Dear Colleagues,

Airedale, Wharfedale, Craven CCG, Bradford City and Bradford Districts CCG are delighted to have been successful in our application for the Mental Health Services and Schools Link Programme, run by the Anna Freud National Centre for Child and Families and funded by the Department for Education.

We believe this exciting programme will strengthen the links and developments that have already been established as part of the Mental Health Champions programme and help us to further support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people across Bradford and Craven and will facilitate closer collaboration between schools and colleges and those providing mental health support.

**We are seeking expressions of interest from schools and colleges across Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale & Craven who would like to be a part of this programme. Mental health leads from participating schools and colleges will attend two day-long workshops alongside mental health professionals to facilitate joint working and share best practice.**

**What is the Mental Health Services and Schools Link Programme?**

This programme is a ground-breaking initiative to help Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), other service providers and Local Authorities work together with schools and colleges to provide timely mental health support to children and young people. It works to empower professionals and support staff by brokering contact, sharing expertise and developing a joint vision for children and young peoples’ mental health and emotional wellbeing in each locality.

The programme has already been successfully piloted in 255 schools across England (2015-2016), and has been independently evaluated. The pilot was developed in response to recommendations set out in ‘Future in Mind’ (DH 2015), to improve access to mental health support for children and young people, by bringing together schools and mental health professionals to two free, joint workshops. [Read the full evaluation report](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-services-and-schools-link-pilot-evaluation).

**Why should your school/college be involved?**

Schools and colleges are increasingly expected to have a key role in supporting children and young people with a range of mental health problems. The recent Children and Young People’s Mental Health Green Paper sets out an ambitious set of proposals to fill the gap in support for children and young people’s mental health. This includes incentivising and supporting all schools and colleges to identify and train a Designated Senior Lead for Mental Health and introducing new Mental Health Support Teams which will improve join-up between schools and the NHS. [Read the full Green Paper and access the consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transforming-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-provision-a-green-paper).

We recognise that school/college staff are not mental health professionals and may not always feel confident in this area. By joining up services through this programme, expertise can be shared and true partnership working, to best meet the needs of our children and young people, can begin.Schools, colleges and mental health professionals will see improvements in their practice, and children and young people will therefore be better supported to be mentally healthy and build resilience, and services will become more accessible.

**How will the programme work?**

There will be two different one-day workshops (9.30-4pm) facilitated by Anna Freud staff 6-8 weeks apart:

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| --- | --- |
| **Cohort 1**  **Workshop 1:** Wednesday 23rd May 2018  **Workshop 2:** Thursday 12th July 2018  **Venue:**  Kala Sangam Arts CentreSt Peter’s House 1 Forster Square Bradford BD1 4TY  If you have any problem with the above postcode, please use this alternative post code of Bradford Cathedral which is just next door: BD1 4EH. | **Cohort 2**  **Workshop 1:** Tuesday 22nd May 2018  **Workshop 2:** Friday 13 July 2018  **Venue:**  Keighley Town Council Keighley Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ |

These workshops will be attended by schools and colleges, and professionals from a range of services which advise and support children and young peoples’ mental and emotional health and wellbeing. We will have 2cohorts with representatives from 20 schools and colleges plus the same number of mental health professionals in each cohort.

The workshops involve individual and group work, case studies and small and large group discussions. They cover understanding the strengths, limitations and capabilities and capacities of education and mental health professionals, and developing knowledge of what’s available to support children and young people’s mental health and how to make more effective use of resources.

We invite your school/college to nominate a lead person who has an overview of mental health and emotional wellbeing issues within your setting and who will be able to fully participate in both workshops. This should be a member of the leadership team but could also be someone in a mental health or wellbeing role, special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) or a pastoral lead. In yoursetting this should be a person who manages or can influence the service provided to children, young people and their families. Some settings 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.

The nominated participant(s) should:

* Commit to working in collaboration to agree joint working and develop shared protocols
* Participate in the process and impact evaluations of the programme, for example, completing the baseline and follow-up surveys, and supporting wider evaluation, such as case studies, interviews and surveys of all staff

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

If you require more information please E-mail: **futureinmind@bradford.nhs.uk**

**Next steps**

Please reply to[**Maariya.Karmani@bradford.nhs.uk**](mailto:Maariya.Karmani@bradford.nhs.uk) by **10th May 2018** if your school/college would like to participate in this exciting programme.

Please provide the following information:

* First name
* Surname
* Email address
* Phone number
* Job title
* A brief description of your role
* Name of school/college
* Type of school/college

Many Thanks ,

**Lisa Oldfield**

Project Support Officer (AWC Accountable Care)

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