three representatives from the Employers' Side and one representative of each organisation from the Officers' Side. In the absence of a quorum, the Chair shall be vacated, and the business not considered shall be the first business at the next meeting of the Committee. The meeting shall be held within 21 days after the date fixed for the first meeting. The quorum of any subcommittee shall be determined by the subcommittee, subject to any directions given by the Committee.

1.12. All notices of the Committee and of any subcommittee shall be sent to the respective members at least 10 calendar days before the date of the meeting.

1.13. Within 30 days after each meeting of the Committee and of any subcommittee, a copy of the minutes of the proceedings shall be sent to each of the organisations referred to in paragraph 1.1 in the Constitution.

1.14 Amendments to this constitution may be proposed only after notice has been given to the members of the Committee and to each of the organisations referred to in paragraph one at least one month before the meeting at which the proposal is to be moved. Any proposal to amend this constitution must be approved by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of each side present and voting at the meeting at which it is moved.

2. SCOPE

2.1 The Committee determines the salaries and service conditions of the following categories of officers:

- (i) Educational Improvement Professionals
- (ii) Educational Psychologists
- (iii) Young People's/Community Service Managers

2.2 The Soulbury Committee recommends that this should apply not only to officers employed in such functions by local authorities, but also to officers employed in such functions by organisations paid to provide such services by local or central government or the Welsh Assembly Government.

2.3 The salary scale chosen for each level of post within each category should take account of the relative weight of duties and responsibilities allocated to individual posts within the local authority, having regard to the need to recruit, retain and motivate staff of the required quality. Broad guidelines for each level within the different categories of officers are set out below.

2.4 The Soulbury Committee believes that consultation at local level with the Staff Associations representing Soulbury Officers is an important part of establishing appropriate pay structures for all categories of Soulbury Officers.

2.5 In the event of the Committee failing to reach agreement on any matter in connection with the salaries or conditions of service within the jurisdiction of the Committee, the dispute may at the request of either side of the Committee, be referred to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) for assistance.

3. EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS

General

3.1 Salary scales for educational improvement professionals should consist of not more than four consecutive points from the range (subject to any additional points needed to accommodate discretionary scale extensions and/or Structured Professional Assessment (SPA) points). The salary rates for educational improvement professionals are set out in Appendix A. Appendix E sets out a statement of general considerations in connection with the pay of educational improvement professionals.

Educational Improvement Professionals

3.2 Postholders will give advice on educational, organisational, management and related children's service's issues in connection with the role of the local authority. Particular duties may include:

- advice to the local authority, schools and other bodies on design and implementation of development plans;
- developing and implementing the role of the local authority in raising standards by challenging and supporting schools;
- contributing to the development of pupils in and out of schools and working collaboratively with related children's services to that end;
- taking part in formal inspections;
- assisting schools with their own self-evaluation;
- working with schools of concern to bring about sustained improvement; and
- undertaking the role of school improvement partner.

3.3 Postholders undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point eight on their pay spine.

Senior Educational Improvement Professionals

3.4 These are posts carrying substantial managerial and/or professional responsibility over and above posts for educational improvement professionals within the local authority. Postholders may in particular direct the work of a group of educational improvement professionals.

3.5 Postholders undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point 13 on their pay spine.

Leading Educational Improvement Professionals

3.6 These are posts which carry managerial and professional responsibilities at whole service level for educational improvement services within a local authority as determined by the Director of Education/Children's Services.

3.7 Postholders undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point 20 on their pay spine.

Educational Improvement Consultants

3.8 Educational improvement consultants usually assist schools in relation to specific initiatives or areas of specialism. Postholders undertaking the role of an educational improvement consultant will not have a minimum lower than point one of their pay spine.

3.9 Where educational improvement consultants provide advice and support relating to local education systems, the raising of educational standards and the improvement of outcomes for children and young people (CYP) and are paid on the Soulbury spine, their pay and grading arrangements should relate appropriately to the arrangements for others paid on that spine.

Job Description

3.10 Each educational improvement professional is to be provided by the Director of Education/Children's Services with a job description, which should be subject to periodic review in the light of changing educational and organisational circumstances.

4. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

4.1 A fully qualified educational psychologist has:

- (a) an Honours Degree in Psychology or recognised equivalent qualification
- (b) substantial relevant experience working with children in education or children's services or both; and has
- (c) successfully followed a course of specific post graduate professional training as an educational psychologist (doctoral level since 2008).

In addition, an educational psychologist is required to be registered to practise with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Note: Requirement (a) above confers eligibility for graduate basis for registration with the

British Psychological Society.

Appendix A sets out the pay scales for educational psychologists.

Educational Psychologists

4.2 Within the framework of their particular service's organisational structure, educational psychologists paid on Scale A usually work in defined locations, groups of schools or other settings within local authority areas. They may be expected to undertake:

- (i) direct casework (including statutory duties in the terms of the Children and Families Act 2014), working in close liaison and collaboration with parents and colleagues from education, health and social services.
- (ii) a variety of multi-service based, multi-disciplinary teamwork on behalf of Children and Young People and their families.
- (iii) a range of more generalised advisory and consultative work in schools, especially relating to CYP developmental and learning needs.
- (iv) some in-service training for teachers and others.
- (v) some research and evaluation responsibilities.
- (vi) regular personal post-experience training.
- (vii) supporting and working with specialist local authority functions and agencies (e.g., behaviour support, learning support, sensory support, Portage etc).

For educational psychologists, the local authority educational psychological service should provide a career structure in its own right. The qualifications of educational psychologists are substantial. It is reasonable to expect that educational psychologists will look to the Soulbury structure to provide them with a pattern of career development.

4.3 Scale A provides an extended pay structure (Appendix A) for educational psychologists which ensures that the individual pay scale for each educational psychologist may reflect job content, experience and other factors such as recruitment and retention.

4.4 Individual EPs will be placed on an individual pay scale of up to six points which will be points 1-6, 2-7, 3-8, 4-9, 5-10, 6-11 of Scale A. The choice of the individual pay scale is at the discretion of the authority. Decisions will be based on an assessment of recruitment and retention and other local factors. Authorities have discretion to appoint above the minimum of the selected scale.

4.5 Educational psychologists paid on Scale A are also eligible for the award of up to three SPA points. The individual six point scale will be supplemented by such SPA points, providing the individual with the eligibility to progress to a maximum of points 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14 in each case. SPA points can be awarded at any time during an individual's progression within their pay scale.

Supervision of Assistants and Trainees by Main Scale Educational Psychologists

4.6 Where a local authority does not have separate grading arrangements for recognising the supervision of assistants and/or trainees, a main scale educational psychologist, who is required to supervise assistant educational psychologists and trainee educational psychologists, will be awarded an allowance equivalent to one additional incremental point on Scale A for the duration of the period of the supervision. This would be a temporary monetary allowance only and would not allow for progression from one pay scale to another.

Senior Educational Psychologists

4.7 Senior educational psychologists have duties and responsibilities above those of officers on Scale A. They may have:

- (i) specific line management responsibilities for two or more officers on Scale A; or
- (ii) specialised responsibilities of a broadly equivalent level; or
- (iii) duties as deputy to the principal educational psychologist.

Local authorities have to select a scale of up to four consecutive points (subject to any additional points needed to accommodate discretionary scale extensions and/or SPA points) selected from Scale B.

