



Link Savvy

Links and resources to empower young people (18-25yr olds) to support their mental health problems.



Please note:

- Not all of these links are NHS monitored NHS endorsed sites will have the NHS blue and white logo.
- Other helpful links in the list have been suggested by young people within Gosforth Jesmond Health.
- All of the links and contact numbers are correct as of November 2022 however they may be subject to change.
- For information about NHS approved mental health charity links please go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/

What is the aim of this booklet and how do I use it?

LINK SAVVY has been designed to provide links to apps, information and organisations which may be useful for young people (18-25yrs) with, or at risk of developing mental health problems.

Whilst the main aim is to provide a supportive directory of services within the community that may assist your overall mental and emotional health. It does not replace professional medical advice and help.

If you are concerned about your emotional or mental health, we would always suggest speaking to a health professional in order to properly assess your symptoms. (SEE BELOW).

The traffic light system used in this booklet is a way of highlighting services that may be needed for varying degrees of mental health issues.

may be enough to support some young people but, if they are not working after a few weeks, you should seek further advice from your GP and recheck your symptoms. Your GP would always prefer that you to have a further appointment with him/her rather than

continuing to struggle all

on your own.

GREEN options

Certainly, if
you feel you fall more
into the YELLOW section,
then you should definitely
be asking for an appointment
with your GP to discuss how
you are feeling and in
order to seek
medical advice.

If you
identify with
being in the RED
section, please speak to
your GP surgery that day
and say it is an emergency
and/or contact
other services
listed.



Why might you be suffering with mental health issues?

The World Health Organisation defines 'adolescents' as individuals in the 10-19 years age group and 'youth' as the 15-24 year age group. While 'young people' covers the age range 10-24 years.

Between the ages of 18-25 years, young people face many physical and emotional changes. For example - moving schools, taking exams, leaving home, starting university or college, starting a job or dealing with difficulties at home. Some young people may also be caring for others at home with long term health issues and or there may be general illness in the family, money worries and many other things. Additionally, this is still a time of physical and brain changes; puberty, sexuality and personal image can also be concerns, and there may be issues with friendships and other relationships too. These changes and pressures can lead to increased anxiety.

Anxiety itself is a normal response to things or situations that make use fearful. When our brains perceive us to be in danger, they trigger hormones which in turn give rise to body wide changes. These may include, breathing more guickly, feeling more nervous, feeling hot and sweaty, nausea, muscle tension and rapid heart-beat. These feelings are completely normal and usually subside once the danger has passed.



Things I can do to help combat anxiety



Healthy eating

Eat healthy

balanced, regular

meals and slow

release foods to

keep energy levels

stable and drink

plenty of water.

Exercise

Take exercise regularly - it releases 'feel good' hormones and can increase a sense of well-being.



Sleep

Sleep is important for physical and mental health. For adults the recommended hours are 8 per night.



Talking

Talk to someone you trust, maybe a close friend, a family member or your GP about vour worries. this can be a huge relief.



Relaxation

Find something you like to do that makes you feel relaxed, perhaps listening to some quiet music or trying yoga.



Mindfulness

Staying present and practising being aware of everything you do, can help to put past and future worries into context.



Breathing

Calming breathing techniques when practised regularly may help to reduce anxiety.



Focusing

Sometimes focusing on something like an art project, clearing out your wardrobe and or keeping a journal/diary may help you to keep worries at bay.



Time out

Spending time in nature and or with pets can be really grounding and soothing.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/understanding-panic/

However, anxiety can become a problem if we are continually living our lives feeling worried all the time. It can create a number of both physical and psychological symptoms.

Whilst it's completely normal to worry when things get hectic and complicated, if worries become overwhelming, you may feel that they're running and indeed ruining your life. If you spend an excessive amount of time feeling worried or nervous, or you have difficulty sleeping because of your anxiety, pay attention to your thoughts and feelings and speak to someone about it.

Anxiety is one of number of mental health conditions that can affect young people, others can include depression, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), bipolar disorder, eating disorders and self-harm.

The NHS produces an extensive list of self-help leaflets - see web.ntw.nhs. uk/selfhelp/ on a range of mental health issues from panic, low mood and depression, the effects of domestic abuse, alcohol and many others.

