

Over £400 million pledged to remove dormitories from mental health facilities

- Government has committed to improve the safety, privacy and dignity of patients with mental illness
- A further £2 million for 6 research projects will investigate impact of COVID-19 on mental health

More than £400 million will be committed over the next 4 years to eradicate dormitory accommodation from mental health facilities across the country to improve the safety, privacy and dignity of patients suffering with mental illness.

Today's pledge by the government – to mark World Mental Health Day – builds on the £250 million funding announced in July to remove the outdated dormitories, as part of the government's record investment in NHS infrastructure.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock also announced the first 21 NHS trusts that will receive funding to replace out-of-date mental health dormitories with single en suite rooms, to help improve care for mental health inpatients across the country.

The eradication of dormitories will improve the individual care that can be given to patients, allowing them to reduce the length of their stay in the facility. It will also have benefits for patient safety including through better infection control and by reducing the risk of incidents involving patients or staff.

This new funding delivers on the government's commitment to accelerate investment in health infrastructure, and to level up access to mental health services, so that every inpatient can receive treatment in an appropriate setting.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

Mental health staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep mental health services open 24/7 so those most in need can continue to get vital support.

Today I am reiterating our commitment to those patients by stepping up our effort to improve our country's mental health infrastructure. By eradicating outdated and unsuitable dormitories across England we can ensure those suffering with mental illness are given the safety, privacy and dignity they deserve.

Not only will the new single rooms improve the individual care we

can offer patients, they will provide a better environment for our hardworking staff too.

Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Nadine Dorries said:

The last few months have been challenging for everyone, particularly those with pre-existing mental health conditions.

Every person receiving treatment in a mental health facility deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and privacy, in an appropriate setting.

I am delighted that today's investment in mental health infrastructure will ensure that inpatients throughout the country can receive the best quality care.

NHS England's National Mental Health Director Claire Murdoch said:

Millions of mental health patients are seen by the NHS every year, many thousands as inpatients, and each and every one of them should receive care in wards that are therapeutic and support their recovery, which is why this funding will be so vital.

And the NHS is also investing in local mental health teams to provide alternatives to ward admission which will help more than 2 million patients get care closer to home.

Dr Adrian James, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said:

Replacing dormitories with single en suite rooms is a positive step towards the much-needed upgrading of mental health wards – even more urgent in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and a second wave.

With this funding, government is taking decisive action to properly support people living with a mental illness. We hope that the necessary investment in other areas of the mental health estate will follow in the upcoming spending review.

This comes alongside wider announcements to mark World Mental Health Day, including £2 million for research into the effects of COVID-19 on mental health. The research will focus on the effects of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of 3 at-risk groups: healthcare workers, children and young people, and those with serious mental health problems.

The government has continued to prioritise mental health throughout the pandemic. Mental health charities, including Mind and BEAT, have benefited from £9.2 million in funding since March to enable them to provide vital

support to those who need it most.

This funding has been used to support helplines and webchats, providing support networks for people experiencing anxiety and loneliness, providing safe spaces to reduce the risk of social exclusion of vulnerable people with ongoing, complex mental health problems, and move specialist emotional and practical support for victims of sexual violence from face-to-face online.

The government has also invested £5 million in national loneliness charities, raising awareness and providing advice through the [Let's Talk Loneliness](#) campaign, and a new Tackling Loneliness Network, to support the wellbeing of those struggling with social isolation over the pandemic.

This commitment to transforming and improving mental health services is set to continue, as the Department for Health and Social Care has pledged to invest £2.3 billion in mental health by 2023 to 2024 as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Region	MH provider (Trust)	Name of site where works are to be carried out
East of England	Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	Basildon Hospital – Mental Health Unit
East of England	Central & North West London Foundation Trust	Campbell Centre
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	The Oaks, Chase Farm Hospital
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	Silver Birches, Chase Farm Hospital
London	Barnet Enfield and Haringey MH Trust	Chase Building, Chase Farm Hospital
London	South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	Wisteria Ward – Springfield University Hospital
Midlands	Leicestershire Partnership Trust	Evington Centre
Midlands	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Elgar Unit, Newtown Hospital
Midlands	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	Stonebow Unit, Hereford
North East and Yorkshire	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Carleton Clinic
North East and Yorkshire	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	Campus for Ageing and Vitality
North East and Yorkshire	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
North East and Yorkshire	TAH – Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust	Michael Carlisle Centre and The Longley Centre
North West	Alder Hey Childrens NHS Foundation Trust	Alder Hey Hospital in the Park
North West	Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Laureate House at Wythenshawe Hospital

