



WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS (WAMHS) PROJECT

What is WAMHS?



The Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) Project is a new initiative led by the CAMHS Alliance with support of the Integrated Commissioning Board for Children and Young People Mental Health (CCG) in City & Hackney.

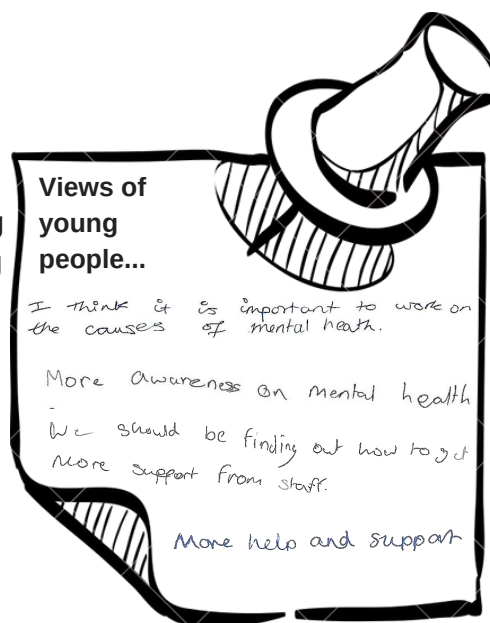
This innovative project aims to improve support around mental health and wellbeing for children and young people in schools, colleges and specialist and alternative provision settings in City & Hackney.

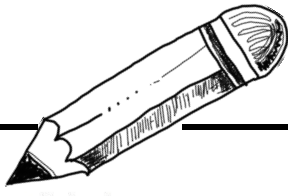

This is a pilot project which will start in schools in September 2018 and will run for 15 months in the first instance. The impact of WAMHS will be evaluated by London Borough of Hackney Public Health with a view to extending the service to the remaining eligible schools in City & Hackney.

Why have we started WAMHS?

Schools are reporting higher numbers of students across the board that have difficulties with managing their emotions, coping with the stresses of life, both in and out of school, and in making the most of their learning and life opportunities in school.

Research tells us that positive health and education outcomes are closely related and that school staff are ideally placed to spot mental health difficulties at an early stage. The Government in its recent Green paper has also stressed the importance of bringing schools and mental health services more closely together to make sure that children and young people get the best support as soon as they need it.





More courage
Asked "if you need help I'm here" more often to support

The Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) Project seeks to ensure that schools are settings where children and young people are helped to develop resilience and wellbeing in all areas of their lives, not only academically, but also socially and emotionally.

The focus of WAMHS is on building resilience and coping skills in students alongside helping students to access any extra help they may need, when they need it. It also aims to upskill staff in schools so that they feel equipped and confident in dealing with mental health difficulties and in supporting their students and their families.

WAMHS in City and Hackney

40 schools, colleges and education provisions in Hackney, including yours, as part of WAMHS will have:

- A senior member of school staff to be their **Designated Mental Health Lead**. They will lead on mental health and emotional wellbeing in the school.
- A **Wellbeing Framework Partner**, a skilled education professional from Hackney Learning Trust who will help each school review their current provision and develop an action plan to improve the support systems around wellbeing and mental health in school across a number of areas (e.g. identifying need, working with parents, enabling student voice, monitoring impact, ethos and environment...)
- An allocated mental health practitioner from **Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS)**. They will visit the school regularly. Their role will not be to work individually with students in the school; instead they will help the school to increase awareness and knowledge in identifying and supporting their students' mental health difficulties and advise and support staff. They will do things such as:



- Attend regular planning meetings in schools to enable holistic thinking around student need
- Training for staff to recognise early signs of mental health difficulties and skills in managing the effects these difficulties can have in a school setting
- Consultation to school staff to support further understanding of need in students
- Support liaison with external services, so schools feel confident in referring students to other services if needed and agreed with the parent/carer and providing support in communicating effectively with these services.

Any records of discussions between school and the WAMHS worker regarding general issues for students at your child's school will not include any student details. If, however, there is a specific issue discussed about or with your child, in order to give the best possible care, the WAMHS worker will record details of the conversation and this information will be held securely and confidentially by the WAMHS clinicians' service.

For further details on how information may be recorded visit the following [link](#)

For further information on WAMHS please speak to your **Mental Health Lead** in school or contact us at elft.wamhs@nhs.net.

You can also find more information about **The CAMHS Alliance** and our projects on the **Hackney Local Offer website** (www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/)