There is also lots of general information and advice for young people at Every Mind Matters www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/youth-mental-health/

For further information regarding anxiety and other mental health problems you can also check out the National Centre for Mental Health in the resources section there are a number of leaflets on a range of mental health topics www.ncmh.info/leaflets/

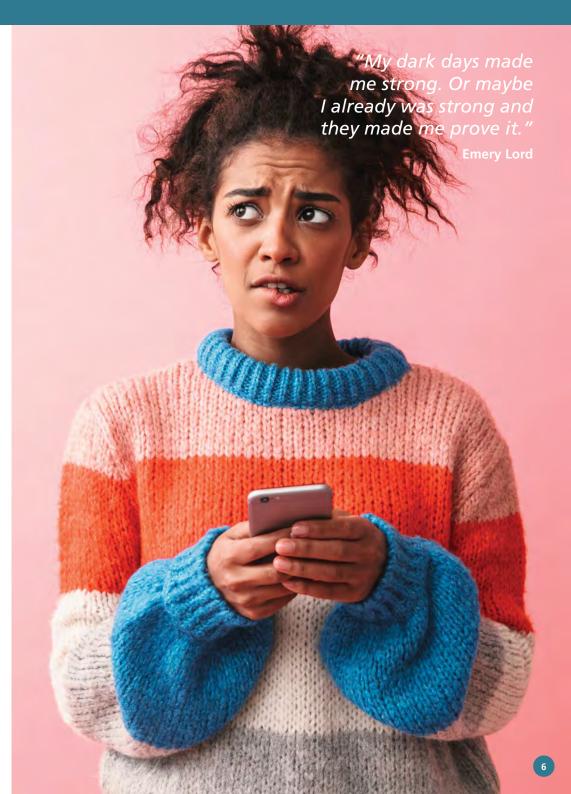
The leaflets available in the links, above, offer useful information on a range of conditions and may be a good starting point if you aren't sure what to do, but know you need a little help.

What can I do if I feel that I am developing mental health problems?

If you think you might be developing or already have mental health issues you should contact your GP as soon as you can.

If you are in distress and need help right now you should go to Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department at your local hospital or contact the Crisis Team

Tel: 0303 123 1146 or free phone 0800 652 2861



How can my GP (family doctor) help with mental health problems?

GPs (family doctors) are there to help you with any problem related to your mental health as well as physical health. You can go to them if you feel sad after a relative has passed away, if the pressures of life are making you unhappy and anxious, or if you feel angry or confused.

Mental ill health can have a negative impact on your physical health, just as a having a physical health problem can affect your mental health. GPs don't just prescribe medicines for mental health conditions. They can also help you to access talking therapies and point you towards specialist help.

How can I prepare for an appointment with my GP?

Sometimes if you are anxious or suffering with a mental health problem it can be tricky to know how to approach your GP, especially for the first time. The Mental Health Foundation offers guides to get you prepared for talking to your GP www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/t/talking-your-gp-about-your-mental-health

There are also some ideas about the sorts of questions you might want to ask your GP and links to a service called Getting Doc Ready www.docready.org/#/home - specially designed for young people in order to help them feel less anxious about discussing mental health problems with their GP.

What if I want to change my GP?

You can change your GP at any time. Additionally, if you feel you would like a second opinion, that is also completely fine. You can find more information out about this here www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/nhs-services-and-treatments/how-do-i-change-my-gp/

What if I am at university or not living at my usual address?

It is also important that you know that if you are a student at college or university and living away from home that you can obtain temporary residency with a GP, for details about this see the link below.

www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/nhs-services-and-treatments/how-do-i-register-as-a-temporary-resident-with-a-gp/

Traffic light links for help and advice

Research locally, has shown that mental health problems, in those aged 18-25yrs, tend to fall into 3 categories based on the type of help needed:

Low 'I want to try to help myself' Medium 'I think I need a little more help' High 'I am feeling desperate and need help

In this document we have gathered lots of links, contact numbers and websites where you can find help/support and information based on these three categories of need.

now!

Low ('I want to try to help myself')

Sometimes information/apps and a bit of direction maybe all you need to help yourself. There are several apps suitable for young people:

SAM app



For all ages. Users can record their anxiety levels and identify different triggers and manage

Calm Harm



For YP who have already

started the process of gaining an understanding of their self-harm issues.
Provides tasks to resist or manage the urge to self-harm.
4 tasks - distract, comfort, express, release.

Virtual Hope app



Simple tools to help patients with coping, relaxation, distraction and positive thinking.

Smiling Mind app



For all ages (from 7 years+). Guided meditations, bite size options, categorised in age groups. Helps with thoughts and feelings and to self-check on mood.

