

# THE TOGETHER PROJECT

Services provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Hampshire CAMHS recognises that the last 12 months have been incredibly challenging for our young people which, as a result, has impacted on their anxiety, experiences, connectivity and learning. This unique, strange, and unprecedented event will have undoubtedly created significant potential for increased levels of loneliness and uncertainty about how to connect with others again. Therefore, we are looking to run a time limited project over the summer called, "The Together Project". We are hoping that the resources and ideas will be helpful, and a useful platform for

conversations with young people.

Please find attached a PDF of ideas and sources of information and resources, to get started with the young people in your school, or youth organisation.

Please let us know how you get on.

## TOGETHER PROJECT

## What's involved?

Within this document are different ideas to help young people.

- 1) Identify how they are feeling;
- 2) Activities to try to match their mood;

3) Ideas for generating activities to try which will build confidence, help to manage mood, and to build connections with others.

There's no obligation, it's up to you how much you want to get involved.

## TOGETHER PROJECT

## **The Projects**

#### • 21 in 21

21 different activities to try then incorporate into everyday life.

#### Virtual Activity Planner

When boredom sets in and you're not sure what to do, use this virtual activity planner to give you suggestions on what to do and new things to try.

#### • Emotions Diary and Mood Regulating Activities

Rate your feelings and find an activity to dial up or down your energy.

#### Connecting the Dots

A fun and creative activity to express your individuality and connect with others to form a collaborative art installation.

#### Top Tips Sheets

Some suggestions on how to manage aspects such as friendships, coping with boredom, feeling lonely and staying safe.

#### The Kindness Toolkit

Some suggestions of developing kindness and compassion to oneself and others.

## TOGETHER PROJECT

## **Connecting the dots**

Have you ever done a dot to dot picture? By connecting up the individual dots, beautiful pictures emerge.

We are all individuals with our own unique experiences, but we have and can create, connections to others, and in doing so create something beautiful with our shared experiences and perspectives. Our 'Connecting the Dots' project is about showcasing our individuality whilst finding connections to others, and using these connections to contribute to a collective piece of art.

Use the attached template to cut out a "dot". Use this space to creatively express "what are the things in life that are important to you?" You can write, draw, paint, or use any medium that you'd like to complete the task!

The completed dots can be sent to Hampshire CAMHS, as we may potentially be able to create something from this, based on responses.

Please send FAO Helen Dove, Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 0HU Please mark the back of your dot with your name/age/school/contact details.

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#### Cut your dot out around this line

Get creative with designing your dot to answer the question:

WHAT ARE THE THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

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### **Top Tips; Being Active**

- Being active doesn't just mean exercise, or doing sports; it's about movement. There are many different ways to be active; going for walks, playing at the playground, cycling or scooting around the park, kicking a ball around with some friends, doing yoga, gymnastics or dance, as well as sports such as swimming, tennis, basketball or cricket.
- Try to get out everyday; fresh air is like pressing the re-set button for your mind.
- Do it because it's fun, not because you feel like you should, or must.
- There's no such thing as bad weather, only wrong clothing choices, so even if it's cold or rainy, wrap up warm, and if it's hot, make sure you apply sunscreen.
- Make sure you fuel up before and after any activity, and stay hydrated throughout. Like making sure your mobile phone is charged up, you need to make sure you have enough energy by having regular snacks and drinking water.

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### **Trying new activities**

- One of the best things about being active is that everyone can be active. You don't have to be the quickest, strongest, or best at any sport or activity to join in.
- When we try new things, you can expect to make mistakes or find it challenging. The more you do it, the better you'll become, so don't worry if you struggle at first.
- Remember that it's ok not to win a game or match, taking part and having fun are important.
- Try not to compare yourself to other people; we're all good at different things and some people will have had more or less practice than you.
- It's ok to ask for help if you're not sure of how to do something, or if you need some reassurance when you're starting out.
- Check out our Activity Planner and '21 in 21' for new activities to try.

