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## Guidance

# Senior mental health lead training

Find out how to apply for a grant and access DfE quality assured training to help develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

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This training is not compulsory. We encourage you to identify and train a senior mental health lead, to develop your whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. This will help your school or college to better promote and support the mental wellbeing of pupils, students and staff, and make best use of existing resources.

## Overview

The Department for Education (DfE) is offering a £1,200 grant for a senior member of school or college staff to access quality assured training to implement an effective whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing in your setting. Grants of £1,200 will be available to around a third of all state schools and colleges this financial year. This is part of the government's commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025.

The grant is provided to cover (or contribute to) the cost of attending a quality assured course and may also be used to hire supply staff whilst leads are engaged in learning.

## What does the training cover

The [Learning outcomes for senior mental health lead training](#) (PDF, 172KB, 9 pages) are aligned with the principles of Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education's [promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing](#).

Research indicates that taking a coordinated and evidence-informed approach to mental health and wellbeing leads to improved emotional health and wellbeing in children and young people, and greater readiness to learn. Schools and colleges which have taken this approach often report improved attendance, attention, behaviour and attainment.

You can reflect on your setting's existing approach to mental health and wellbeing using the following:

- the National Children's Bureau (NCB) [preparing for recovery: self-review and signposting tool](#)

- an approach developed by Oldham Council, [the whole school and college approach to emotional health and mental wellbeing](#)
- [Leading Change](#), developed by the Anna Freud Centre

## Who is the training for

Senior mental health lead training is relevant to all education settings, and courses are available to meet the learning needs and preferences of senior leads, whatever their level of experience, type of setting or location.

All state-funded schools and colleges are eligible to apply for a training grant.

Schools and colleges can decide who gets the training as every setting's circumstances are different. Training could be for your:

- headteacher
- deputy headteacher
- member of the senior leadership team (SLT)
- if not a senior leader, an appropriate member of staff, working with colleagues, who is empowered to develop and oversee your setting's whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing

### Existing mental health leads

Existing mental health leads, or someone who has previously had mental health and wellbeing training, can still be nominated for this training.

While you can still nominate your existing mental health lead if they are not a member of the SLT, you will need to consider whether the individual has the authority, capacity and support to influence and lead strategic change within the setting.

The grant must be used on DfE quality assured training to help develop or introduce your whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing, and existing senior leads might wish to:

- develop or refresh their knowledge and skills in specific priority areas
- get more advanced training
- get a relevant qualification

### Mental health support teams (MHSTs)

If you are already working with an MHST, your nominated senior lead can also be your MHST coordinator, responsible for liaising with the team, or can be a different member of staff.

# How do I apply for a grant

The [grant application service](#) is now available for schools and colleges to apply for a senior mental health lead training grant.

If you are eligible and intend to book a course soon, [apply for a grant](#) before you book a course.

Our guarantee to reserve a grant for schools and colleges who booked a course by 11 October has now ended. Grants are now available on a first-come, first-served basis until we have issued all available funds for this financial year.

Once we have issued all the available grants, the application system will ask if you want to join our waiting list and DfE will confirm future grant funding in the spring of 2022.

Before you apply for a grant, you should check that you meet in full the [eligibility criteria and terms for the training grant](#), including that you have:

- committed to develop or implement a whole school or college approach to mental health
- identified a senior mental health lead to oversee your whole school or college approach, and they are available to commence training before 31 March 2022

When you apply, you will be asked to complete the following online process to receive a grant.

- [Apply and confirm your eligibility](#). You will need to provide your school or college details to confirm you are an eligible setting and make a series of declarations as described in [eligibility criteria and terms for the training grant](#).
- You will be contacted to complete a second online form (later in the autumn term), to confirm which DfE quality assured course you have booked and to submit evidence of your booking, so we can authorise your grant payment. You will be given at least 2 weeks' notice to complete this form. To ensure grants do not go unclaimed, we will release your grant to applicants on our waiting list if you do not complete this final stage of your application by the deadline given.

After completing the first stage of your application, we encourage you to proceed without delay to book and attend your training. After you provide evidence that you have booked a DfE quality assured course, payment of your grant application will be authorised and you will receive a grant.

We will also ask you provide feedback on your completed training as a condition of your grant. This will help us understand how the training is supporting schools and colleges to develop their approaches to mental health. We will contact you by email and keep our requests brief to minimise the burden on your time.

## How do I access DfE quality assured training

You can assess your specific learning needs and preferences and select the most suitable quality assured course using the online tool, [choosing a senior mental health lead training course](#).

Contact details will be provided to then book your selected senior mental health lead course(s) directly with a training provider. You must retain evidence of booking to complete your grant application.

## Providers of training

This grant can only be used to pay for DfE quality assured training. See [DfE assured senior mental health lead training courses](#) (PDF, 147KB, 11 pages).

Training providers wishing to provide grant-funded senior mental health lead training to schools and colleges can find out more through the [DfE contracts finder](#).

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