

# Mental Health Delivery Group Newsletter Autumn 2022

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of the Mental Health Delivery Group (MHDG) newsletter produced by NHS Highland - Health Improvement Team, on behalf of the Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP) Mental Health Delivery Group

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Poverty and Mental Health Taking Care of You - services and support lines Money and Mental Health Trying to make ends meet? Training for people in a helping role Period Poverty - free period products for those who need them Self Help - ideas to help you look after your mental health Highland Food Partnership - activity map Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health Supporting the Wellbeing of our Children and Young People Highland Wellbeing Website - update Spread the word via this newsletter! Keep us updated please? The Mental Health Delivery Group Explained

### **Poverty and Mental Health**



#### Regardless of which comes first, the link between the two are without question.

In this edition we are focussing on the impact of poverty and money worries and the impact on people's mental health. You will find information which can help you help others and if need be, yourself.

There is a stigma associated with poverty and a perception that people living in poverty should just try harder to get themselves out of it. Rooted in the belief that poverty is a result of personal failings, these negative judgements will undoubtedly impact on someone's confidence and selfesteem and result in a greater likelihood of mental health issues developing.

#### "It doesn't seem to matter how hard I try, I never feel like I'm getting anywhere"

"I feel people judge "

" I am crying inside"

"It's draining"

"It seems as if you are fighting against the tide, and the tide is always running against you"

Just some of the words used by the people in this video to describe their experiences.



#### Having a secure and higher income is likely to result in better health.

Good health allows you to gain and sustain employment and to have more options to live a more active life.

A secure and higher income is likely to enable you to meet your own needs and allow you to take part in healthy activities as well as access things like better housing and higher quality food.

Insecurity and less income results in exactly the opposite.

## But first - Taking Care of You



If you or someone else is experiencing mental distress and you are worried about your own or someone else's immediate safety:

- Call 999 or go straight to A+E immediately.
- If you are calling for someone else, try to establish the person's, name, contact details and location

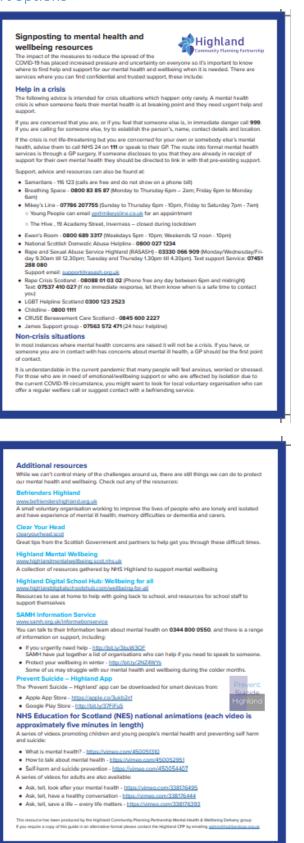
# If the crisis is not life-threatening but you are concerned for your own or somebody else's mental wellbeing:

- Advise them to call NHS 24 on 111 or speak to their GP. The route into formal mental health services is through a GP surgery.
- If someone discloses to you that they are already being supported for their own mental health, it's useful to link them to where they are currently receiving support

#### Important Support Line Numbers and Links

- <u>NHS 24</u> on 111
- <u>Samaritans</u> on 116 123
- <u>Breathing Space</u> on 0800 83 85 87 (6pm Friday 6am Monday & 6pm 2am on weekdays)
- <u>Mikeysline</u> text and multimedia crisis support
- <u>Shout</u> by texting 85258
- <u>Clear Your Head</u> website

# Download the HCPP Signposting to **Mental Health and Wellbeing Resource** for more information and support options



#### Encourage everyone to download the FREE Prevent Suicide Highland App

An information resource and safety planning/discussion tool for the whole community



Available for both Android and iPhone





If you need urgent help with suicidal thoughts call: Samaritans on 116 123 or Breathing Space on 0800 83 85 87

### Mental Health and Money



The <u>Mental Health and Money Advice</u> service has 3 informative podcasts entitled 'Money on Your Mind' focusing on mental health, money and how they are related.

