

# Link Programme

## Guidance for roles

The Link Programme brings together local leaders in education and mental health to identify the support required by children and young people in their area, so they get the help they need, when they need it. The programme should feed into, and be informed by, existing long-term plans in your locality, joining up the system more effectively for the benefit of schools and FE colleges. It is therefore important to have the right individuals involved locally to coordinate the programme and ensure key stakeholders are engaged.



We have been working with 23 local authorities this term and have found the programme runs most smoothly, and has the biggest impact, when roles are clearly defined from the outset. The key roles are strategic lead, operational lead and education lead. In our experience it is the collaboration between these three individuals that is the best predictor of the ultimate success of the programme. We have provided a short description of each role below, the main responsibilities and who might be best placed to take each role. However, we understand each locality is different and you might have different individuals who are best placed to take on these roles and we are happy to discuss this with you.

## Strategic Lead

- This might be a Director or Assistant Director in the local authority or a Commissioner in the CCG.
- They have overall ownership for the programme locally and need to ensure key individuals and services are engaged. They should be involved in long term planning for the locality and be able to take forward the goals agreed.
- This person will need to attend your strategic consultation meeting and review meetings and take a lead role in setting your goals for the programme and reviewing progress against them. Ideally, they will also attend your tailored support sessions.

## Operational Lead

- This could be a Project Manager or Mental Health Coordinator within the local authority or a Commissioning Manager or Senior Commissioning Officer within the CCG.
- They are our main point of contact for the programme and will be responsible for coordinating invites to be sent for sessions and organising who will present the local area-lead sections of your consultation meeting and tailored support sessions.
- This individual will need to attend the strategic consultation meeting, all tailored support sessions and the review meetings. They will also need to be available for pre-session planning calls and post-session feedback.

## Education Lead

- This might be a manager from the School Improvement team in the local authority, the head of a large multi-academy trust or a headteacher who leads a local forum or cluster.
- They will be responsible for sending the survey out to schools and FE colleges and ensuring education settings are well-represented in the strategic consultation and review meetings and tailored support sessions. They should be someone who has good connections with schools and FE colleges in the local area and an understanding of their successes and challenges in relation to mental health and wellbeing.
- This person will need to attend the strategic consultation meeting, all tailored support sessions and the review meetings.