

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

6 April 2023

Dear Mr Barclay,

Re: NHS Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs

We are writing to you as a group of professional bodies in the health and social care sector to urge you to take steps to ensure the financial security of the NHS Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs.

Though the Hubs were first established in 2021 in response to the trauma brought to the NHS workforce by the pandemic, their purpose has evolved enormously. As the pressures on the NHS have continued to expand beyond the immediate problems of Covid-19, so too has the role of the Wellbeing Hubs. The focus of these services has expanded to address issues including: staff retention and turnover, sickness levels, workforce wellbeing, suicide risk and staff burnout.

The Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs offer a high level of expertise in assessing the needs of NHS and social care colleagues and providing a range of evidence-based interventions to sustain wellbeing. The importance of these services is demonstrated by the fact that demand has increased 72 per cent year on year¹.

We are aware that your colleague Will Quince has [stated](#) that future funding of the hubs is still under discussion, and that there is an expectation that funding will be transferred to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). Such an abrupt change, when ICBs are in varying stages of development, leaves many Hubs with no avenue for funding, as of 31 March 2023. Several Hubs have already had to close due to a lack of alternative options.

We strongly urge you to secure, as a bare minimum, one year's transitional funding to prevent these services coming to an abrupt halt.

Kind regards,



¹ BPS (2023) "BPS and ACP UK warn government over 'clinically dangerous' indecision over funding for mental health support for NHS and social care staff". [Link](#).