About our charity

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families (AFNCCF) has been pioneering better mental health care for 65 years. We are the only children’s mental health charity to combine research and innovation, clinical practice, and training and dissemination to improve the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of mental health provision for children and young people in the United Kingdom. We believe that every child and their family should be at the heart of the care they receive, working in partnership with professionals.

Our vision is a world in which children, young people and their families are effectively supported to build on their strengths and achieve their goals in life.

AFNCCF believes it is in the best interests of children, young people and their families to be non-competitive and create partnerships across voluntary, academic, statutory and corporate sectors wherever appropriate and effective. AFNCCF actively seeks out partner organisations, often to deliver the AFNCCF’s innovative research, practices and services nationally for the benefit of the greatest number of service users. Partnerships with our supporters are also vital: we can only deliver our life-changing projects, and transform thousands of lives, with their generous support and collaboration.

Our Patron: Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge

The Anna Freud Centre, operating as Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, is a registered charity number 1077106 and company limited by guarantee, number 03816888.

Your support could mean a brighter future for thousands of children across the UK and would be invaluable to achieving our vision. Please contact Jenny Ricketts for further information, jenny.ricketts@annafreud.org, and visit our website annafreud.org.
2.2 million (est.) children aged 5–6 are suffering from poor mental health

75% of mental health problems start before the age of 18

87% of us will be affected by mental ill-health at some point in our lives

only 1 in 4 children and young people who need treatment for a mental health problem are able to access it

£105.2 billion is the estimated cost of mental ill-health every year in England alone

less than 1% of the UK NHS budget is spent on mental health care for children

### How we carry out our mission

#### Centre of Excellence

We are pioneering a unique, purpose-built Centre of Excellence in Kings Cross, London, due to open in spring 2019. For the first time, the best people and organisations in mental health, education, social care, and neuroscience, and respectful children and their families, will be brought together under one roof, transforming a fragmented sector into a coherent national learning collaboration.

#### National Trauma Network

AFNCCF is developing a National Trauma Network to ensure children and young people who experience trauma can be supported quickly and effectively. The National Trauma Network, led by AFNCCF’s trauma specialists, will bring together stakeholders across the UK to provide high-quality, targeted and evidence-based materials for a range of audiences; web-based and face-to-face training materials co-produced with parents and young people; an establish network for the sharing of knowledge; best practice and support.

#### 30 active collaborations across private, public and thirds sectors

#### 164,000 children, young people and families supported every year

#### 200 children and young people’s mental health services supported nationally: improving services for 130,000 children

#### 66 years of pioneering clinical practice

#### 6,000 allied mental health professionals trained worldwide every year

#### 1,300 schools being trained nationwide as part of 19F-funded programmes

#### 5,100 members of our Learning Network, bringing together professionals, researchers, clinicians, children and families

#### 400 schools taking part in national trials and research programmes

#### 250 postgraduate students (73% from outside the EU)

#### 6,600 members of our Schools in Mind network for school staff and allied professionals

#### 48 live innovation, evaluation and research projects across expert units with UCL

#### 100 peer-reviewed papers published annually

#### Teaching and training

We teach and train a new generation of clinicians and researchers the latest skills and tools to improve mental health globally.

#### Children, young people and families at the heart of everything we do

#### Driving innovation

We creatively collaborate nationally and internationally in partnerships which jointly develop a step-change in child mental health and wellbeing.

#### Early Years Programme

AFNCCF is developing a five-year, £56 million National Lottery funded programme set up by the Big Lottery Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It aims to explore and test new ways to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 10 to 16 and prevent serious mental health issues from developing. The Evidence Based Practice Unit at the AFNCCF and UCL is working with Big Lottery Fund and the six local authorities. HeadStart partnerships to collect and evaluate evidence about what does and doesn’t work locally to benefit young people now and in the future.

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