Principal Educational Psychologists

4.8 Principal educational psychologists are the officers to whom has been assigned the responsibility for organising and managing the educational psychology service and accountability for the professional work of the local authority's other educational psychologists.

4.9 In addition to their core role, principal educational psychologists often assume additional responsibility for managing other areas of local authorities' services relating to work with vulnerable children.

4.10 Local authorities have to select a scale of up to four consecutive points (subject to any additional points needed to accommodate discretionary scale extensions and/or Structured Professional Assessment points), selected from Scale B. The scale for the principal educational psychologist undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point six of Scale B.

Educational Psychologists (Pre-Final Qualification)

4.11 The Soulbury Committee recognises two groups of professionals whom it considers as educational psychologists (Pre-Final Qualification): assistant educational psychologists and trainee educational psychologists.

4.12 Assistant educational psychologists are not qualified to carry out the full range of duties and responsibilities of fully qualified officers on Scale A and should therefore be paid on the assistant educational psychologists' scale.

4.13 Those local authorities who employ assistant educational psychologists should take positive action to ensure that these employees achieve qualified status as soon as possible. It is the aim that no officer should remain on the assistant educational psychologists' scale for more than four years.

4.14 Trainee educational psychologists in the second year and third years of their training should be paid on a point selected from the six-point trainee educational psychologists pay range as set out in Appendix A. They should be employed by local authorities on contracts of employment under the terms of the Soulbury Report and with the same contractual entitlements as other Soulbury-paid officers of the local authority, and not engaged on any other basis. Further agreed advice on the employment of trainee educational psychologists is set out in Appendix J.

4.15 Individuals' placement within the trainee educational psychologists pay range in the second year and third year of training should be determined by employing authorities on the basis of local assessments. Such assessments should appropriately recognise the work undertaken by the individual and reflect the individual's range of duties and responsibilities. They may also reflect other relevant factors such as recruitment and retention.

4.16 While trainee educational psychologists will be employed on the basis that they will be available for work for three days per week in the second year and four days per week in the third year of training, it is not intended that their pay rates should be applied on any pro rata basis.

4.17 During their training, trainee educational psychologists should expect to be provided with appropriate levels of training, support and supervision and workloads commensurate and appropriate with their professional development as educational psychologists.

4.18 Trainee educational psychologists in the first year of training are not employed by local authorities.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S/COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGERS (YPCSM)

General

5.1 Young people's service managers and officers are concerned with securing a range of provision to meet the personal development needs of young people through formal and informal education. This may include the development of youth work; youth offending and inclusion services; teenage pregnancy; and other associated services for young people concerned with the social, educational, safety and cultural needs of young people of all ages. Community service managers and officers may undertake similar roles to those of young people's service managers but also be involved in the delivery of informal educational opportunities for the whole community.

5.2 The Soulbury Committee has established the salary scale for young people's/community service managers set out in Appendix A for local authorities to use in determining their organisational structure to meet the service needs in their area. This scale is also suitable for use by the voluntary/third sector.

5.3 Salary scales should consist of not more than four consecutive points from the range (subject to any additional points needed to accommodate discretionary scale extensions and/or Structured Professional Assessment points).

5.4 The differential between the salary of the young peoples/community service manager (YPCSM) and the salary of the highest paid practitioner (within scope of the JNC for Youth and Community Workers) being managed by the YPCSM shall be the equivalent of a minimum of one Soulbury salary increment.

Young People's/Community Service Managers

5.5 The managerial and professional responsibilities of a young people's/community service manager may include:

- Advice to the local authority, its officers and elected members, management bodies, heads of establishments, salaried and voluntary workers and teachers to meet the needs of individuals and groups on the following:
 - the organisation of groups and projects;
 - the safety and safe use of facilities and equipment;
- the quality of service provided and approaches to improving the service;
- safeguarding young people.
- The appointment, training, supervision, induction, management and assessment of staff and volunteers.

- The preparation of budgets and co-ordination of responses to administrative and management requirements, including the administration of grant schemes and grant.
- The promotion of individual and group interests and promotion of their participation in schemes and projects.

5.6. They may be concerned with all young people's and community service activities in a geographical part of the area and/or with one or more specialist activities.

Senior Young People's/Community Service Manager

5.7 These posts carry substantial managerial and/or professional responsibilities over and above those of young people's/community service managers. The particular duties and responsibilities of officers in the senior range will be determined by the job description. This may include responsibility for the work of a group of young people's/community service managers and managers of other services for young people; responsibility for management functions such as the appointment, supervision, development of staff employed in providing services for young people; and designing and developing areas of the curriculum for these services. The scale for the senior young people's/community service manager undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point four of the young people's/community service manager salary range set out in Appendix A to this Report.

Principal Young People's/Community Service Manager

5.8 These are posts which carry managerial and professional responsibility for the running of young people's and community services in an authority. This will include day to day control of the service and giving appropriate advice on the operation, development, and other needs of the service.

5.9 The scale for the principal young people's/community service manager undertaking the full range of duties at this level should not normally have a minimum lower than point seven of the young people's/community service managers' salary range set out in Appendix A to this Report.

6. EXTENSIONS TO LOCAL SCALES

The Director of Education/Children's Services has the discretion to extend local scales for Soulbury Officers (with the exception of main scale educational psychologists on Scale A) as set out in Appendix C.

7. STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS (SPA)

The Soulbury Committee has agreed a framework to recognise the contribution of Soulbury Officers through a Structured Professional Assessment (SPA) to be made locally. The national framework is set out in Appendix D together with further guidance on its application.

8. INCREMENTAL DATES, ORGANISATION AND ANNUAL REVIEW

8.1 Educational improvement professionals and educational psychologists are to receive their annual increment on 1 September each year.

8.2 Young people's/community service managers are to receive their annual increment on 1 April of each year.

8.3 Educational improvement professionals, educational psychologists and young people's/community service managers have an annual salary review date of 1 September each year.

9. LONDON AREA PAYMENTS

The allowances and areas for which these allowances are paid and the date of the implementation of payment for revised allowances shall be as determined from time to time. The current rates are set out in Appendix B.

10. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

10.1 The conditions of service of officers dealt with under this report shall be not less favourable than those prescribed for the local government services staff of the authority. The NJC for Local Government Services has agreed that officers within scope of this report should be allowed to pursue appeals relating to conditions of service through the appropriate Local Government Services machinery.

10.2 However, the Soulbury Committee has reached agreement on conditions of service relating to local consultation and facilities for recognised unions, a grievance procedure, and a collective disputes procedure in the following terms:

11. LOCAL CONSULTATION AND FACILITIES FOR RECOGNISED UNIONS

11.1 The Soulbury Committee recommends to local authorities full recognition of those unions and associations represented on the national body. Such recognition includes the provision of facilities including time off for trade union duties and activities for Soulbury employees who are trade union representatives as accorded to other teaching and non-teaching staff unions, and regular consultation with representatives on all questions affecting their conditions of service.

11.2 The Committee wishes to encourage local agreements on the appropriate form such consultation should take, whether this is by a formal joint committee or by some other explicit and effective means of consultation. Further details on this are set out in Appendix H.

12. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

12.1 The Soulbury Committee recommends that each individual officer should be informed of the procedure available to him or her if a grievance (other than on salary grading) is felt by such an officer. The Committee advise that each authority should formulate a grievance procedure for Soulbury staff in line with the ACAS Code of Practice on handling discipline and grievances (the 2015 version can be found at: <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2174>), subject to local variation and having regard to the particular structure of the advisory service in the authority.

