**Mental Health Champions project FAQs**

**Does the MHC project coordinate mental health and emotional wellbeing services locally?**

No, we don’t coordinate other services, but we often serve as a link between schools/education and health, as we are in an ideal position to do so. We can often help signpost, but we don’t organise local provision.

**Do you invite other services/organisations to network meetings or to deliver training?**

We will sometimes invite other services to give Champions *information* about their offers etc, with the intention of schools/Champions being able to follow up any queries directly with those services. We don’t usually invite other services to deliver *training*, as we provide this directly via our ‘Plus’ offer, and other services have their own routes of delivering their training offers.

**Who should school nominate as the Champion?**

This depends on your school’s circumstances and whether you want your Champion to take on responsibility that is additional to the MHC role. It might be a TA or LM who works directly with CYP and would benefit from training. It might be someone who has availability to be the point of contact. It might be a member of school SLT with the authority to implement changes to school systems and policies (especially if they are undertaking the DfE Senior Mental Health Leads)

**Can our school access any training if we are only an MHC Core school.**

MHC Core level is for key information, local updates, and sign-posting. Schools who wish to access training through us would need to sign up to MHC Plus. There is an expectation that MHC Plus school have a commitment to developing whole school practice in terms of mental health and emotional wellbeing, which will include completing an audit and implementation of an action plan, so this would need the agreement of the school’s SLT

**Can schools can make requests to the MHC project for additional support, such as whole school training or support for individual pupils*?***

The MHC project is intended to give information to school and to support the development of a member of staff in the areas of mental health/emotional wellbeing via the group events such as the Network Meetings and other training. Support for the development of whole school practices and approaches can be accessed via the supervision on offer to Champions at MHC Plus.

We do not offer support to schools in terms of training groups of staff, or for advice regarding individual pupils, but this can be accessed through the wider EP Team. This might be through EP consultation hubs, or through traded services. Please note that the MHC team does not have the capacity to process such requests, which would need to go through the main EP team contacts. More information on EP services is [here](https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/CMSPage.aspx?mid=3354), including the costs involved.

**Can we have more than one Champion in our school?**

We ask that schools nominate one Champion only, and they would be the point of contact. Two people could job-share the role if needs be, although they would not both be able to attend network meetings. (This includes not attending a repeated version of the same event). This is because we are commissioned to support the development of one person per school, and this is reflected in our capacity during sessions.

**Can more than one Champion or other members of staff attend network meetings and other events?**

As stated above, in circumstances where Champions job share, only **one** of them would be able to attend the termly network meetings and training sessions. The network meetings are not open to other members of staff. If schools wish more than one member of staff to access our training, they would need to commission this as a service from the wider EP Team, which would be a cost to the school.

**What if our Champion can’t attend an event scheduled for our geographical area?**

Champions can attend a different day/time if their scheduled geographical area event is not suitable. Or another representative can attend, as long as they contact our admin team in order to receive the invitation.

**Can we change between MHC *Core* and *Plus*?**

We can move your school up to Core or back down to Plus during the school year if you feel this is better suited to your circumstances. However, the projects are not interchangeable, and we would expect schools to stay with their initial decision throughout the year.

Schools stepping up to MHC Plus later in the year should be aware that they would still be expected to commit to their whole school development, including completion of the audit and implementation of an action plan. However, if the initial introductory phase has passed, your school may need to wait until the next round of auditing, as the time period for support for this will have passed.

**Can I just request to upgrade or start at MHC Plus myself?**

You will need full agreement and backing from your school’s SLT. This is because MHC Plus schools are required to undertake a whole school audit and implement an action plan that the school would be expected to commit to.

**Can we still access the termly MHC Plus Network Meetings whilst waiting to complete our audit?**

Yes, once you are signed up as an MHC Plus school, your Champion is able to attend these events.

**Can we still access the Healthy Minds additional intervention training whilst waiting to complete our audit?**

No unfortunately, access to the intervention training is contingent on being actively involved with at least one of the initiatives. If your school has missed the initial auditing and action planning stage, you will need to wait until you begin this before you can access the intervention training.

**Do you send out the Network Meeting and Training presentation materials to all Champions, even if they do not attend?**

The presentation materials are sent out automatically after each meeting/event. There is no need to request these if you have registered and attended. However, they will only sent out to Champions who formally registered to attend an event. We regret that we cannot sent out materials to Champions who did not register to attend in the first instance.

**Can I access more than one Healthy Minds intervention training if we are an MHC Plus school *and* doing the DfE Leads or Chartermark?**

Unfortunately, we only have capacity at present to offer one intervention per school, even if you are doing more than one initiative. There may be the opportunity to access additional intervention training next year.

**How do we sign up to Core and/or Plus?**

Email the MHC inbox ([mhchampions@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:mhchampions@bradford.gov.uk) ) and state whether you would like to register as MHC Core or Plus.

**What if we have a new/different Champion to last year?**

Email the MHC inbox ([mhchampions@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:mhchampions@bradford.gov.uk) ) to let our admin team know if your MHC details have changed.