

Covid-19: Preventing a mental ill-health crisis across south London

Developing our action plan together. Join the South London Listens campaign.

Our six ambitions

1. Social isolation, loneliness and community involvement

To build on South London Listens, a major community listening campaign, to understand how we can connect people with existing networks, or help to set up networks with grassroots support. Where people don't have the skills or access to technology (digital divide), we will support them to adopt and use technology, creating opportunities for people to connect online.

2. Helping people who are at risk of losing their jobs cope

To support our local economy in south London by encouraging major employers in the area to recruit and buy local. We will work with partners to ensure that people at risk of losing their jobs, or who are unemployed, will have access to high quality advice and support. We will encourage major employers in south London to adopt mental health best practice.

3. Housing insecurity and environment

We will work with partners to ensure a joined-up, proactive service response to reduce the negative impact of housing insecurity and the environment on mental ill-health. We will work with community and partner organisations to provide people with the skills, and information, to be able to make positive choices to support their mental health and wellbeing.

4. Supporting communities and groups who experience disadvantage

For all people in south London to have access to information that promotes mental wellbeing and resilience. We will produce high quality information in partnership with our communities that can be used by both individuals and statutory organisations.

5. Supporting families, children and young people

To work together with families that have been impacted by Covid-19, to listen, respond and keep families healthy. Through South London Listens, we will take a proactive approach, meeting communities where they are and in places where families and young people come together to better understand their needs. We will empower local communities to design and implement solutions to support themselves and each other.

6. Developing a long-term, joined-up approach to prevention

For all people in south London to have access to evidence-based public mental health support packages that prevent mental ill-health and promote mental wellbeing and resilience. We want people to have confidence in the support provided and to know if it is working. Our communities will be empowered to further develop networks and relationships that build true resilience.

Help shape our ideas

- We will listen to our communities impacted by Covid-19 and deliver a programme of mental health awareness to meet their needs and develop a mental health champions programme.
- We will map mental ill-health prevention support packages across south London, identify unmet need and look at the benefits of improving coverage, taking into account the impact of Covid-19.
- We will support those people who are digitally isolated by working with community and partner organisations to help them get online and connect with local groups.
- We will develop community networks to provide support, advice and guidance around housing and environment.
- We will work with voluntary organisations to help give people the skills and confidence to ask for help when they need it.
- We will build upon recent research to identify communities that have been disadvantaged by Covid-19 and understand better the impacts and the issues faced when accessing services.
- We will work with our communities to evaluate the effectiveness of current information, signposting and engagement. Together we will co-develop and share high-quality information on mental health promotion and prevention ensuring local communities are aware of the support available and how to access it.
- We will communicate in a way everyone understands, including using language which is accessible and we will actively share information about support services provided by health, voluntary, community and social care organisations.

Help be a part of this programme and get involved by joining the South London Listens campaign from 10 November 2020 - 31 January 2021. Help shape solutions to the impact Covid-19 is having on you, your family and communities mental health. Get involved at our community partners website: <https://bit.ly/32e63YP>. The full action plan will be shared in April 2021.

This is a partnership programme led by the NHS, Local Authorities and Community partners across south London. Find out more at slam.nhs.uk, swlstg.nhs.uk and oxleas.nhs.uk