13. COLLECTIVE DISPUTES PROCEDURE

13.1 The Committee recommends that arrangements be established at local level to facilitate discussion between the authority and its staff and their recognised representative organisations (see paragraph 11). Full use of such machinery should enable an issue which arises between the authority and the unions and associations represented on the Soulbury Committee to be resolved satisfactorily, as should be the aim.

13.2 Where, however, an issue arises which cannot be resolved in this way and is not a matter which can be referred to the Soulbury Committee under the terms of paragraph 16 of the Soulbury Report, then if both the parties locally agree, it should be referred elsewhere.

13.3 As the parties locally may agree it may be referred either:

- (a) to a third party, or a joint panel chaired by a third party, under arrangements to be made locally for conciliation or mediation as the parties shall agree; or
- (b) to the Soulbury Committee which will establish a panel representative of both sides appropriately chaired to consider the matter and make agreed recommendations to the parties.

* Local authorities in pursuance of statutory duties and being answerable to the electors, cannot be expected to settle by negotiation, or to submit to outside arbitration, the level of their council tax, or the share of their income which they allocate to a particular service. As a consequence of budgetary policy however, local authorities will take policy decisions on matters such as workload, job security and possible staff transfers which are proper matters for local negotiation. In-between budgetary policy and individuals' conditions of service, there may be an area where opinions will differ about negotiability. Local authorities, in co-operation with recognised organisations, should seek to define conditions of service matters that are appropriate for local negotiation so as to minimise this area of doubt, but the Joint Secretaries are ready, on request, to help resolve particular cases.

13.4 Underlying these arrangements is the expectation that whichever procedure, (a) or (b), is adopted by the parties, both will act in good faith in attempting to resolve the dispute on the basis of any recommendations made to them.

13.5 Where the parties to the dispute jointly ask either (a) the local approved third party or (b) the Soulbury Committee to determine the issue, the determination shall be binding.

13.6 A local authority and a staff organisation should not take action to implement any matter in dispute which has been referred to a third party until the procedure has been exhausted.

13.7 The services of the Joint Secretaries are also available to assist the parties.

14. APPEALS AGAINST SALARY GRADING

14.1 An officer shall be entitled to appeal to their employing authority on any question relating to their grading within the ranges set out in this Report.

14.2 The Soulbury Committee recommends that it is most important that a formal and fair local appeals procedure is adopted. This should provide for a statement of case to be submitted by the appellant, normally with their notice of appeal. The authority should prepare a statement in response and the hearing of the appeal should be conducted in accordance with the procedure that applies to local government services staff of the authority.

14.3 Further advice is available from the Joint Secretaries to the Soulbury Committee.

15. NEW APPOINTMENTS

An officer appointed under this Report for the first time shall be placed at the minimum of the scale deemed appropriate by the authority having regard to the provisions of this Report. Where the officer has had previous experience which the authority considers should be regarded as equivalent value to service under this report, the authority shall determine a higher incremental point up to the maximum.

16. INTERPRETATION

16.1 Questions relating to the interpretation of this report shall be considered and determined by the Committee. The Committee is also prepared to advise in exceptional cases where difficulties arise regarding the application of the Committee's recommendations for an individual officer. Any questions for consideration by the Committee should be submitted by local authorities through the Employers' Side or by an association of officers through the Officers' Side.

16.2 The Joint Secretaries of the Soulbury Committee will be ready to assist with any enquiries which authorities or officers may wish to put to them about the application of the Report.

17. APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO ALL STAFF

The Soulbury Report exists to prescribe the pay and conditions for those officers described in paragraph two above. The Soulbury Committee affirms that the structures and provisions of this edition of the Soulbury Report are and remain appropriate for officers in these categories.

18. CONTINUOUS SERVICE

Where an employee is transferred to an organisation not covered by the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government etc.) (Modification) Order 1999 continuity of service is protected under the TUPE Regulations where there is a TUPE transfer. However, if that employee returns voluntarily to local government service, continuity is broken. Where an employee returns in such circumstances without a break between employments all previous continuous service will be recognised for the purposes of calculation of entitlements to annual leave occupational maternity leave/pay and occupational sick pay. This is subject to the return to service being within five years of the original transfer.

19. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Soulbury Committee has agreed a national framework for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) which is set out in Appendix F.

20. WORK LIFE BALANCE AND WORK-RELATED STRESS

The Soulbury Committee recommends that local authorities should take steps to address the need for a proper work life balance and work-related stress often experienced by Soulbury Officers. Guidance is set out in Appendix G.

APPENDIX A

SALARY RATES

1. EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS (EIPs)

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	37056	38981	40540
2	38383	40308	41920
3	39637	41562	43224
4	40907	42832	44545
5	42168	44093	45857
6	43431	45356	47170
7	44758	46683	48550
8	46035*	47960*	49878*
9	47522	49447	51425
10	48849	50774	52805
11	50158	52083	54166
12	51425	53350	55484
13	52860**	54785**	56976**
14	54140	56065	58308
15	55553	57478	59777
16	56831	58756	61106
17	58113	60038	62440
18	59371	61296	63748
19	60668	62593	65097
20	61338***	63263***	65794***
21	62626	64551	67133
22	63749	65674	68301
23	64985	66910	69586
24	66093	68018	70739
25	67278	69203	71971
26	68434	70359	73173
27	69616	71541	74403
28	70815	72740	75650
29	72016	73941	76899
30	73215	75140	78146
31	74404	76329	79382
32	75611	77536	80637
33	76819	78744	81894
34	78056	79981	83180
35	79291	81216	84465
36	80560	82485	85784
37	81809	83734	87083
38	83071	84996	88396
39	84316	86241	89691
40	85561	87486	90985

41	86811	88736	92285
42	88061	89986	93585
43	89309	91234	94883
44	90564	92489	96189
45	91815	93740	97490
46	93069	94994	98794
47	94327	96252	10010
48	95574	97499	10139
49	96825	98750	10270
50	98079	100004	10400
51			108164**
52			112491**

Notes:

Salary scales to consist of not more than four consecutive points based on the duties and responsibilities attaching to posts and the need to recruit and motivate staff.

*Normal minimum point for EIP undertaking the full range of duties at this level.

**normal minimum point for senior EIP undertaking the full range of duties at this level.

***normal minimum point for leading EIP undertaking the full range of duties at this level.

****extension to range to accommodate structured professional assessments.

**** Two additional points after SCP 50 with effect from 1 September 2023.

2. YOUNG PEOPLE'S / COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGER

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	38433	40358	41972
2	39691	41616	43281
3	40947	42872	44587
4	42231*	44156*	45922*
5	43535	45460	47278
6	44807	46732	48601
7	46107**	48032**	49953**
8	47585	49510	51490
9	48400	50325	52338
10	49660	51585	53648
11	50912	52837	54950
12	52166	54091	56255
13	53412	55337	57550
14	54669	56594	58858
15	55928	57853	60167

16	57191	59116	61481
17	58460	60385	62800
18	59722	61647	64113
19	60976	62901	65417
20	62257***	64182***	66749***
21	63562***	65487***	68106***
22	64898***	66823***	69496***
23	66260***	68185***	70912***
24	67650***	69575***	72358***

Notes:

The minimum Youth and Community Service Officers' scale is 4 points.

