

## Link Programme FAQs for schools and colleges

### **What are the benefits for my staff and students?**

It is your chance to have your say on how education and mental health professionals can better work together. The workshops will improve your understanding of local services and referral routes for children and young people, leading to an improvement in the timeliness and appropriateness of referrals. It will also enhance your knowledge and awareness of mental health issues that you can disseminate within your setting.

### **How much does it cost?**

The training is funded by the Department for Education and is free to all schools and colleges. The only cost you will have to pay is your travel.

### **Is the workshop a full day? Do I have to attend on both days?**

We ask that you arrive at 9am for a prompt 9.30am start at both workshops. Workshop 1 will finish at 3.30pm and workshop 2 at 4pm. You will need to attend both days in full.

### **How many staff members need to attend?**

Only one member of staff need attend the workshop. This should be a member of your Senior Leadership Team with strategic oversight for mental health and wellbeing. Depending on the scale and size of your settings leadership team, this may be a Headteacher, SENCO or another member of the Senior Leadership Team. Schools and colleges have the option of sending a second member of staff who might have a more pastoral role.

### **My school have already completed Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT), how is this different?**

The Link Programme focuses on developing a joint approach to delivering effective support across schools and colleges and mental health professionals. MHAT looks at what the evidence tells us about mental health difficulties in schools, how to spot the early signs of a problem and positive approaches to promoting mental health and wellbeing in the whole school community. The Link Programme will touch on some of these points but the emphasis is on networking with mental health professionals to facilitate a sustainable approach to collaboration between schools and colleges and local services.

### **Do I have to prepare anything in advance of the workshop?**

The workshop does not require schools or colleges to prepare anything in advance of workshop 1. During the six weeks between workshop 1 and 2 you will be expected to complete a small, individual action to promote joint working between education and mental health professionals and report back on this at workshop 2. This might involve following up with an NHS CYPMHS professional or other mental health professional you met at the workshop or delivering a session at a staff meeting on you what you have learnt.

### **Will I be able to discuss specific cases with the mental health professionals on the day?**

The aim of the workshops is to initiate conversations between schools and colleges and mental health professionals but there is limited time to discuss specific cases. However, the networking opportunities will mean that you can pick up these conversations with the most relevant professional or agency between the workshops.

