

Investing locally for better mental health



For several years, we have been investing in our local community mental health services, to make sure they can provide good care now and in the future for the people of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Clinical evidence shows that most people get the best outcomes (the best experience and chance of recovery) if mental healthcare is provided in the community, rather than in a hospital.

This goal is being supported, nationally and locally, with extra funding to improve and strengthen community mental health services.

What does this mean for funding for local services?

As part of a three-year programme to transform our local community mental health services, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will receive £6.2 million of additional funding in Year 3 (2023/24).

In addition, we have been investing in care for people experiencing a mental health crisis and services like Improved Access to Psychological Therapies. This money is **ring-fenced** – meaning it cannot be spent on other services. You can find out more about the changes and improvements we have been making to our community services in our consultation document on our [website](#).

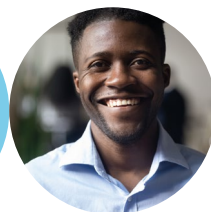
We are committed to increasing investment in the future, too. The **Mental Health Investment Standard** makes sure that we do this.



The Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS), set by NHS England, is a way of making sure that Integrated Care Boards (ICBs – the organisations that bring the NHS together locally to improve population health) increase their spending on mental health each year.

The MHIS means when ICBs plan their spending for their next year, they must spend proportionally more on mental health services than their overall increase in budget allocation. So:

- If the overall increase was **2%**, spending on mental health services would increase by **more than 2%**.



What is the money being spent on?

- **Improving our community services** – building better ways of working, to make it easier for people to access services and get the right help without delay.
- **Crisis response services for adults** – we want to provide the right support quickly when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. Our crisis team is available 24/7 and responds within four hours if someone needs urgent help. A new crisis café has opened in Tamworth, providing information and support in a safe space.
- **Improved Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)** – this provides ‘talking therapies’ that can help people cope with anxiety and depression, and better manage their mental health.
- **Mental health practitioners working in primary care** – with these staff based in GP practices, you can have your first appointment with a specialist in your local practice without having to wait to be referred.
- **Early Intervention in Psychosis** – we are investing in this because earlier help for people experiencing psychosis can make a big difference to their chances of recovering and staying well. Psychosis is a severe mental illness which can make people lose some contact with reality, for example seeing or hearing things that other people cannot see or hear.
- **Supporting people with severe mental illness to get back into work, through a placement scheme with ongoing support** – employment can be an important part of recovery, providing a sense of purpose as well as income.

