

## RAPIDLY INCREASING CAPACITY IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES - 9 Month Extension

### A Framework to increase Occupational Health (OH) Capacity for NHS Organisations through Covid-19 and Winter Pressures

NHS England and NHS Improvement have developed a simplified framework that enables NHS organisations to easily and quickly procure additional temporary Occupational Health services to support them with the increased pressures due to Covid-19 and the winter pressures expected in the coming months where they have insufficient inhouse capacity. This has now been extended for a further 9 months to ensure that we can support NHS organisations through and beyond the second wave of Covid-19, winter pressures and support the Covid - 19 Vaccination programme once this is available.

The aim of this framework is to support NHS organisations to keep staff well at work and to support them in returning to work quicker after being unwell through procuring a temporary increase in organisational Occupational Health capacity from suppliers on the framework. This in turn will support organisations to continue to deliver safe patient care at this challenging time.

**Do also remember that this additional OH Support can include help with the Covid Vaccination Programme rollout.**

### How can my organisation access this additional OH Support?

Once you have identified a need for additional OH support and have identified local funding, you can access the full list of accredited suppliers on the NHS Health at Work Network website by clicking [here](#). For those new to the site, you can sign up to the NHS Health at Work Network [here](#). This framework is available until the end of September 2021.



### How the framework is helping organisations

St George's NHS Trust had 2400 staff risk assessments booked through the appointed OH supplier. The supplier offered a turnaround time for the appointments of 5-6 working days. Feedback from staff who had their risk assessment completed by the external supplier were satisfied with the service provided.

Their Chief People Officer stated: *"In my role as acting CPO, I have peace of mind knowing that there is additional capacity to support the wellbeing of our colleagues. Staff who are supported will in turn deliver the best possible care for our patients"*.

### Contact us

If you have any questions about the Framework or how to use it, please do not hesitate to contact Siobhan Woodland, Health and Wellbeing Manager at NHS England and NHS Improvement: [siobhan.woodland@nhs.net](mailto:siobhan.woodland@nhs.net)