

**FAQs: CYPMH Green Paper Programme – November 2019**

**Where can I go for more guidance and information on, for example, referral forms, partnership agreements and so on?**

* You can currently access guidance on this programme and resources from 2018-19 MHST trailblazer areas via the NHS Futures Collaboration Platform.
* Healthy London Partnership also has a Schools Mental Health Toolkit, which you can access here: <https://www.healthylondon.org/resource/schools-mental-health-toolkit/>
* NHSE, DfE, HEE and HLP are currently developing and collating further resources to support you with MHST implementation. We will share these with you as and when they become available.

**Is the CYPMH Link Programme training mandatory?**

* No, but we would encourage schools/colleges to take it up when they are able. [This](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IkoRmzkB_Q) short animation provides a good overview of what the training covers and how it can support joint partnerships between school/college staff and children and young people’s mental health services – including on, for example, designing integrated referral pathways.
* The DfE is funding the Anna Freud Centre to roll the programme out nationally from Autumn 2019. The training will be made available to all state-funded schools and colleges in England over the next four years.
* It is for the/your school/college to determine which staff undertake the training – it may be that someone other than the senior mental health lead attends, for example, to build capacity and embed the/your school/college’s whole school/college approach to mental health. We would, however, suggest that permanent staff from, or with the endorsement of, the senior leadership team, attend to ensure continuity and sustainability for mental health and wellbeing provision in the school/college.
* A Link Programme strategic lead in your local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be responsible for engaging schools and colleges in the programme. He/she will contact you directly about what commitment to the workshops will involve and how you can benefit from signing up.

**Is the senior mental health lead training mandatory?**

* No, but we would encourage school/colleges to take it up when they are able. We recognise that developing a whole school approach to mental health, spearheaded by senior leaders in your school/college, is an investment of time and resource and that school and college staff are already stretched.
* But feedback from London schools and colleges indicates that your hard work is having an impact – not only in terms of positive feedback from children and young people receiving mental health and wellbeing support, but also from parents reporting significant improvements in their child’s behaviour and from school/college staff on reductions in exclusions and improvements in staff wellbeing.
* We know that approximately 82% of schools and 77% of post-16 education currently have a staff member(s) leading on mental health. The senior lead role, and the training to support implementation of the role, is about helping schools and colleges to make the best use of existing resources and effort to help improve the wellbeing and mental health of pupils and students.
* The DfE developed the scope of this training through extensive engagement with a range of schools and colleges. We are therefore confident that it will meet needs identified by school and college staff themselves. We know that some school and college staff do not, for example, currently feel confident in teaching about mental health or in identifying, responding to or signposting children and young people experiencing difficulties for appropriate support.
* The training will not only complement and build upon MHST support in your school or college. It will further build senior leads’ – and therefore the school or college systems in which they work - expertise, knowledge and confidence in embedding a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

**Who will pay for the senior lead training, who can access it and what’s in it for my school/college?**

* The DfE is currently considering how best to incentivise schools and colleges to take up the training and implement the senior lead role. We will provide an update on this in due course.
* The DfE will fund one place for every state-funded school and college in England over the next five academic years, from June 2020 – July 2024. Training will be prioritised for schools and colleges receiving Mental Health Support Teams in the first instance.
* We expect to announce the chosen training provider and have them in place in early 2020 and to commence training in June 2020, subject to contract award. Exact dates and further details will be provided in due course.

**Can you provide an update on the 2018-19 schools and colleges baseline survey?**

* The DfE London team continues to relay the issues and queries you have raised (including via the October trailblazer workshop) to our national policy colleagues. We continue to press for further details and will provide these as soon as we can.
* We would also like to again apologise for the issues colleagues experienced with the 2018-19 baseline survey and we are working to ensure we avoid these recurring in any future rounds.
* The baseline survey helps us to establish the starting point of schools and colleges involved in the MHST programme, in order to understand how activities change in response to the introduction of MHSTs.
* We expect to be able to share some aggregated results of the 2018-19 survey with 2018-19 trailblazer areas during the autumn 2019 term.
* If 2018-19 MHST leads would like to see schools’ and colleges’ full survey responses, you will need to request these directly from school and college leads.

**Are you planning to run a baseline survey for 2019-20 schools/colleges and/or another survey for 2018-19 schools/colleges?**

* The DfE is currently working through the arrangements for future surveys (including reviewing the format, timings and questions). We hope to be able to share more details later this month, including arrangements for following up on the 2018-19 baseline survey.
* We expect to issue a 2019-20 baseline survey in spring 2020 and will give you advance notice of when any future surveys will be issued.
* We know some 2019-20 areas have already started auditing school and college mental health provision to aid MHST planning and support EMHP curriculum requirements and you should proceed with these on the timescales that work best for you. You may find the questions covered in DfE’s schools/colleges [self-assessment questionnaire](file:///C%3A/Users/RCLARKE3/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/NPM58QZD/Selection_of_baseline_survey_questions_for_selfassessment__audit_.pdf) (please scroll down to ‘reading and resources’) useful in doing so.
* New software for future surveys should enable schools and colleges to download their own results. We hope this will provide useful support to schools and colleges auditing their own existing provision. We would also suggest that school or college and MHST leads agree at the outset how they will capture and share this information, as part of agreeing broader ways of working at local level.

**What will the national evaluation involve?**

* The national evaluation commenced on 1 October 2019. The evaluation protocol is accessible [here](http://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/16/138/31) (click on October 2019) and will run in two phases.
* The first phase will last 20 months. It will provide formative learning on what the new services and approaches look like in each of the first 25 trailblazer areas and how areas are implementing them; explore progress and achievements in the early stages of the programme; highlight the factors that are enabling or acting as barriers to success; and draw out practical learning to support the ongoing delivery of the programme.
* The first phase will also inform feasibility of a second phase of evaluation to assess the impacts of the new approaches for children and young people, educational settings and wider local systems. If shown to be feasible, the second phase impact evaluation is expected to start in 2021.

**What does this mean for me?**

* All 2018-19 trailblazer areas are encouraged to participate in the evaluation to provide their feedback on the trailblazer programme.
* Over the course of the 20-month evaluation, key individuals at each 2018-19 trailblazer site (including project leads, senior responsible officers, education leads, senior mental health leads, the organisations employing MHSTs and MHST supervisors) will be invited to participate in two short online surveys.
* The online surveys will take 10-15 minutes maximum to complete. It will be sent to all schools and colleges who consent to being contacted by the evaluators in January 2020.
* In schools and colleges the intention is that the survey is completed by the senior mental health lead or the MHST co-ordinator - acknowledging that in many cases it will be the same person.
* In 2020, six of the 25 2018-19 trailblazer areas across the country will also be approached to be case study sites and invited to take part in some additional qualitative data collection. This will include face-to-face or telephone interviews with 10-15 key people locally (interviews will be approximately one hour and all responses will be treated in the strictest confidence).
* In all cases, evaluation leads will seek schools’/colleges’ consent to participate in advance.
* 2019-20 schools and colleges will not be involved in phase 1 of the evaluation (phase 1 = formative learning, phase 2, if viable = assess impact).
* We know that some MHST areas are also developing local evaluation frameworks. Where applicable, arrangements for these will need to be discussed and agreed locally.