Other salary scales to consist of not more than four consecutive points based on duties and responsibilities attaching to posts and the need to recruit retain and motivate staff.

*normal minimum point for senior youth and community service officers undertaking the full range of duties at this level (see paragraph 5.6 of the Soulbury Report).

**normal minimum point for principal youth and community service officer undertaking the full range of duties at this level (see paragraph 5.8 of the Soulbury Report).

***extension to range to accommodate discretionary scale points and structured professional assessments.

3. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Trainee Educational Psychologists

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	24970	26895	
2	26798	28723	29872
3	28623	30548	31770
4	30453	32378	33673
5	32279	34204	35572
6	34107	36032	37473

- SCP 1 is deleted with SCP 2 the first point of the scale with effect from 1 September 2023.

Assistant Educational Psychologists

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	30694	32619	
2	31948	33873	35228
3	33201	35126	36531
4	34448	36373	37828
5			39341

- SCP 1 is deleted with SCP 2 the first point of the scale with effect from 1 September 2023
- An additional point after SCP 4 with effect from 1 September 2023.

Educational Psychologists - Scale A

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	38865	40790	42422
2	40838	42763	44474
3	42811	44736	46525
4	44782	46707	48575
5	46755	48680	50627
6	48727	50652	52678
7	50584	52509	54609
8	52440	54365	56540
9	54179	56104	58348
10	55921	57846	60160
11	57544	59469	61848
12			62540*
13			63836*
14			65120*

Notes:

Salary scales to consist of six consecutive points based on the duties and responsibilities attaching to posts and the need to recruit retain and motivate staff.

*Extension to scale to accommodate structured professional assessment points.

Senior and Principal Educational Psychologists

SCP	01.09.21	01.09.22	01.09.23
1	48727	50652	52678
2	50584	52509	54609
3	52440*	54365*	56540
4	54179	56104	58348
5	55921	57846	60160
6	57544	59469	61848*
7	58210	60135	62540
8	59456	61381	63836
9	60690	62615	65120
10	61945	63870	66425
11	63177	65102	67706
12	64431	66356	69010
13	65707	67632	70337
14	66941**	68866**	71621
15	68235**	70160**	72966
16	69514**	71439**	74297
17	70803**	72728**	75637**
18	72090**	74015**	76976**
19			80055***
20			83257***
21			86587***

Notes:

Salary scales to consist of not more than four consecutive points based on the duties and responsibilities attaching to posts and the need to recruit retain and motivate staff.

*Normal minimum point for the principal educational psychologist undertaking the full range of duties at this level.

**Extension to range to accommodate discretionary scale points and structured professional assessments.

***Three additional SCPs after point 18 with effect from 1 September 2023.

APPENDIX B

LONDON AREA PAYMENTS

With effect from 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023 staff in the London area shall receive the following:

- (a) at the rate of £3461 (2022) and £3595 (2023) per annum to officers serving in the Inner area.
- (b) at the £2284 (2022) and £2372 (2023) per annum to officers serving in the Outer area.
- (c) at the rate of £882 (2022) and £916 (2023) per annum to officers serving in the Fringe area.
- (d) officers normally serving in the London area but temporarily employed elsewhere shall continue to receive London area payments at the rate appropriate to their normal area of employment.
- (e) in the case of officers required to serve in different parts of the London areas or partly outside that area, officers shall be deemed to be serving in the area in which they are required to spend more than one half of their time.
- (f) for the purpose of this paragraph –

The “Inner Area” means the area of the London Boroughs of: Camden City of London, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster, (the former Inner London Education Authority) and the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Ealing, Haringey, Merton, and Newham.

The “Outer Area” means Greater London excluding the Inner area.

The “Fringe Area” means:

Berkshire: the districts of Bracknell, Slough, Windsor, and Maidenhead.

Buckinghamshire: the districts of Beaconsfield, and Chiltern.

Essex: the districts of Basildon, Brentwood, Epping Forest, Harlow, and Thurrock.

Hertfordshire: the districts of Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, St. Albans, Three Rivers, Watford, and Welwyn Hatfield.

Kent: the districts of Dartford, and Sevenoaks.

Surrey: the whole County.

West Sussex: the district of Crawley.

The “London Area” comprises the Inner area the Outer area and the Fringe area.

APPENDIX C

CRITERIA FOR EXTENDING LOCALLY-DETERMINED SCALES BY UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS

1. These criteria apply to all Soulbury-paid officers with the exception of educational psychologists paid on Scale A.
2. In addition to progressing to the maximum of the local scale, up to two additional increments can be paid when the authority is satisfied that in the case of an individual, one or both of the following criteria are met:
 - (i) difference in the duties and responsibilities of individual posts of a minor kind (i.e., significant but not sufficient to grade the post at the next higher level);
 - (ii) variations from place to place in the ease or difficulty of recruiting and retaining suitably qualified and/or experienced staff.

APPENDIX D

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS

1. The Soulbury Committee has reached agreement to introduce local assessments to recognise the contribution of Soulbury officers to the authority's role in raising standards in schools, improving involvement of young people in community activities and the promotion of CYP development and learning. This agreement provides a framework for local decisions relating to an assessment of the officer's contribution.

2. The Committee recognises that arrangements for the assessment of Soulbury officers' contributions will have been designed locally. The Committee does not want to introduce new arrangements but will consider providing an outline of good practice on local procedures if this is required. The Committee has agreed that all local procedures will need to provide for reviews in cases where officers believe they have grounds to challenge a local assessment.

3. The key aim is arrangements that provide for a structured assessment by the Director of Education/Children's Services of the officer's contribution. Local arrangements will need to provide for:

- The opportunity for officers to apply to their Director of Education/Children's Services after four years' continuous Soulbury service with one or more local authorities. In normal circumstances, this would be after not less than two years in the current post. Directors of Education/Children's Services can consider applications before the four years, in exceptional cases. A new local assessment will not be necessary where a local review has already taken place.

- Assessments will be based on the officer's contribution over the relevant period.

- Local assessments need to be based on the range of duties and responsibilities and achievements against targets and objectives for the post. This assessment of the overall contribution will need to take account of the following for the first level:

- Development – Officers must show that they are fully informed of the developments in their area of specialism.

- Developing the services – Officers must make a recognised contribution to the policy, planning and meeting of performance targets for their authority.

- Improving standards – Officers must make an identified contribution to the improvement and evaluation of service delivery across all appropriate aspects of the authority's functions.

- Management and Administration – Officers must manage and assess resources to provide efficient delivery of services.
 - Equal opportunities – Officers must contribute to the development of the authority's policies in improving access to their services and in raising achievement levels for their local communities.
- For the second level, officers' contributions will need to be based on showing that they have made a sustained contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.
 - To qualify for the award of the 3rd SPA point, officers will:
 - need to demonstrate that they have made an exceptional contribution to the development of the service over a sustained period, for instance in developing the Children's Services agenda in the authority; and
 - be involved in a programme of CPD focused on the requirements of the service and the aspirations of the officers for their own professional development.
 - The award of a 3rd SPA point will not be made until at least two years after officers have achieved SPA point 2.

Salary Rewards

4. Officers who have been assessed as achieving the first level will receive an additional pay point on the Soulbury spine. Those achieving the second level will receive a second point on the Soulbury spine. Those achieving the third level will receive a third point on the Soulbury spine. These additional points will extend normal scale maxima by up to three points.

Further Advice

5. The following nationally agreed joint advice is intended to help authorities administer the SPA system in a fair and transparent fashion.