WorryTime app



Ages 12+. Allows users to control everyday stress and anxiety by acting as a place to store your daily worries.

Mindfulness Daily app



For all ages, for stress, anxiety and depression. Includes advice, tips and tools to improve mental health and well-being.

Blue Ice (free)

www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/blueice/

Helps young people to calm emotions and is intended to reduce the need to self-harm It includes a mood diary, a toolbox of evidence-based techniques to reduce distress and automatic routing to emergency numbers if urges to harm continue.

Feeling Good: Positive Mindset (free with in app purchases)

www.foundationforpositivementalhealth.com

For people over 18 - relaxes body and mind with a series of audio tracks designed to help you build confidence, energy and a positive mindset.

Woebot (free trial available)

woebothealth.com/the-app/

Relieves stress, maps mood patterns.

Kooth (free)

www.kooth.com/

Online anonymous support, discussion, counselling and advice for children and young people (aged 11-24yrs).

Headspace (free trial)

www.headspace.com/

Mindfulness resources.

SHOUT 85258 (free)

giveusashout.org/

Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

What else could I do to help myself?

There are lots of websites and organisations you can explore:

- Young Minds offers ideas for looking after yourself and has advice organised around a range of topics from mental health during different periods of your life, to ideas for learning how to relax and unwind.
 - youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/
- National Centre for Mental Health in the resources section there are a number
 of leaflets on a range of mental health topics e.g. anxiety, self-harm, PTSD and
 depression. www.ncmh.info/leaflets/
- NHS also produce an extensive list of self-help leaflets, on a range of topics from panic, low mood and depression, domestic abuse, alcohol, controlling anger and bereavement, see web.ntw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/

In addition - you might find the following useful too:

Silvercloud (free)

www.silvercloudhealth.com/uk/online-behavioral-health-solutions-for-nhs

Silver Cloud is an online course developed to help manage stress, anxiety and depression. You can work through a series of topics selected by a therapist to address specific needs. It is an 8-week course designed to be completed in your own time and at own pace.

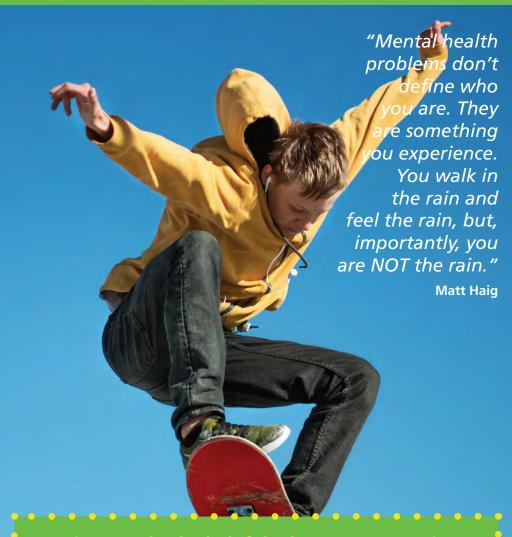
• The Centre for Clinical Interventions - being promoted via Talking Therapies Counsellors. This is an Australian site offering self-help guides and workbooks across a number of mental health issues.

www.cci.health.wa.gov.au/Resources/Looking-After-Yourself

- Nemours an American site that offers information to Teens, parents, children and educators on a range of topics from body issues to mental health and lots of other things! www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/your-mind/
- Rise provides links and advice for Children and Young People still in school/college.
 www.rise-ne.co.uk/
- Newcastle Support Directory website containing a list of support and other groups in Newcastle, to support families, young people and carers with a range of services; www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/kb5/newcastle/fsd/home.page
- If you are a student at University, you can also use your student portal to find out what's on offer from the Wellbeing Team and/or Student Union.
- Newcastle University www.ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing/
- Northumbria University www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/support-for-students/

Other helpful sites, might include:

- Rethink Mental Illness www.rethink.org/
- Mind www.mind.org.uk/
- NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/
- Childline www.childline.org.uk/
- Youth Access Directory of Services www.youthaccess.org.uk/our-work
- Youth Wellbeing Directory www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/youth-wellbeing/
- Young Minds' parents helpline youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-helpline/



Exercise can also be helpful when you are anxious and stressed

- Jesmond Pool to find out more about face to face and online programmes visit them at http://jesmondpool.online
- Gosforth Leisure Centre at www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/newcastle/gosforth
- uSactive supporting young people aged 12-25yrs with or at risk of developing mental health difficulties, helping them to become physically active and transform their lives, visit www.usactive.org.uk

Medium ('I think I need a little more help')

Sometimes things may feel a little more difficult to deal with on your own and you might just need a bit more help...

