Joint pledge on work and mental well-being

Too many people are disadvantaged by a combination of mental ill health and unemployment. Too many are left to deal alone with combined worry about their mental health, and the demoralising impact of being out of work for too long, due to lack of access to the support that would help them obtain employment, and improve their mental well-being.

We pledge to work together and with government, clinicians, specialist services, employers and voluntary and community organisations to change this for the better for everyone. We welcome the opportunity the Work Programme provides to support more people with mental health conditions into appropriate and sustainable employment.

Specifically, we will develop our expertise to help people with mental health conditions find, enter and remain in employment.

We will ensure across our whole organisations that our workforce is educated on mental health conditions and the value of work to health. We will equip our teams with best practice methods so they can support people with a range of mental health needs.

We will work with experts across employment and mental health sectors to deliver best outcomes for both, and listen to our service users to understand what they say helps them most.

We will strive to align our services so that employment support, clinical care, psychological therapy, housing and other support are organised seamlessly around each person’s needs. We will address additional requirements for assistance they may have, and support efforts to overcome stigma and discrimination.

We will work sensitively with people with mental health problems so that our support builds confidence, avoids harm and responds to people's changing needs.

Finally, we will continue to evolve the ways we support people so that fewer face the combined impact of mental distress and unemployment.