



Educational Psychology
Programme Directors



September 2022

Joint Response to Trainee Bursary Amount and Cost of living increases

This statement is a joint statement by the National Association of Principal Educational Psychologists Executive group, the Division of Educational and Child Psychology, British Psychological Society and the Educational Psychology National Training Providers.

We acknowledge that the current situation is extremely challenging for some Trainee Educational Psychologists (TEPs) and that solutions need to be found quickly to support current cohorts.

The issues of TEP remuneration and conditions of service on placement are linked to a broader set of complex challenges across the EP training route as an entire system. The recent workforce survey by Warwick university should, longer term, support a review of the entire system. Working on this entire system will take time and therefore a short-term proposal is recommended to support the current cohort of TEPs on bursaries.

The below short-term proposal is not a discouragement from any services who wish to employ TEPs but provides support and direction for those services with TEPs on bursaries.

We are therefore endorsing the following on a national basis:

Bursary Sum:

- We endorse an increase **of the annual bursary** to £19,960¹, index linked from services as soon as possible and by September 2023 at the latest.
- We endorse the commitment from services/areas to provide a one-off payment, of at least £2,000 up to a total annual bursary amount of £19,960 for the academic year September 22-23.

We note the outstanding issue of HMRC possible tax implications, this is being investigated but on current information it seems unlikely that HMRC will consider the bursary sum to be taxable.

¹ This figure is the tax-free equivalent of the first point of the current Soulbury TEP employment scale. This changes each September with new Soulbury agreements so £19,960 is based on the current (Sept 2021) figure, and it will then be index linked.