Vita Health (formerly Talking Helps Newcastle) is a free confidential service.

Offering a range of short-term talking therapies to anyone 16+ years and over, who live in and are registered with a GP in Newcastle.

Newcastle - Vita (vitahealthgroup.co.uk)

Tel: 0330 0534 230

The service offers a range of talking therapies, advice, information and support.

What can I do while waiting for a Talking Therapies appointment?

SEE ALL THE LINKS AND IDEAS IN THE GREEN SECTION - and don't forget if you need to talk - ring your GP practice and go to see your doctor.

The following are some other useful sites and organisations:

- Anxious Minds Anxious Minds' mission is to improve the mental well-being of the
 people in the North East. You can visit the website at Award Winning- North East
 Counselling Services (anxiousminds.co.uk) a Facebook page en-gb.facebook.com/
 anxiousminds.AM or you can call them on Tel: 0191 262 0305
- Street Wise aims to provide a free, confidential, non-judgmental information, advice and support service, that inspires and empowers young people (aged 13-25)
 Service is free and no need for appointment check into drop ins www.streetwisenorth.org.uk/ or Tel: 0191 2305400
 Email: admin@streetwisenorth.org.uk
- Tyneside and Northumberland Mind mental health support and counselling, including a range of services across Newcastle and Gateshead. Mind are also now accepting self-referrals from patients. Tel: 0191 477 4545
 www.tynesidemind.org.uk/
- **CNTW** Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust providing 24-hour access to mental health care and support. Resources available online on a range of mental health issues web.ntw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/

- The Recovery College Collective RECOCO providing a peer led, peer delivered mental health education and support service where people can learn from each other's insights, skills and lived experience.
- www.recoverycoco.com/ Tel: 0191 2610948 or Email: info@recoverycoco.com
- The Vault Creative Wellbeing Centre counselling and regular groups/activities, 31 Station Road Wallsend, NE28 6RL, email: well-being@the-vault.org
- Cruse Bereavement Care bereavement counselling across Newcastle and Gateshead Tel: 0808 808 1677 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm
 www.cruse.org.uk
- CALM Campaign Against Living Miserably movement against male suicide. Tel: 0800 585858.
- Children North East support/online counselling for young people (11-25yrs), who have been impacted by domestic. Referrals can be made via the help line. www.children-ne.org.uk or Tel: 0191 2727824.
- Akt supports LGBTQ+ young people aged 16-25yrs who are facing or experiencing homelessness or living in a hostile environment. Referrals can be made at www.akt.org.uk/refer or Tel: 07739 798 594.
- Newcastle Women's Aid 24 hour safe, emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence and / or experiencing abuse and control.
 Outreach service also offers telephone support, advice and advocacy.
 Freephone 0800 923 2622 or 0191 265 2148.
- Panah Refuge specialist project which offers safe refuge accommodation for black and minority ethnic women and their children. Tel: 0191 284 6998.
- Victim Support Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service
 Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service Confidential advice and support
 for victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including male victims,
 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Tel: 0191 281 3791 or 0191 295 4958.
- The Safe Project practical and emotional support and advice to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Also provides specialist support for victims and survivors of honour-based violence and forced marriage Tel: 0191 273 4942.
- Someone Cares Counselling for age 11+ counselling service for survivors of abuse (domestic violence and neglect) Tel: 0191 2578904 www.someonecares.org.uk/
- Newcastle Foundation Men's peer support and Be a Game Changer Campaign Be A Game Changer | Newcastle United Foundation (nufoundation.org.uk)

- MESMAC Newcastle free and confidential service for gay and bisexual men (13yrs +) and other men who have sex with men to increase the range of choices open to them. Email: all@mesmacnewcastle.com or via
 www.facebook.com/MesmacNewcastle/
- The Angelou Centre a specialist programme of support for black and minoritised women and children who have been subject to domestic and sexual violence, face multiple forms of discrimination and often have associative complex needs.
 Tel: 0191 2260394 Email: admin@angelou-centre.org.uk.
- NIWE aims to help people in Tyne and Wear, Country Durham and Northumberland, whose lives are affected by eating distress or eating disorders.
 Tel: 0191 2210233 or via Email: enquiries@niwe.org.uk.
- BEAT UK's Eating Disorder Charity. The Beat Adult Helpline is open to anyone over 18. Parents, teachers or any concerned adults should call the adult helpline 0808 801 0677 Email: help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk.