There are 3 short 15 minute episodes on:

- How talking about your money worries can help your mental health
- The link between money and mental health
- Managing your money when living with a mental health condition

Follow the link to access all 3 episodes:

Podcast - Mental Health UK (mentalhealth-uk.org)

#### Trying to Make Ends Meet?

With the current rising cost of living crisis, it is appropriate to help make sure people are receiving all the benefits and entitlements they should be. This Worrying About Money leaflet is a step-by-step guide to identifying what someone's financial issue may be and where they can access the most appropriate help.

Worrying About Money Leaflet - download or click on the image to reveal page 2 below

#### Step 1: What's the problem? I suddenly have no mone Lost job / reduced hours

### Lost money / unexpected expense Disaster (e.g. flood or fire)

- Relationship breakdown Money stopped (e.g. failed a medical)
- Sanctioned see option 5
- See Options: 0000
- My money doesn't stretch far enough
- Deciding between food / fuel / mobile credit
  Low income or zero hours contract
- Statutory Sick Pay too low to cover costs
- Not sure if eligible for support Change of circumstance (e.g. new baby / bereavement / illness / left partner)
  - See Option: 🙆

#### Lhave debt

- Rent or Council Tax arrears
- . Gas or electricity
- Payday loans Owe friends and family
- Benefit repayments See Option:

- I am waiting on a benefit payment/decision
- Made a new claim for benefit
- Benefit payment is delayed
- See Options:

- Waiting for a benefit decision

Step 3: Where can I get help? Highland Co

The Welfare Support Team provide free, impartial and confidential support to claim all entitlements that are due to you

0800 090 1004

weifare.support@highland.gov.uk B Citizens Advice Bure

Free, impartial and confidential advice on benefits, debt, money and housing

Catthness 01847 894243

bureau@calthnesscab.casonine.org.uk North and West Sutherland 01971 521730 NWS-Bureau@NWSCAB.casonine.org.uk

East and Central Sutherland 01408 633000

advice@ecscab.org.uk Ross and Cromarty 01349 883333

bureau@ainesacab.casonine.org.uk

Skye and Lochalsh 01478 612032 adviser@skcab.org.uk

Naim 01667 456677

Lochaber 01397 705311 adviser@iochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk

Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey 01463 237664

enquiries@in

e ora uk

niine org.uk

A

#### This is a payment to help you cope during an emergency or disaster, or due to unexpected expenses. Crisis grants do not have to be paid

back (not a loan).

Where can I get help? 🚺 🕒 🕑 2 Maximise Your Income Anyone who is struggling financially can get a benefit check and speak to an advisor for free

Step 2: What are some options?

People on low incomes may be able to get a crisis grant from the Council.

and confidential advice A benefit check can ensure that you are receiving all the money you're entitled to. especially if your circumstances have changed recently speaking to an advisor could also help you find cheaper deals on things like gas and electricity and make sure you're not missing out on things like school clothing

#### Where can I get help? 🙆 🕒

#### 3

rants or free school

Debt can happen to anyone. Free advice and support can help you find ways to manage your debts and reduce how much you pay

each month Where can I get help? 🙆 ③

#### Step 2: What are some options?

If you have made a new claim for benefit and are in financial hardship while you wait for your first payment, you may be able to get an advance to afford things like rent or food. It's important to get advice before taking out an advance. Benefit advances must be paid back. and the money will be taken from your future benefit payments (a loan).

#### Where can I get help? 🚺 🕕

#### Hardship Pay

If you have been sanctioned, you may be able to request a hardship payment from the abboartine. Hardship payments are not always paid immediately, and they're not available to everyone. Hardship payments of Universal Credit need to be paid back (a loan), but hardship payments of Job Seekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance do not (not a loan).