Eligibility and Timetables

6. All Soulbury Officers may apply for pay progression under the SPA arrangements providing they meet the eligibility criteria. Where they meet the required standards at each level, they should receive pay progression.

7. The following advice relates to the application of the agreement and its length of service provisions in specific situations commonly encountered by employers:

- Soulbury Officers who are awarded SPA progression in one post, but then move to another Soulbury post in the same or another authority, are eligible to apply for SPA progression in the new post after the appropriate period;
- Periods of service by Soulbury Officers in another post on a temporary basis, due to acting-up, temporary promotion or secondment - whether or not for the same employer and whether or not in a Soulbury role - should be counted for these purposes and should not therefore interrupt the timetable or put the clock back;

- Service with local authorities in Soulbury roles which were not paid on Soulbury scales should be counted for these purposes. Consideration should also be given to counting periods of service in Soulbury roles with non-local authority employers as well;
- Years two to three of the training period for educational psychologists should be counted for these purposes where they are counted as periods of service for other purposes under the terms of JESC 186.

Relationship to Normal Pay Scale Entitlements

8. The SPA system creates the potential for each officer's normal individual pay scale to be extended by up to three further points.

9. SPA points are not "scale extensions" which would require officers to have reached the top of their normal scales before the first SPA point can be awarded. SPA points can be awarded before officers have reached the top of their normal scale. In such cases, officers receive SPA points in addition to any normal incremental points due to them that year - in other words they receive a "double increment" or "triple increment".

10. Once awarded, SPA points are treated in the same way as experience-based incremental points. They become a permanent part of the officer's pay entitlement and should not be taken away while the officer remains in that post.

Portability of SPA points

11. There is no provision precluding the portability of SPA points when a Soulbury officer moves post. Authorities have the discretion and can allow Soulbury Officers to "transport" SPA points on moving post, either when "moving sideways" (in order to avoid offering a lower pay scale point than the officer already earns) or when moving to a higher pay scale (in order to encourage external recruitment or facilitate internal applications and retention). Whatever arrangements are adopted should be clear and applied consistently.

Examples:

1. An EP is employed by LA1 on Scale A points 1-6 (therefore allowing progression to a maximum of point A9 through SPA progression). The EP is currently paid at point A8 through normal progression to point A6, the maximum of the substantive scale, plus the award of 2 SPA points. The EP is offered a post in LA2 on Scale A points 2-7. In order to maintain the EP's position in the substantive pay scale plus their existing SPA points and expectation of further SPA progression, LA2 agrees to appoint the EP to point A9 representing point A7, the maximum of the new substantive scale, plus 2 SPA points. The EP will have the opportunity to progress to point A10 through the award of the third SPA point when eligible.

2. An EIP is employed by LA3 on EIP scale points 13-16 (therefore allowing progression to point 19 through SPA progression). The EIP is currently paid on point 17 through normal progression to point 15 plus the award of 2 SPA points. The EIP is offered a post in LA4 on EIP scale points 22-25. In order to encourage applications,

LA4 has stated in the advertisement that SPA points will be treated as portable. LA4 therefore agrees to appoint the EIP to point 24, representing point 22, the starting point of the new scale, plus 2 SPA points. The EIP will have the opportunity to progress to point 28 through a combination of further normal progression of 3 points and the award of the third SPA point when eligible.

3. An EP is employed by LA5 on Scale A points 2-7 and has progressed to point A10 through award of 3 SPA points. The EP is offered a post in LA6 on Scale B points 1-6. Since the EP's existing salary of A10 equates in financial terms to B5, LA6 decides that the EP should be provided with a pay increase in order to secure their acceptance of the post. LA6 could offer either portability of SPA points - appointing the EP at point B6 representing point B3, the starting point of the new scale, plus 3 SPA points - or a higher starting point within the substantive scale - again appointing the EP at point B6 but with no portability of SPA points. The difference between these two options is that in the former case the EP will be entitled to normal pay progression by three further points, while in the latter case the EP will be entitled to further progression through the award of 3 SPA points when eligible. LA6 will need to agree with this with the EP and ensure that it is set out clearly for future reference.

Arrangements for Assessment

12. Structured Professional Assessments should be based on the officer's range of duties, responsibilities, and achievements and against the agreed targets and objectives for the post.

13. Assessments should be undertaken by an officer of the employing authority who should be senior to the applicant and should wherever possible be in a line management role to the applicant and aware of the applicant's role and work. Arrangements for assessment should have been designed locally.

14. Authorities are advised to avoid time-consuming application requirements including form-filling, production of evidence or other burdens. Where Soulbury Officers maintain CPD portfolios for professional registration purposes, these may be useful in supporting assessment but are not required for SPA application purposes.

15. Appraisal arrangements, where they exist, should be used to inform assessments. The appraisal process should automatically include consideration of the officer's eligibility for SPA progression without the necessity for a separate application. The decision on SPA progression should be part of the appraisal decision, with the date of progression backdated to the date of becoming eligible.

16. In all cases, SPA progression decisions should be taken promptly, with officers being notified in writing as soon as possible of the outcome.

Applying the criteria - SPA 1 & 2

17. Over the years since the implementation of the SPA system, the roles undertaken by Soulbury Officers have changed with, in many cases, a much greater focus on working directly with and within schools and other education settings or with young people and community organisations, as opposed to within a "local authority service".

18. For that reason, the elements of the SPA criteria in Appendix G of the Soulbury Agreement which refer to authorities' "services" and "functions" should be read broadly in conjunction with the officer's individual job description, duties, responsibilities and achievements and their impact and influence on the client groups with whom they work.

Applying the Criteria - SPA 3

19. The requirement for an "exceptional contribution" in relation to the third SPA point is more demanding than those for SPA 1 and 2. The Soulbury Committee has agreed, however, that "the criteria for award of a third SPA point are not based on any specific quota for its award" (JESC 144). Authorities should adopt a standards-based approach. This means that all eligible officers meeting the standards can be assessed as having made the necessary contribution.

20. References to the "development of the service" should again be read broadly as outlined above in relation to SPA 1 and 2. References to CPD participation should not be used to deny officers the third SPA point if participation in CPD has been prevented or hampered by budgetary or other organisational reasons beyond the individual's control.

Appeals Arrangements

21. Soulbury Officers who are unsuccessful in the SPA assessment process have the right to an appeal at local level. These appeal arrangements must comply with the statutory requirements relating to workplace grievance procedures. Local authorities should therefore have internal appeals mechanisms in place for use by officers.

APPENDIX E

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS – GENERAL STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE SOULBURY COMMITTEE

Educational improvement professionals are drawn from different sources, including senior members of the teaching profession. Their role is to advise local authorities and educational institutions on a wide range of professional, organisational, management, curriculum and related children's services issues, with the overall aim of enhancing the quality of education and related services.

The precise organisational structure of educational improvement services within local authorities varies according to a broad range of local factors and circumstances.

Consequently, the national framework for the pay and grading of educational improvement professionals needs to accommodate that broad range of local factors and circumstances, set against the reality that, for reasons of recruitment and retention, pay scales also need to pay regard to those of senior members of the teaching profession, among others.

The Soulbury Report pay structure for educational improvement professionals defines four categories:

- Leading educational improvement professional (LEIP);
- Senior educational improvement professional (SEIP);
- Educational improvement professional (EIP); and
- Educational improvement consultants.

