Dear colleague

Getting children the help they need, when they need it

We represent The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This is clearly a period of great uncertainty, and it is not clear what government advice will be regarding school closures and social distancing measures over the next few months. With that said, we’re delighted to invite you to join two free workshops that will bring education and mental health professionals together in Cambridgeshire. This is with the aim of ensuring that our children and young people get the mental health support they need, when they need it.

These workshops are being offered as part of the Link Programme, a national initiative funded by the Department for Education, supported by NHS England and led by the Anna Freud Centre. The programme is being rolled out to every school and college in England over four years. It is already proving effective in promoting closer collaboration between schools, colleges and those providing mental health services.

The Link Programme will offer you a platform to connect with the CCG, local authority representatives, voluntary and community sector children and young people’s mental health services (CYPMHS), and other schools and colleges in Cambridgeshire. It will enable you to pool your understanding and resources, and draw up long term action plans, coordinated by your CCG.

How the Link Programme will support you:

We know that often children and young people’s mental health difficulties first get noticed at school. We also know that working across agencies is complicated. Here in Cambridgeshire, the Link Programme will bring together mental health professionals alongside mental health leads from schools and colleges. The workshops will facilitate joint planning and working and share best practice with the purpose of providing timely and appropriate support. They will also help to influence the way future services are developed.

Feedback from the Link Programme pilot with 255 schools and colleges was positive, with participants reporting:

- Increased satisfaction with working relationships between children’s mental health services and education;
- Enhanced communication and joint working between education and mental health;
- Improvements in timeliness and appropriateness of referrals.

To find out more about the impact of the programme in one area, click here to read about the experiences of Oldham CCG.

What the workshops include:

The two one-day workshops will feature the following:

- Practical and interactive group work and action planning, using the CASCADE framework which is a tool developed with stakeholders working with children and young people to identify levels of joint working across seven key domains;
– Insight, advice and guidance focused on your area’s needs and challenges (e.g. what makes a good referral, strategies to introduce smoother communication channels between school/college leads and mental health services);
– Access to multiple resources and signposting, as well as strategies for outcome measures, to take away beyond the Link Programme;
– Detailed information to improve understanding of children and young people’s mental health.

How to get involved:

The workshops will be facilitated by the Anna Freud Centre, a leading children’s mental health charity with over 60 years’ experience. They will be held 6-8 weeks apart, on the dates below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Workshop 1 date</th>
<th>Workshop 1 venue</th>
<th>Workshop 2 date</th>
<th>Workshop 2 venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge City</td>
<td>29th April 2020</td>
<td>North Cambridge Academy</td>
<td>17th June 2020</td>
<td>Cambridge United Football Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>30th April 2020</td>
<td>Comberton Village College</td>
<td>18th June 2020</td>
<td>Comberton Village College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntingdonshire</td>
<td>19th May 2020</td>
<td>Sawtry Village Academy</td>
<td>30th June 2020</td>
<td>Sawtry Village Academy</td>
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Your school / college must nominate a lead person who:

– Has an overview of mental health and emotional wellbeing in your setting.
– Is a member of the senior leadership team (or is directly sponsored by a member of the senior leadership team).
– Will be able to attend both workshops.

You may wish to send a second delegate, for example, a senior member of staff along with someone who would lead on implementation. However, we recognise that for many schools / colleges it might not be possible to release two staff members.

For consistency, and to obtain the best outcomes possible, the same person / people must attend both workshop 1 and workshop 2.

The only schools ineligible to attend these workshops are those that attended The Link Programme workshops in Autumn 2018. A list of those schools is outlined at the bottom of this letter.

If you require more information please contact Antonia Langworthy (antonia.langworthy1@nhs.net) or Tom Hughes (tom.hughes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Next steps

Registration for the workshops can be completed at:
At registration, your details will be passed to the Anna Freud Centre and their delivery partners for the purpose of running the workshops and evaluating the programme. Data will be processed and stored in line with the privacy notice at [https://www.annafreud.org/media/10450/link-programme-privacy-notice-final.pdf](https://www.annafreud.org/media/10450/link-programme-privacy-notice-final.pdf).

We very much hope that you will participate in this important programme and we look forward to collaborating over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joanna Carr</th>
<th>Kathryn Goose</th>
<th>Sara Katsukunya</th>
<th>Tom Hughes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations Manager, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust</td>
<td>Senior Commissioning Manager, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group</td>
<td>Clinical Lead, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust</td>
<td>Senior Educational and Child Psychologist, Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**List of ineligible schools:**

Abbey College  
Alderman Payne Primary School  
Ashbeach Primary School  
Bassingbourn Community Primary School  
Brampton Village Primary  
Castle School  
Cottenham Primary School  
Crosshall Infant School Academy Trust  
Eastfield Infant and Nursery School  
Fenstanton Primary School  
Granta  
Hartford Junior School  
Impington Village College  
Jeavons Wood Primary School  
Kings Hedges Federation  
Littleport Community School  
Nene and Ramnoth School  
Orchards CofE Academy  
Pathfinder CofE  
Pendragon Primary School  
Pilgrim PRU  
Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School  
Soham Village College  
Spring Meadow Primary School  
Staploe Education Trust  
TBAP Octavia AP Academy  
The Galfrid School  
The Harbour  
Thomas Eaton Primary  
Thorndown Primary  
Westwood Primary School  
If you believe this information to be incorrect, please contact Tom Hughes ([tom.hughes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.hughes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)).