#### Where can I get help? 🙆 🚯 6 Challenge a De

You can challenge a benefit decision if your benefit has been stopped / sanctioned / reduced / refused or you have been overpaid. Most benefit decisions need to be challenged within one month.

Where can I get help? 🚺 📵

#### Step 3: Where can I get help?

C ish Wei Crisis Grants to cover the costs of an emergency 0800 083 1887 www.highland.gov.uk/welfare-fund

port

#### Home Energy Scotland

Free and impartial energy efficiency advice 0808 808 2282 www.homeenergyscolland.org

Shelter Free housing advice 0808 800 4444

scotland shelter.org.uk Social Security Scotland Speak with someone about a

benefit application 0800 182 2222 www.mygox.scot/benefits

Breathing Space Confidential phoneline for anyone feeling low, analous or depressed 0800 83 85 87 breathingspace.scol

Clear Your Head Ways to help mental health and w www.clearyourhead scot d wellbeing

Salvation Army

Housing Advice 01463 234123 ement@salvationarmy.org.uk momenteent

Updated on: 15/11/20 Feedback? Share your experience of using this guide by visiting www.titl.informpathioteleadback

### Worrying about money?

Financial advice and support Is available if you're struggling to make ends meet.

## w these steps to find out where to get help in Highland.



### Training for people in a 'helping role'



Training delivered by all Mental Health Delivery Group Partners, for staff/volunteers and community groups - **new additions** 

A wealth of training opportunities can be found by selecting the Training tab within the revised Highland Mental Wellbeing website.

#### Highland Mental Wellbeing website

By scanning the QR codes or clicking the links below, you'll be taken to Turas Learn and see what dates are available to book on each course.

#### **Money Counts**

#### **Money counts**

This aim of this course is to build the confidence of staff working with people that may benefit from income maximisation help. It aims to increase staff understanding of poverty and the importance of asking about money worries, and increase knowledge of what support agencies can provide to those needing financial support.

https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/48351



### Health inequalities - [why bother?]

#### Health inequalities - [why bother?]

The aim of this course is to explore why tackling inequalities is the responsibility of everyone, what works to tackle health inequalities and explore how to apply this learning in your own working practices.

https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/41809



#### An introduction to mental health and wellbeing

#### An introduction to mental health and wellbeing

The aim of this course is to provide the essential knowledge and skills required by all staff working in health and social care or within partner organisations to positively impact on their own and others mental health and well-being.

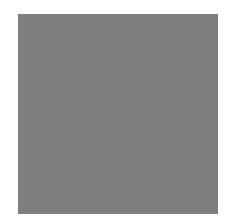
https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/62849



#### How to Access Turas Learn

Turas Learn is a website for health and social care staff to find and record learning, including eLearning modules and courses. Watch the video to find out how to:

- Register for Turas Learn
- Sign in to find learning resources
- Find your Learning Record



NHS Highland Health Improvement Training Programme

Training delivered by NHS Highland Health Improvement colleagues is available to anyone working in Highland.

Whilst there is the obviously relevant training around suicide prevention; mental health awareness; Scottish Mental Health First Aid; there is also training which supports us all to address health inequalities such as e.g. poverty, discrimination which we know lead to poorer physical and mental health.

For further information please download the programme using this link:

Health Improvement Training (scot.nhs.uk)





Free period products available across Highland for those who need them



In line with the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 which aims to tackle period poverty, promote period dignity and break the stigma surrounding periods in Scotland, free period products are available for collection from over 70 community venues across Highland with more collection points being added all the time

#### You can collect for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

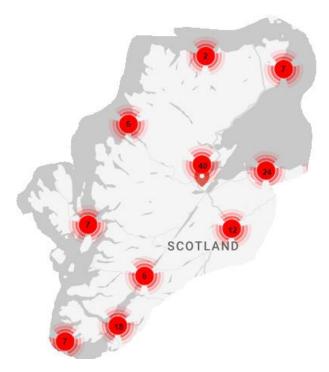
Look out for this poster in public buildings

Up to date information on community collection points in Highland can be found clicking on this link <u>My Period Live</u>

OR

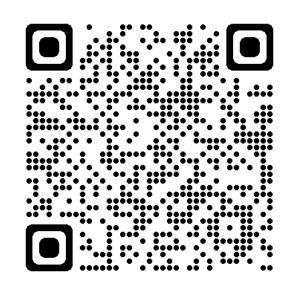
Download the PickUpMyPeriod app for free on Apple or Android.