LEIPs will carry managerial and professional responsibilities at whole service level. SEIPs will undertake significant managerial and/or professional responsibility over and above those of EIPs but below that of LEIPs.

Where educational improvement consultants provide advice and support relating to local education systems, the raising of educational standards and the improvement of outcomes for CYP and are paid on the Soulbury spine, their pay and grading arrangements should relate appropriately to the arrangements for others paid on that spine.

For each of these categories, the Soulbury Report provides that their individual pay scales should not normally have a minimum lower than a prescribed point on the Soulbury pay spine. Authorities may, however, need to have several grading options at different levels within the categories to allow for differentiation according to the local distribution of responsibilities and the size of the authority concerned.

APPENDIX F

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SOULBURY OFFICERS: A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Introduction

This document sets out a national framework agreed by the Soulbury Committee on the continuing professional development of Soulbury Officers.

Professionals working in the Soulbury services work closely with local authority officers, school leaders and governors with the overall aim of enhancing the quality of education and related services. They require both ability and credibility in order to be fully effective. The Soulbury Committee believes that access to high quality continuing professional development is necessary to ensure that officers can update their skills and knowledge and allow them to keep abreast of developments in their professional field.

The Committee recognises that continuing professional development must be related closely to the education development plan – and linked plans and strategies – of the local authority and to the changing demands on the services provided by Soulbury Officers. It must also take account of development frameworks including performance management processes and any statutory registration requirements set by appropriate professional bodies. Procedures that seek to develop the skill base of Soulbury Officers on a continual basis are also a vital part of recruitment and retention strategies.

The Committee believes that the principles set out in this framework are equally relevant to all professionals undertaking the roles within the scope of the Soulbury Committee national agreement, whether or not they are paid under the terms of that agreement and whether they are employed by local authorities or other bodies.

The Committee recommends that, where services are provided to schools and others via traded services arrangements, authorities should ensure that the terms of the "service level agreements" involved incorporate sufficient resources for funds and release time for professional development that is consistent with the principles of this framework.

The National Context

This framework is designed as an important tool to support:

- raising educational standards and wellbeing for CYP;
- fulfilment of statutory requirements by local authorities; and
- performance management, structured professional assessment, and career progression for Soulbury professionals.

Where appropriate, employer policies must also take into account requirements with regard to professional standards and maintenance of registration/qualifications. For example, educational psychologists are required to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) which sets out standards for CPD which must be

met in order to maintain their registration.

Where any policies are developed at national level which are relevant to this framework, these policies will need to be implemented locally alongside local initiatives tailored to meet the needs and resources at local level.

Developing a Local Strategy

This framework envisages that all local authorities will have a strategy to provide continuous professional development, including:

- providing good quality induction for newly appointed staff, by way of:
 - personal support through a “mentor”;
 - awareness raising, through work shadowing and visits to schools and other appropriate locations;
 - provision of information on relevant policies and procedures; and
 - appropriate training necessary to undertake the role.

- keeping staff up-to-date with recent developments and preparing them for changing roles, including through regular meetings of teams to maintain individuals’ awareness and understanding of current education initiatives.

- providing staff with the skills for appropriate career development, by way of:
 - skills development, including generic interpersonal skills and specific skills (sources for training will include Ofsted/Estyn, local authorities and trade unions); and
 - experience and/or understanding of different roles within central local authority services, including HR and governor services, and in other relevant locations in order to develop complementary skills.

- linking development to an effective performance management process to identify individual development needs and the development needs of the organisation, through:
 - agreeing appropriate and reasonable targets for individuals which are linked to wider organisational performance targets and the schools or other relevant work areas for which individuals are responsible; and
 - the establishment of professional development portfolios.

The Committee recommends that, in developing a local strategy for professional development, authorities should consult fully with locally represented unions and associations representing Soulbury Officers.

Finally, the Committee recommends that authorities should consider, in the context of their local CPD strategy for Soulbury Officers, the possibility of using one or more of the various mechanisms available to employers and staff to accredit their systems of workforce development.

Characteristics of Effective Training and Development

Training and development can encompass a wide range of different activities. Effective CPD should:

- be based on a rigorous needs analysis and matched both to appropriate standards and individual learning styles;
- be focused on the development of skills, knowledge and understanding;
- contribute to an individual's professional portfolio;
- enable a "professional learning community" to be developed and extended;
- be integral to the professional leadership role in the service;
- encourage e-learning; and
- be set in the context of an individual's role, job description and career progression within the wider children's services agenda;
- protected time for supervision where professional registration/regulation requires it.

Workforce Development and Workforce Planning

The Soulbury Committee recognises that continuing professional development needs to take place within the context of workforce development and workforce planning. In turn, developments on workforce planning should be tailored to meet the particular needs of Soulbury services. The bursary scheme for trainee educational psychologists in their first year of training is an example of national policy on workforce planning which affects one specific area.

Targets and Funding

The Soulbury Committee recommends that clearly-defined targets should be set locally for development achievements and for the training and professional development of Soulbury Officers in all of the Soulbury groups.

Such targets should take account of targets across the authority. They should also take account of the existing targets and requirements already applicable to some Soulbury groups. Educational psychologists, for example, are required to fulfil the HCPC standards with regard to CPD in order to maintain their registration. For the youth service, the JNC for Youth and Community Workers had previously endorsed a target of 2-5% of budgets to be spent on CPD as originally put forward by Government in its *Transforming Youth Work* initiative.

Equal Opportunities

The Soulbury Committee recommends that authorities should, in their workforce development and workforce planning, adopt and apply the principles of the Equality Framework for Local Government, developed by the Local Government Association in partnership with the predecessor organisations of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Points of Reference

There are a number of useful sources for further information relating to continuing professional development, workforce development and workforce planning. These include:

1. "Standards for Educational Development and Improvement Professionals in England" – Prospect, 2014;
2. "Standards for Continuing Professional Development" and "Guide to CPD and Registration" (for educational psychologists) - HCPC; and
3. "Local Government Workforce Strategy" - Local Government Association, 2010.

The unions and associations representing Soulbury Officers also publish or provide a range of other relevant materials and assistance with regard to CPD and performance management.

APPENDIX G

WORK LIFE BALANCE AND WORK-RELATED STRESS

The Soulbury Committee recommends that all local authorities take steps to address Soulbury Officers' need for a proper work-life balance and the work-related stress often experienced by those officers.

To that end, it draws the attention of authorities to the following guidance documents, which have been endorsed by the Soulbury Committee as offering appropriate advice and guidance to employers:

- *Addressing Stress at Work: a guide to strategic and operational interventions that councils can take to prevent and manage work-related stress* - the Local Government Association's guide to the strategic and operational interventions that councils can take to prevent and manage work-related stress (now out of print);
- *Management Standards for Work-Related Stress* - the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) voluntary guidance on tackling work-related stress; and
- *Finding the Balance: work-life policies in practice* - the guidance document on work-life balance produced by the NJC for Local Government Services.

A further document *Work-Related Stress: a guide - Implementing a European Social Partner Agreement* is also commended by Soulbury.
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/pdfs/eurostress.pdf>

The Soulbury Committee reminds employers that, under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, employers have a general duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their employees at work. This includes taking steps to make sure they do not suffer stress-related illness as a result of their work.

Employers also have a specific duty under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to undertake risk assessments to seek to identify and eliminate or control risks to employees' health, safety and welfare. Stress is one of the risks to health, safety and welfare that must be assessed.

