MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR TEENAGERS Updated November 2025

GENERAL MEASURES TO REDUCE STRESS

- Timetable more valued enjoyable activities
 - o Better school-life balance
 - Take up a relaxing hobby
- Gratitude diary
- Mental fitness app including mindfulness or meditation: www.smilingmind.com.au Smiling Mind app
- NHS-recommended relaxation exercises: https://www.cntw.nhs.uk/resource-library/relaxation-techniques/
- Health behaviours
 - Regular exercise
 - o Good sleep: **HEAL:** Health; **Environment**; **A**ttitude; **L**ifestyle
 - Well-balanced diet
 - o Reduce smoking/vaping, alcohol and drugs
 - Good digital hygiene
- Self-care resources from Anna Freud: www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/
- Self-care resources (incl CBT) from Every Mind Matters: https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/
- Happy Maps: https://happymaps.co.uk/ mental health resources for parents, carers and young people
- Just Talk resources: https://www.justtalkherts.org/media/documents/justtalk-journal.pdf
- New Leaf Wellbeing College: free educational support for >18yrs to enable better control of wellbeing
 - www.newleafcollege.co.uk; students@newleafcollege.co.uk; 01442 864966
- Herts Hub: www.hertshub.co.uk

GENERAL TELEPHONE AND ONLINE SUPPORT

- **Herts Mind Network With YOUth service** for **5-18yrs incl**: Children & Young People's Digital Wellbeing Service, including helpline, instant messaging, one to one and group support and digital therapeutic gaming app:
 - o www.withyouth.org/ 0208 189 8400 Daily including weekends 2pm-10pm
 - Lumi Nova Digital Therapeutic Gaming App for ages 7-12
- The Sandbox: https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/ Online Mental Health Digital Advice and Guidance service for 10-25s:

 Website 24/7; Therapy sessions: 7am to 8pm (last one finishing at 9pm) Monday to Sunday; Live Chat: Mon-Fri:9am-6pm
- JustTalk: https://www.justtalkherts.org/young-people/young-people-looking-after-your-mental-health.aspx
- Health for Teens: http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/
 - o Herts Chat Health: Text 07480 635050
- Mind for Young People: https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/#youngperson
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk; Crisis messenger: text YM 85258
- THE MIX: <25YR: free confidential multi-channel service that aims to find young people the best help
 - o 0808 808 4994 (freephone 7 days a week 11am-11pm); 1-2-1 chat; counselling www.themix.org.uk

FACE TO FACE SUPPORT

- Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People 11-17yrs <u>www.servicesforyoungpeople.org</u> providing youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work-related learning and wider support for young people
- Children's Wellbeing Practitioner (CWP) Service (Search | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (hct.nhs.uk) 5-18yrs incl provides early support to children and young people with common emotional wellbeing and mental health difficulties including behavioural difficulties, anxiety and low mood.

FACE TO FACE THERAPY OPTIONS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING	CREATIVE THERAPIES
Mind Hertfordshire Network 5-18yrs incl (in-person or online) Network 5-18yrs incl (in-person or online)	Signpost We're here for young people 5-18yrs incl (in-person or online) www.signpostcounselling.org.uk/creative-therapies/



THERAPY: mixture of support options

- Hertfordshire Talking Therapies (formerly the Wellbeing team) >16yrs
 - Online self-referrals: 09.00-17.00: www.hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk
 - o On telephone 24/7: **0800 6444 101**

OVERVIEW OF CBT: https://patient.info/mental-health/cognitive-behavioural-therapy-cbt-leaflet CBT focuses on 'here and now' problems and difficulties. From your thoughts come your feelings which lead to your actions and habits

CBT works to help us notice and change problematic thinking styles or behaviour patterns so we can feel better. It invites people to notice the connection between:

- How we think about ourselves, the world and other people
- How these thoughts are connected to our behaviours and feelings
- How external factors or stressors can influence this

WEBSITES: self-help resources

- Hertfordshire Talking Therapies: https://www.hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk/resources-and-self-help/self-help-guides
- Every Mind Matters resources: https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/
- Mental Health Foundation resources: www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications
- North Thames West NHS Trust resources: https://web.ntw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/
- Centre for Clinical Interventions: https://www.cci.health.wa.gov.au/Resources/Looking-After-Yourself
- Anna Freud One Stop Shop for Mental Health Treatment Options: https://www.annafreud.org/resources/children-and-young-peoples-wellbeing/understanding-treatment-options/

TO FEEL BETTER https://www.anxietycanada.com/learn-about-anxiety/anxiety-in-youth/

- Notice your thoughts: thought diary
- Think differently https://www.anxietycanada.com/articles/thinking-right-tools/
 - Challenge thoughts
 - Confidence building positive self-talk
 - Letting thoughts go like leaves on a stream and distraction
 - Learning to live with uncertainty
- Behave differently
 - Doing things differently https://www.anxietycanada.com/general/facing-fears/
- Quick relief options: https://www.anxietycanada.com/coping-strategies/chill-tools-or-mindfulness

APPS

•	Lumi Nova (part of With YOUth service) for ages 7-12)
•	General: What's Up app) based on CBT principles
•	Anxiety: Mindshift app, Clear Fear app; SAM app and WorryTree ap)
•	Self-harm: distrACT and Calm Harm app	

- Suicide: Stay Alive app
- Family and friends support: Combined Minds app

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- *Mind over mood: Change how you feel by changing the way you think* by Dennis Greenberger and Christine Padesky (2015). Cognitive behavioural workbook aimed at older teens and adults.
- Stuff that sucks by Ben Sedley (2015) For young people who wish to develop their ability to cope with strong feelings & distress.
- Breaking Free from OCD: A CBT Guide for Young People and Their Families by Jo Derisley, Isobel Heyman, Sarah Robinson and Cynthia Turner (2008)
- Anxiety Relief for Teens: Essential CBT Skills and Mindfulness Practices to Overcome Anxiety and Stress by Regine Galanti (2020)

HELPLINES

- Papyrus: <u>www.papyrus-uk.org</u> Hopeline UK **0800 068 4141**
- Samaritans: <u>www.samaritans.org</u> **116 123**
- Shout: crisis texting service: text 85258; www.giveusashout.org
- Childline 0800 11 11 <u>www.childline.org.uk</u>
- HPFT Single point of access: 24/7 0800 6444 101
- Hertfordshire Night Light service: helpline: Friday-Monday: 7 -1am: 01923 256391: 18yr+