The information there will be updated regularly and includes a map of current community collection points in Highland and across Scotland.





1 - <u>ANDROID</u>



2 - <u>APPLE</u>

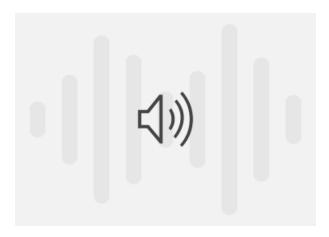
### Self Help - ideas to help you look after your mental health



#### Take a Breather

Even when things feel overwhelming, it is possible to settle our brain and emotions. A few minutes of conscious breathing, where the *in breath* and the *out breath* are around 5 seconds long each, can help activate calmness and safety in the body.

Try it for yourself by taking a few minutes from your day, using the audio track below to follow for 5 second *in breath* and 5 second *out breath* 



https://sway.office.com/F2i5T8pKBffrDfJc#content=ehQ0AMNbZzTBbg

3 - By clicking <u>Audio tones here</u> you can listen to guide tones to aid regulating and equalising the breath.



The Mental Health Foundation tells us that practicing mindfulness or meditation can help you to become more aware of thoughts, feelings, and body sensations so that instead of being overwhelmed by them, you will be better able to manage them. It can help you to:

- Understand that stress is a natural response to a challenge
- Pay attention to your thoughts and emotions AND be kind to yourself
- Turn your stress and anxiety into things you can do to help you cope

#### Want to know more about this practice?

The <u>Highland Mindfulness Group</u> provides beginner's mindfulness courses and support, plus motivation and continued training in all aspects of mindfulness meditation for anyone who has completed basic mindfulness training.

They are in process of re-organising this website to make it more user friendly, but if you are looking for something specific and can't find it by using the search box, you can email them on <u>highlandmindfulness@gmail.com</u> for help.

#### Take Time Outside



"Taking time to enjoy your local outdoor green space could bring you huge health benefits – getting outdoors is good for your physical, mental, and social well-being. Regardless of age and ability, there really is something for everyone, including groups and organisations in your local area that can support you.

You may not be the "outside type" but we aren't talking mountain climbing and adrenalin sports here, we're talking small steps to make a positive change"

Think Health Think Nature is here as a free resource to help you explore and enjoy your local green spaces.

Follow this ink to Think Health Think Nature website for more information and ideas

#### **Think Health Think Nature**

#### #feelyourpersonalbest

Launched jointly by SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health), Public Health Scotland, and **sport**scotland this campaign aims to encourage us to make small changes in our lives, that could help us to feel our personal best.

The 'Feel Your Personal Best' campaign is about encouraging people to get moving in whatever way works for them and support their physical and mental health in doing so.





*Jeff's Story* How walking helped him feel more calm and able to think straight

Check out the Feel Your Personal Best website for more personal stories and ideas for taking care of our body and mind

Feel Your Best Website



### highlife highland-membership

*highlife* membership offers you and your family access to a range of health and fitness opportunities in leisure centres throughout the Highlands. In addition to swimming pools and fitness suites, your membership gets you access to court activities, swimming lessons and a huge range of group exercise classes for people of all abilities and interests

If you access government benefits - cost - 50p per session

Website : Join High Life Highland

Click on these images to find out about the different packages on offer



Budget Family Only pay 50p per activity

#### Sign up as Budget Family

WHY CHOOSE THIS PLAN?

- 2 adults and unlimited U18s within your household
- Only available to those receiving benefits
- Only for residents of Highlands and Islands
- Book up to 7 days in advance
- Able to book online

#### Budget Individual

Only pay 50p per activity

#### Sign up as Budget Individual

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS PLAN?