The Local Government Association: ADDRESSING STRESS AT WORK

The Local Government Association guide *Addressing Stress at Work* was designed to be "a guide to strategic and operational interventions that councils can take to prevent and manage work-related stress".

Despite the guide now being out of print the principles of control outlined within the guide and below remain recognised good practice in the prevention and management of work related stress.

Primary interventions involve consideration of the preventative strategies that can be used to address the sources of stress in the workplace. They focus on organisational issues and work design. Secondary interventions involve the use of control strategies to assist individuals to recognise the symptoms of stress and to develop their coping skills and resilience. Tertiary interventions involve reactive measures to assist in the recovery and rehabilitation of stressed employees.

The guidance also sets out some practical ways for employers to combat stress, including model document templates for risk audits and risk assessments.

The Soulbury Committee has endorsed the principles outlined in *Addressing Stress at Work* and urges all local authorities to adopt practices to prevent work-related stress for their Soulbury-paid staff as set out in that document's recommendations. Local authorities are also encouraged to consider undertaking a risk audit or risk assessment in order to identify and address work-related stress among their Soulbury-paid staff. A brief summary of the guidance is attached as Annex 1.

Further information on LGAs work on health, safety and wellbeing can be found at <http://www.local.gov.uk>

HSE: MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR WORK-RELATED STRESS

The Soulbury Committee believes that the HSE *Management Standards for Work-Related Stress* form a very useful 'toolkit' for addressing work-related stress.

The Standards provide an audit tool to assess the impact on employees of six stressors identified by research as being implicated in the development of work-related stress.

The stressors are demands, control, support, relationships, role and change.

The standards have been further developed to assist organisations improve the capabilities and competencies of their managers which is often recognised as being a cause of workplace stress.

The Soulbury Committee recommends, therefore, that all local authority employers of Soulbury-paid staff adopt and implement the voluntary Management Standards.

Repeated application of the Standards audit tool can be used to monitor the effectiveness of stress prevention and management interventions over time.

Employers have a legal duty to ensure that all risks including risks to mental health arising from work are properly assessed and controlled. The Management Standards approach helps employers work with employees and their representatives to undertake risk assessments for work-related stress.

Organisations adopting the Standards are expected to undertake a risk assessment which covers each of the above six stressors. The HSE has developed a suite of tool kits and support material to assist organisations in using the management standards.

Additional guidance is also available to assist putting in place interventions to prevent

and manage work related stress. Additional tool kits are available to examine management competencies and behaviours which will reduce the likelihood of stress in the workplace. It is recommended that employers view this material on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/stress

A brief summary of the standards and the process of implementing them is attached as Annex 2.

NJC: FINDING THE BALANCE: WORK-LIFE POLICIES IN PRACTICE

The NJC for Local Government Services guidance document *Finding the Balance: work- life policies in practice* aims to set out the ways by which working arrangements may be linked with the improvement of services to the public. It seeks to encourage a social partnership approach to finding the right balance between service demands and what it calls 'employee responsive' working practices. It is designed to support local authorities, employees and trade unions in developing the necessary know-how to work in partnership and to develop positive working practices that are in tune with new service requirements.

The Soulbury Committee has endorsed the NJC's *Finding the Balance* and urges all local authorities to examine their existing working practices for their Soulbury-paid staff in the light of the document's recommendations.

The text of this document may be downloaded from: <http://www.local.gov.uk/>

ACTION POINTS FOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS

In the light of the above the Soulbury Committee recommends to local employers that they should:

- consider the risk of stress among their workforce;
- engage in consultation with their workforce;
- take steps to remove the risk; or
- reduce the risk by any necessary changes in working practices or by introducing appropriate protective or supportive measures where removal of the risk is not possible.

Annex 1

The Local Government Association: *Addressing Stress at Work - a guide to strategic and operational interventions that councils can take to prevent and manage work-related stress*

Despite the guide being out of print the primary, secondary and tertiary interventions outlined below remain good management practice in the prevention and management of work related stress.

The guide gives information on how to identify and deal with stress at a strategic and operational level and on how to recognise those who are stressed and the implications for the individual and the organisation.

Specifically, the guide considers the three different levels of approach to managing stress risks: primary interventions, secondary interventions and tertiary interventions:

Primary interventions These involve consideration of the preventative strategies that can be used to address the sources of stress in the workplace. Primary intervention policies to combat stress include:

- Formulating a stress policy to raise awareness and understanding and to establish a positive climate for tackling the issues around stress at work.
- Regular risk assessment and stress audit and surveys. Risk assessments, carried out by appropriately trained risk assessors, systematically evaluate hazards at work and the risks posed by those hazards, and identifies a range of measures to address them. A confidential audit or survey of the workforce may also be used to enhance the findings of a risk assessment and to separately identify and address workplace stressors. It can help make stress a legitimate topic for discussion in the workplace, measure the sources and impact of stress and identify the level of stress management intervention that is required.
- Building a workplace culture that is supportive and allows workers to express concerns without fear of penalties helps develop a stress-free environment.
- Considering work demands and the level of control individuals have over their workload.
- Providing support and training to employees and to maintain a balance between employees work and their personal life.

Secondary interventions These involve the use of control and preventative strategies to assist individuals to recognise the symptoms of stress and develop their coping skills and resilience. Secondary interventions include:

- Occupational health counselling and employee assistance programmes to control and minimise incidences of stress. Such services can help to provide advice and support for employees to help reduce stress. They may also be able to help with particular actions such as contributing to stress management training or undertaking health assessments.

- Training to employees and managers to help people to adapt the way they work to reduce the risk of developing work-related stress. Training will involve the provision of personal skills training to help employees undertake their job more effectively and to manage the demands placed upon them. Managers may also require training to assist their organisational and people management skills and help them achieve organisational objectives.
- Secondary interventions are also intended to improve people's ability to cope with pressure. Positive lifestyle choices that people make are one of the factors that can help individuals cope with pressure.

Tertiary interventions These involve reactive measures to assist in the recovery and rehabilitation of stressed employees. Tertiary interventions include:

- Dealing with absence due to stress. Where absence is due to mental illness including stress-related conditions, employees may require particularly sensitive handling and support. Employers may need to suggest referral for specialist advice and support, for example, from employee assistance or occupational health services.
- Occupational health, counselling and employee assistance programmes. A range of support interventions that local employers can use in cases where individuals are suffering from staff such as the expertise of occupational health, counselling or Employee Assistance services.

Annex 2

The Health & Safety Executive: *Management Standards for Work-Related Stress*

In September 2000, as part of its Stress Priority Programme, the HSE decided to develop standards of good management practice against which employers can gauge their performance in tackling a range of key stressors. The Standards were launched in November 2004. The Standards are part of a voluntary approach aimed at helping managers to measure their organisation's performance in tackling stress.

Although the Standards are voluntary, they will provide a basis for assessing employers' efforts to tackle workplace stress and could render them liable to formal action by HSE inspectors should their response be inadequate.

The Management Standards approach has, therefore, been developed to:

- reduce the levels of work-related stress;
- reduce the number of employees who go off sick or who cannot perform well at work because of stress; and
- 'shift the UK workforce from an undesirable state to a desirable one.'

The HSE wants employers to work with employees and their representatives to implement the Management Standards approach and introduce a process of continuous improvement. The HSE acknowledges that their approach is not designed to eliminate stress, but that it is a way of encouraging organisations to assess stress risks and introduce practical measures towards improving their workplaces.

