Mental health

Finding support



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Mental health

When we think of our health, we're often quick to talk about our physical health, but reluctant to talk about our mental health.

After a year of change and uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever for us to watch out for our mental wellbeing and seek help when we need it.

In this factsheet, you'll find a list of reliable sources of information and support.

Remember: If you feel you're struggling with your mental health, reach out to friends, family and your GP for further support - you're not alone.



In this factsheet

- Information sources
- Helplines
- Mental health apps

Further mental health support

Mental health problems are more common than you might think: 1 in 4 adults in the UK will experience a mental health issue each year.

Here are some trustworthy, helpful sources when it comes to mental health support.

Information

Rethink mental illness

<u>https://www.rethink.org/</u>

This site has lots of useful information on mental health generally as well as content specifically around coronavirus and mental health.

Mental Health Foundation

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/ From podcasts and videos to inspiring stories, there's lots of content on the Mental Health Foundation's website to support your wellbeing.

Mind

https://www.mind.org.uk/

From sharing personal mental health stories to information on the different types of psychiatric medicine, Mind is a wealth of information and advice about all mental health issues.

Anxiety UK

https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/ As well as a lot of useful information and tools to manage anxiety, this charity also has a specific section about anxiety and coronavirus.

Helplines

Below are just a handful of the mental health support lines available in the UK. For a longer list of support options, take a look at the NHS's <u>list of mental health helplines</u>.

Samaritans

116 123

Available to listen 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Samaritans is a free listening service that anyone can use. They also run an email support service.

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) 0800 58 58 58

For those who identify as male, CALM run a dedicated support line in the evenings from 5pm to midnight every day. You can also use their webchat service.

Papyrus HOPELINEUK

0800 068 4141

For those who are under 35 and struggling with suicidal feelings, Papyrus is available from 9am to midnight every day of the year. You can also text them on 07860039967.

The Mix

0808 808 4994

Especially for under 25s, The Mix helpline is available from 3pm to midnight every day of the year. You can also request support via their crisis text message service, available 24 hours a day by texting THEMIX to 85258.

SANEline

07984 967 708

SANEline supports those experiencing a mental health problem. You can leave a message on 07984 967 708 giving your first name and a contact number, and one of their professionals or senior volunteers will call you back as soon as possible.

Switchboard

0300 330 0630

For people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, the Switchboard helpline is open 10am–10pm every day.

Apps

Cove

http://www.cove-app.com/

Finding the right words to express how you feel can be hard. Cove takes a different approach and helps you create music to reflect emotions. You can share your creations with people or store it in your personal journal.

Happify

https://www.happify.com/

Happify uses a mixture of different exercises and games to help you evaluate your mood and practise techniques to help you boost your wellbeing.

Chill Panda

http://chillpanda.co.uk/

Using your heart rate, Chill Panda suggests breathing exercises or light exercise to suit your mood and help you relax. The app helps children better understand their stress and shows them ways to feel better.

Headspace

https://www.headspace.com/

One of the best known meditation apps out there, Headspace is great for those who are new to meditation and want to learn more about it. The 7-day intro course is free, but after it's £9.99 a month or £49.99 if paid annually.

7 Cups

https://www.7cups.com/

Sometimes you just need to talk - and that's where 7 Cups might be helpful. It calls itself "the world's largest emotional support system" with trained volunteers ready to listen. Conversations take place online and are anonymous, confidential and the service is free.

Wellbeing resources

This factsheet is part of our series of free resources aimed at helping teams look after their physical and mental health.

Take a look at our <u>HR Resources</u> and our <u>blog</u> for advice and toolkits to help look after your people and your business.