- Only available to those receiving benefits
- Only for residents of Highlands and Islands
- Book up to 7 days in advance
- Able to book online

#### Family

All inclusive membership



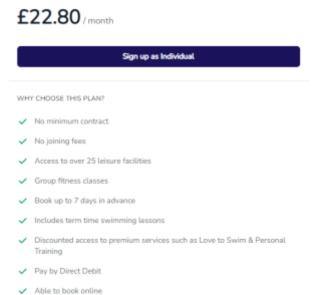
Sign up as Family

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS PLAN?

- 2 adults and unlimited U18s within your household
- No minimum contract
- No joining fees
- Access to over 25 leisure facilities
- Group fitness classes
- Book up to 7 days in advance
- Includes term time swimming lessons
- Discounted access to premium services such as Love to Swim & Personal Training
- Pay by Direct Debit
- Able to book online

Individual

All inclusive membership



## **Highland Food Activity Map**





The Highland Food Activity map includes local food producers, bakeries, community food growing initiatives, markets, food banks, community fridges and larders, community cafés and more!

Click on the link to access the map Highland Good Food Partnership



### Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health

Alcohol and drugs are often used as self-medication for mental pain or distress. Safe drinking can be key to good mental health.

Using alcohol and drugs as a way to cope with life's challenges and problems is common across the general population, as well as for people who have a diagnosed mental health problem.

The Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership's website has a wealth of information about the effects of drugs and alcohol as well as helpful services.

Website: Help and Support - Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership





A source of information for people with drug and/or alcohol problems, and their families or friends, that helps prevent overdose and encourages engagement.



Available for both Android and iPhone



### Able Futures - Mental health support for people at work

# \_able futures

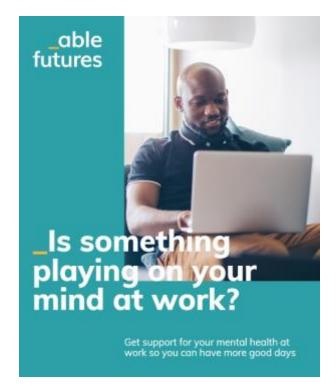
## Support in the workplace

If you live in the UK and are:

- aged 16 plus
- in work
- starting work
- on an apprenticeship

Able Futures gives you regular time to speak with a mental health specialist about issues that are affecting you at work, so that you can learn new ways to look after yourself so that you can feel more resilient and able to cope as well as finding the confidence to take practical steps to overcome problems and make adjustments to help your mental health at work

Click here for more information



### Support for employers Download the Employer Toolkit

Able Futures delivers the Access to Work Mental Health Support Service on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions and we understand how to help employers who are facing challenges with mental health at work.

It is full of information to support you support your workforce with their mental health and wellbeing



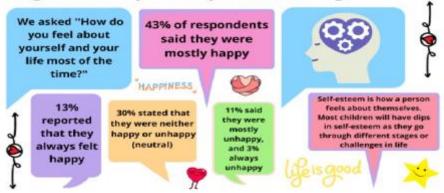
### Supporting the Wellbeing of our Children and Young People



Take a look at this fantastic resource developed to support children & young people, parents and carers and anyone working with a child or young person, to access the right information at the right time:

#### Supporting the wellbeing of our C&YP (wellbeinghighland.co.uk)

You'll find support sections for 'Children and Young People', 'Parents and Carers' and 'Practitioners'. There is also a news section and survey results from the Highland Lifestyle Survey presented in useful infographics such as this:



#### Highland Lifestyle Survey 2021 - Self Image

Other survey infographics found on the site include topics like healthy eating and exercise, sleep, bullying, change and loss, bullying and worries. The survey is carried out every 2 years by pupils in P7, S2 and S4.



If you, as a parent or someone who supports parents, have a question about the development or wellbeing of a child or young person in Highland, you can call **Just Ask** on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 1–4pm. A health or educational professional will call you back within a few days.