The HSE emphasises the importance of employee engagement to the approach, saying 'consultation with the workforce is the key to developing effective solutions. Employers will be able to use the Management Standards to prioritise areas of highest risk.

Stress and the Standards Approach

Stress has been described by the HSE as "the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed upon them". Although stress itself is not a disease, it is recognised that excessive or prolonged stress can be a cause of mental and physical illness. Stress is always considered undesirable and should be distinguished from pressure, which may provide a challenge, which stimulates employees to perform, at their peak. This level of performance cannot be sustained and persistent pressure will lead to stress.

The Standards and supporting processes are designed to:

- help simplify risk assessment for stress;
- encourage employers, employees and their representatives to work in partnership to address work-related stress throughout the organisation; and

- provide the yardstick by which organisations can gauge their performance in tackling the key causes of stress.

The Standards

The Standards are expressed as a set of statements grouped under six headings, known as 'stressors'. They are: demands, control, support, relationships, role and change.

Demands

This includes issues like e.g., workload, deadlines, work scheduling, physical environment etc. The standard is that: employees indicate that they are able to cope with the demands of their jobs; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

Control

This includes issues like how much say individuals have in the way they do their work, decision-making authority, autonomy, pacing, interruptions. The standard is that: employees indicate that they are able to have a say about the way they do their work; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

Support

This includes the encouragement, sponsorship and resources provide by the organisation, line management and colleagues. The standard is that: employees indicate that they receive adequate information and support from their colleagues and superiors; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

Relationships

This includes promoting positive working to avoid conflict and dealing with unacceptable behaviour, quality of line management, freedom from bullying/harassment. The standard is that: employees indicate that they are not subjected to unacceptable behaviours, e.g., bullying at work; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

Role

This includes whether people understand their role within the organisation and whether the organisation ensures that people do not have conflicting roles. The standard is that: employees indicate that they understand their role and responsibilities; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

Change

How organisational change is managed and communicated. The standard is that: employees indicate that the organisation engages them frequently when undergoing an organisational change; and systems are in place locally to respond to any individual concerns.

APPENDIX H

CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

This advice has been agreed by the Soulbury Committee following situations in which legal proceedings were issued in relation to complaints about lack of consultation with Soulbury trade unions or employees on proposals to alter the contractual terms and conditions of Soulbury Officers.

Authorities are asked to note that the Soulbury Report national agreement recommends full recognition by local authorities of the professional associations represented on the Soulbury Committee, including “regular consultation with representatives on all questions affecting their conditions of service” (para 11.1).

While there is no agreed national prescription for local arrangements to give effect to this, both Sides of the Soulbury Committee believe it is important that employers consult with all of the recognised Soulbury trade unions on such proposals and do not confine consultation to those trade unions recognised in respect of the main local government employee groups.

Therefore, where local authorities are considering any change in contractual terms and conditions which would affect Soulbury-paid officers, the Soulbury Committee recommends that authorities should consult the representatives of the Soulbury unions about the proposed changes which might affect them.

In addition, where local authorities have already implemented changes in this area which have affected Soulbury-paid officers adversely in comparison with other employee groups within the authority and there is evidence that Soulbury officer representatives were not part of the original consultation process, the Soulbury Committee recommends that authorities should consider the impact of these changes upon Soulbury Officers and where appropriate consult their representatives; and encourages local authorities to establish, or maintain existing Soulbury consultation groups to ensure that the relevant parts of the workforce are included in all discussions.

APPENDIX I

Local Authorities' Car User Schemes

The NJC Local Government Services car user scheme provides a national framework that is implemented locally by local authority employers. Clearly local authorities have discretion on the precise provisions which will apply locally. Car user policies may be revised for a variety of reasons including budgetary, environmental or other considerations.

Authorities are, however, asked to note that the national Soulbury agreement recommends full recognition by local authorities of the professional associations represented on the Soulbury Committee, including "regular consultation with representatives on all questions affecting their conditions of service" (para 11.1) **and also note the advice on consultation set out in Appendix H.**

The Soulbury Committee has also agreed to draw local authorities' attention to the circumstances and considerations which may mean that Soulbury-paid officers are specifically or disproportionately affected by changes to car user schemes.

In particular, the NJC car user scheme and most authority schemes distinguish between essential and casual user status. The NJC scheme defines essential users as those employees "whose duties are of such a nature that it is essential for them to have a motor car at their disposal whenever required." The Soulbury Committee asks local authorities, when considering whether to retain a category of essential user or considering the definition of the category, to give appropriate consideration to the position of Soulbury-paid officers.

Many Soulbury-paid officers may find it difficult to undertake their duties without the use of a car. In rural areas, the long distances travelled may mean that access to a car is essential for efficient use of officers' time. In urban areas, many officers (in particular female officers) may need a car for their own personal safety due to the time or location of work engagements. In all areas, the weight and volume of resources which many officers are required to transport with them may mean that car use is essential and reliance on public transport impracticable.

APPENDIX J

Advice on Employment of Trainee Educational Psychologists

This appendix sets out agreed guidance relating to the employment, pay and conditions of Trainee Educational Psychologists (hereafter trainee EPs). It also provides further advice in relation to trainee EPs who are considered to be students, rather than employees, during the years of their training period. This advice is without prejudice to the Soulbury Committee's continuing commitment to its agreement on the employment status of trainee EPs as outlined below.

This circular should be read in conjunction with paras 4.14 to 4.18 of the Soulbury Report which sets out the agreement on pay and conditions for trainee EPs in full.

Advice on Employee Status for Trainee EPs

The Soulbury Committee agrees that all trainee EPs in year one of the training period are considered to be students and do not have the status of 'employees'. During this period, therefore, they are not entitled to membership of an occupational pension scheme, benefits under occupational sickness or maternity schemes, annual leave or any other contractual or statutory rights available to employees.

The Soulbury Report provides that all trainee EPs should be employed under contracts of employment during years two and three of the training period. As employees, they should be employed on terms not less favourable than those for other local government employees of the authority and would have access to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Trainee EPs with previous Modification Order service

The Soulbury Committee agreed in 2009 that, in moving to the new system of training EPs, there was no intention to disadvantage them in respect of continuity of employment and those contractual rights which depend upon continuous service.

For that reason, where trainee EPs were previously employed in a capacity covered by the Modification Order and would, but for that first year of training when they do not have 'employee' status, have continuous service for the purposes of entitlements to annual leave and occupational sickness and maternity schemes, employers should treat that period as a period of continuous service for these entitlements. That period should be similarly treated for the purposes of contractual notice and other contractual provisions dependent upon continuous service.

Some trainee EPs have been or continue to be considered by employers to be students, rather than employees, during years two and three of the training period as well. The Soulbury Committee advises that in such cases the same approach should be adopted with regard to continuous service, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged by that further delay in gaining employee status.

Trainee EPs without previous Modification Order service

Some trainee EPs have not been previously employed in a capacity covered by the Modification Order prior to embarking upon training. They have student status for year one of the training period and, in some cases, also have been or continue to be considered by employers to be students for years two and three of the training period.

The Soulbury Committee, having agreed that it was not the intention in moving to the new training system to disadvantage EPs in respect of contractual rights which depend upon continuous service, advises that employers should adopt the same approach with regard to continuous service for this group as is adopted for those who have previous Modification Order service.