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North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Scarisbrick Ward, Ormskirk & District General Hospital Site
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Altham Meadows, Morecambe
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Hurstwood Ward, Hill View
North West	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust	Kentmere Ward, Westmorland General Hospital
North West	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Brushwood, Speke
North West	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	Millvena House, Anfield
North West	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Ramsbottom Ward, Fairfield Hospital
North West	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Moorside, Birchill Hospital
South East	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Prospect Park Hospital
South East	Kent and Medway Partnership Trust (KMPT)	Oakwood site
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Gosport War Memorial Hospital
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Melbury
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	Parklands
South East	Sussex Partnership Trust	Shepherd House
South East	Sussex Partnership Trust	West Sussex Bed Reconfiguration
South West	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	Hillview Lodge at Royal United Hospital,
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[Effect of pandemic on children's wellbeing revealed in new report](#)

A new report published to mark World Mental Health Day today (Saturday 10 October) has provided an in-depth picture of the experiences of children and young people during the pandemic and how it affected their wellbeing.

Some challenges were identified including isolation from friends, learning from home, or worries that family or friends might get sick but many parents also reported improved relationships with their children and that the majority of children spent time in outside green spaces at least a couple of times a week during lockdown.

The Government's second annual [State of the Nation report](#) finds that children and young people aged five to 24 generally responded with resilience to changes in their lives between March and September 2020, and despite indications of challenges to their mental wellbeing they report stable levels of happiness and only slight reduction in satisfaction with their lives.

The report brings together a range of published data to help the Government, schools and colleges, public services and parents better understand children and young people's experiences of the pandemic and the continued support that will be needed to ensure that recovery is maintained. It suggests that

returning to school or college is likely to be playing a vital role in improving the mental wellbeing of many pupils by easing some of the main worries identified in the research: time off from education, being isolated from friends, fewer opportunities to be more physically active and also providing access to pastoral support.

It comes as 97% of local authorities confirm they have taken up training offered by the Government to enable teachers and education staff in schools and colleges to support their pupils wellbeing on their return to education. Backed by £8 million, the expert [training programme](#) Wellbeing in Education Return launched last month to provide continuing support during the Autumn and Spring terms for the additional pressures some young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic including from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said:

There is no denying that this pandemic has been a difficult experience for parents and children alike and I applaud the amazing resilience of our young people.

Right from the start of this pandemic we prioritised children and young people's wellbeing by keeping schools open for vulnerable pupils and developing resources for parents and schools to use remotely, as well as making sure communication continued online between mental health and education professionals when it could no longer happen face-to-face.

Getting all children back into the classroom from September was our national priority because we know that is the best place for their mental health and wellbeing. Many still need support and this report is part of making sure that the investment we're making helps those who need it the most.

The [State of the Nation report](#) captures a wide range of existing evidence on the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's wellbeing. Key findings include:

1. Friendships:

Most children and young people up to age 17 remain happy with their relationships with friends, but younger children's contact with friends varied – only one-third to one half of primary age children had regular contact with friends between April and August. Loneliness was an issue for some older young people.

2. Family relationships:

Children's happiness with their families has remained high, with the majority of parents reporting their relationship with their children had remained the same over the pandemic – while more than 25% say it had improved.

3. Health:

Children and young people have been worried about the potential that friends or family could catch Covid-19, while other common worries include catching it themselves and missing school. On the whole children are happy with their own health, though one in every 15 children has low happiness with their health. There are also indications that mental health difficulties have increased for some school-aged children over the months of the pandemic, and an increase in psychological distress has been found for older young people.

4. Remote learning:

In most cases, children and young people continued to learn to some extent through home schooling from parents and remote education from schools or other organisations, though they did not necessarily find this easy with consistent difficulties in maintaining motivation to learn, for parents to find time to help their children and to access enough support and guidance.

5. Physical activity:

The majority of children and young people were fairly physically active between April and July, although the proportion achieving the recommended amount of 60 minutes a day may have reduced.

6. Being outdoors:

The majority of children spent some time in green and natural places at least a couple of times a week between April and August.