This is a great way to access professional advice from local staff in the first instance.

### **Highland Mental Wellbeing website**



On the Highland Mental Wellbeing website you will be able to find a wealth of information and local services supporting communities across Highland.

**FIND A SERVICE**, has a filter option to help you narrow down your search and find the right support for you, in your area.

**TRAINING** section provides information about training available around the Highlands, provided by many different organisations covering various topics.

**EVENTS** tab aims to highlight upcoming training and events. It needs you, in local areas, to tell us what's planned, so please tell us about it so it can be shared for the benefit of all concerned. You'll find a contact form in the next section - Spread the Word....

**NEWSLETTERS,** all editions of the newsletter will be uploaded on the website. They are packed with information and resources

The website can be accessed by clicking this link: <u>Highland Mental Wellbeing – A collection of</u> resources to support mental wellbeing (scot.nhs.uk)



### Spread the word via this newsletter!



The MHDG would welcome the views of everyone from across Highland, who is interested in improving the mental health and wellbeing of people in their local communities.

If you have anything you want to include in our next newsletter, e.g. services you wish to highlight, exciting local initiatives that other areas may wish to replicate, please complete this electronic form,

or alternatively,

download a word version using <u>this link</u> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Once completed email it to **nhsh.mentalhealthtraining@nhs.scot** 

The information in the newsletter or the mental health and wellbeing website is only as good as the day it is published.

We work hard to keep it updated but cannot guarantee everything is 100% current unless **all partners and local community planning groups keep us updated.** 

#### Thankyou to those people who are already keeping us updated!

#### Embed://<iframe width="640px" height="480px"

src="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmtOZigthJTdF qyULgUBh5pdUNjYxRTFMWkhYQ083WIQ4VFJZS085UVQ4TS4u&embed=true" frameborder="0" marginwidth="0" marginheight="0" style="border: none; max-width:100%; max-height:100vh" allowfullscreen webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen msallowfullscreen></iframe>





TEN .

### Mental Health Delivery Group(MHDG)Explained



The MHDG is one of 5 thematic sub groups of the Highland Community Planning Partnership (HCPP). The overarching aim of this group is that **all people in Highland will benefit from good health and wellbeing**.

This multiagency group is committed to:

- Sharing best practice, ideas and resources
- Delivering Suicide Intervention and Prevention Training on behalf of the Highland Community Planning Partnership
- Developing an action plan that reflects identified need as highlighted via services from people with lived experience and from data provided both nationally and locally
- Ensuring the people around the virtual table represent the range of activities and services from communities across all 9 local community planning areas

The <u>Highland Community Planning Partnership</u> brings together public agencies, third sector organisations and other key community groups to work collaboratively with the people of Highland to deliver better outcomes.

Feeding into the HCPP are 9 local community planning partnerships **and** the 5 regional thematic sub groups which are:

- mental health and wellbeing (MHDG)
- community safety and resilience
- infrastructure
- community participation and dialogue

• poverty reduction.











**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP** 

Chairperson - Cathy Steer, Head of Health Improvement, NHS Highland

NatureScot

Cattie Anderson and Liz McLachlan

#### **Third Sector Representatives**

Keith Walker

**Emily Stokes** Sue Lyons The Highland Council Psychological Services **Bernadette Cairns** Policy, Equality & Opportunity Rosemary Mackinnon Occupational Health Gena Falconer Health, Safety and Wellbeing Jim McCreath **NHS Highland** Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Helen Eunson Mental Health Services Arlene Johnstone Public Health: Siobhan Leen, Maggie Hume, Vacant **Fire Scotland** Jill Graham **Police Scotland** Partnerships Jennifer Baughan Partnerships Jenny Valentine HighLife Highland Lynn Bauermeister **Scottish Ambulance Service Michael Adams University of Highlands and Islands** Iris Bangera **Highland and Islands Enterprise** Vacant