- atime2talk private and professional referrals within Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Rd NE3 1PH, Tel: 07538 891325, Email: atime2talk@hotmail.com
- Mental Health Concern community and wellbeing services, Moving Forward Newcastle Tel: 0191 2220324 Email: mfn@mentalhealthconcern.org
- Alzheimer's Society Advice for those supporting people with Dementia www.alzheimers.org.uk
- Tide Supporting carers of those with Dementia www.tide.uk.net/
- Northern Mental Health Support a resource to help any individual or family struggling with issues of social isolation. northernmentalhealth.org/
- Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland for women who need to talk to someone about rape or sexual abuse. Helpline: 0800 035 2794, rctn.org.uk/
- There may also be a private providers of mental health counselling offering support locally.

Are there any art or creative opportunities I could explore?

 Chillistudios - provide an innovative range of creative based activities with the aim of improving the quality of life, health and social integration of its members.

Tel: **0191 2094058**

Email: info@chillistudios.co.uk

The Recovery College Collective RECOCO offers a range of drop ins from creative
 writing to computer/geek club, collage club
 and music therapy check the website for
 regular updates. Tel: 0191 2610948
 www.recoverycoco.com/dropin

 The Vault - Creative Wellbeing Centre offering counselling and regular groups/activities.
 31 Station Road, Wallsend, NE28 6RL Email: well-being@the-vault.org



High ('I am feeling desperate and need help now!')

Sometimes all the information in the world just isn't enough.

If you are in distress and/or feel "unsafe" or if you are having thoughts of harming yourself.

Get help now!

- Please contact your GP during daytime hours and ask to speak to the duty doctor as it is an emergency.
- During the evenings/nights and weekends you can get urgent GP contact if you ring 111 (or 999 if you cannot wait for a response).

The organisations below also provide acute crisis support

- Samaritans emotional support for anyone in distress - 24 hours a day 365 days a year.
 Tel: 116123 or Email: jo@samaritans.org
 website at www.samaritans.org/
- Crisis Team Tel: 0303 123 1146 or free phone 0800 652 2861
- Newcastle or Gateshead Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Service on Tel: 0191 814 8899. Available 24 hours a day every day for people with severe mental health crisis or suicidal thinking.
 - Suicide Prevention Network The suicide prevention network has also launched a new website which provides a community resource for people seeking help and advice about suicide and mental wellbeing as well as guidance for those bereaved by suicide. It can be accessed via this link www.stopsuicidenenc.org

OTHER ADVICE AND SUPPORT

What sort of support and advice is available for transition from school/college or university TO finding a job?

- Hays offer advice including information on how to apply for jobs, prepare for interviews and other career related information www.hays.co.uk/ resources/career-advice
- Student employment services offers advice and guidance on applying for
 jobs as a student or graduate and information on internships, placements
 and careers. www.studentemploymentservices.co.uk/blog/graduates-whatto-expect-when-transitioning-from-university-to-work

What about volunteering?

Volunteering can be a way to help others, gain self-confidence and add to your CV.

- The Children's Society Here you can browse the volunteering pages and learn about our volunteering opportunities and make an enquiry about a role you are interested in for the future

 www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteer-to-help-children
- Newcastle Foundation If you fancied helping out or volunteering you can contact the Volunteer Coordinator.
 Tel: 0844 3721892 email: foundation@nufc.co.uk

Where can I go for financial and or debt advice?

It is well known that problems with money or work can affect people's health. Many GP practices across Newcastle have social prescribing link workers who can support people with addressing a wide range of issues.

Look on your GP practice website or speak to the surgery team to find out more if you think this may be helpful for you.



Other helpful information can be found at:

Acas

Advice for employers and employees.

www.acas.org.uk

Money Helper

A website providing money and financial advice - with specific sections for Young Adults and Money Management, as well as student and graduate money.

www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

Citizens Advice Bureau

Offers help and advice on work, dept/money, health and lots more. www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Newcastle Council

Has dedicated areas on the website for help and advice on local services, for businesses, public health and wellbeing/leisure.

www.newcastle.gov.uk

This booklet has been produced by Gosforth and Jesmond Health.

Comprising practices in both North Gosforth and Jesmond Lower Gosforth, Primary Care Networks.