There are indications from the data that some groups such as young disabled people have reported higher and increasing feelings of being anxious. Parents have also reported that children with special educational needs or a disability from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds may be feeling more anxious. Similarly, young people who were economically disadvantaged reported lower life satisfaction in April to early May than those who were financially better off, though between July and early September there was no significant difference between these two groups.

Overall, however, the data collated in the report shows a positive picture of the experiences of most children and young people during the time period covered, given the unprecedented challenges faced.

The Government has used this evidence to make children's wellbeing and mental health a central part of its response to the coronavirus pandemic and informed the significant programme of mental health interventions introduced in its wake working closely with experts and charities. This includes its Wellbeing for Education Return training programme and online resources that reached thousands of school and college staff as they supported pupils during the summer term and as they returned for the autumn term.

Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Nadine Dorries said:

This global pandemic has brought challenges, disruption and uncertainty to many lives and has impacted not only our physical health, but our mental health and wellbeing too.

Despite these additional pressures, children and young people across this country have shown huge resilience in the face of change.

The results of this report are testament to the impact that government funding and NHS support can have on our mental health.

During the pandemic, key services were adapted to make sure children and young people continued receiving mental health and wellbeing support, and that local areas continued to collaborate to maintain essential services, including:

- Collaboration between the Department for Education and Public Health England to support parents and carers with guidance on how to help their children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the lockdown period, and work with BBC Bitesize to provide content with a substantial focus on mental health, wellbeing and pastoral care.
- The Department for Education accelerated the publication of the training module for teaching about mental health as part of the new Relationship, Sex and Health Education curriculum to help schools to be ready to support pupils in September.
- The Link Programme, which brings professionals working in education and mental health together, moved its services online instead of face-to-face. Evaluation of the expanded [Link Programme](#) pilot published today found that the training has successfully supported joint working between schools and colleges and local Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS). Training on a national scale through this programme will continue, feeding into the Government's wider Mental Health Green Paper programme.
- Across the education sector, the Department for Education has provided £5.4m worth of grant funding through the College Collaboration Fund – five of the projects funded support student and/or staff mental health and wellbeing via online programmes and remote support.
- The Office for Students has provided up to £3 million for its Student Space platform, a collaborative mental health resource that bridges gaps in mental health support for students at English and Welsh universities brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. It provides a range of information, access to dedicated support services (phone or text), details of the support available at each university, and tools to help students manage the challenges of student life.

This is in addition to the steps taken to secure continued access to more specialist mental health support to respond as issues are identified, and where there are indications of potential increases because of the pandemic, Mental health services have remained open for business, providing 24/7 phone and online support and we have provided £9m to charities to provide additional mental health support.

In the longer term the continued roll out Mental Health Support Teams within schools and colleges across the country, who provide early intervention on mental health and emotional wellbeing issues. This is in line with its commitment to establishing these teams in up to 25% of the country by 2023, as part of the reforms to provide additional support for children and young people's mental health in the NHS Long Term Plan.

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[Health and social care staff and](#)

volunteers recognised in Queen's Honours

Health and social care staff and volunteers across the UK have been celebrated in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours, with their incredible work during the pandemic particularly highlighted.

From the 1,495 people receiving honours across the UK, 14% are health and social care workers. This includes 41 nurses and midwives in celebration of the World Health Organization's Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Care home managers, nurses, GPs, surgeons, volunteers and more are on the list, who have helped to support other staff during the crisis, save lives through innovative treatments and have gone out of their way to provide care during this unprecedented global health emergency.

Alongside the Queen's Birthday Honours, the Department of Health and Social Care has published the [Queen's Ambulance Service Medals](#). The medals recognise individuals working in the ambulance services for distinguished service, characterised by exceptional devotion to duty, outstanding ability, merit and exemplary conduct. Three people in England and Wales will receive a medal, with one in Northern Ireland.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

I am humbled by the dedication, ingenuity and passion shown by these NHS and social care staff and volunteers. Throughout this terrible pandemic they have helped to save and improve the lives of patients, care home residents and their fellow NHS staff across the UK. It is also brilliant to see ambulance service staff recognised this year for their exceptional work.

Each and every one of those honoured today show the very best of us – and I thank them all, alongside the rest of our wonderful health and care staff, for their service.

The Birthday Honours list was deferred in order to consider nominations for people playing crucial roles during the first months of the COVID-19 effort and has prioritised frontline and community heroes who went above and beyond their duties to help others.

These recipients are outstanding examples of the many contributions continuously being made right across the UK, and symbolic of the collective national effort.