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#### Top Tips; Connecting With Others Making Friends

- Treat other people the way you would like to be treated.
- Try not to judge others based on their appearance, or on your first impression. You can only judge
  whether you get on with someone once you have spent time with them, and have spoken with
  them.
- Try to find common interests with other people. Talk about the things you enjoy, and be curious about what other people have to say.
- Saying hello and smiling at others lets them know you are friendly, and would like to interact.
- If you see someone is on their own, invite them to sit with you, or join in with you and your friends.
- Sit next to, or talk to people you might not have sat next to, or spoken to before at school.

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#### **Managing Boredom**

- Boredom is often linked to a lack of connection, so communicate, speak face to face or on the phone with someone. Connecting with someone can often break the boredom cycle.
- Have a routine; getting up at the same time, eating meals and going to bed at the same time can help you to plan your days. Try to have at least one thing planned a day.
- Keep a to-do list; a mix of things you need/should do (eg, tidy your room, do school work) and things you'd like to do (eg, see friends, play games, listen to music). Pick two from the 'need/ should' list, and two from the 'like to do' list. You might be able to combine the two, eg, listening to music whilst you tidy your room.
- Offer to help someone do something, or invite someone to do something with you.
- Set yourself goals of things you want to achieve, and break these goals down into smaller steps to help you get there.

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#### **Managing Feelings of Loneliness**

- Manage your expectations; we all have quiet times with no plans and nothing exciting going on. Be careful not to compare yourself to others, particularly on social media where it can feel like everyone has more exciting lives than you.
- Let people know how you feel. Chances are, some of your friends and family members feel this too. You could schedule in regular calls or meet ups.
- Make new connections; joining a club or group is a good way to meet people with similar interests. There are many online communities and virtual groups which are running too.
- If you are old enough, getting a part time job or volunteering can be a great way to occupy yourself, and meet new people.
- Seek support from a helpline; Call Childline on 0800 1111(free phone, 24hours 7 days a week).

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### **Top Tips; Giving**

- Behaving kindly and compassionately towards others is good for us, and for other people. Treating other people how we would like to be treated ourselves is important to hold in mind. Respect, honesty and kindness are qualities and values that we can expect from other people, and give to others in return.
- Even though we would hope others would show kindness and compassion towards us, we should behave kindly and compassionately to everyone, even if they are not always kind to us.
- Just because someone might seem happy and confident, you never know what challenges or difficulties they may be experiencing, so it's important to be kind.
- There are many ways of showing people you care, and different people will have different preferences in terms of how they show others that they care about them. Watch this short film about the Five Languages of Love to think more about your own preferences for giving and receiving love and care; <u>https://youtu.be/2F\_neejm5Zw</u>

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### Giving

- Remember you are part of a wider community and part of society. If you see something that needs doing (eg, litter picking up), don't assume, expect, or wait for someone else to do something about it yourself.
- Take responsibility for being a good citizen; role model to your friends and those around you how to behave responsibly and appropriately.
- Have a look at our Kindness Toolkit for more ideas on how to develop compassion for yourself and other people.



### **Top Tips; Learning**

- There are so many fun and creative ways to learn new things; reading books, watching TV/ films/ YouTube videos, TED Talks, listening to the radio or to podcasts, joining a new club or group, talking to and copying other people, and just trying something new and practicing.
- We're all learning all the time. Why don't you learn a new skill together with someone in your family. Learning with someone can be lots of fun, you can help each other and keep each other motivated too.
- Set yourself goals of things you'd like to achieve and learn how to do. You can break down big goals into smaller steps, and tackle each step one at a time.
- To learn more about how to look after your own mental and emotional health, visit our website to watch videos or listen to podcasts about many different aspects of our mental, and emotional health; <u>https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/videos-podcasts/</u>

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### **Top Tips; Noticing**

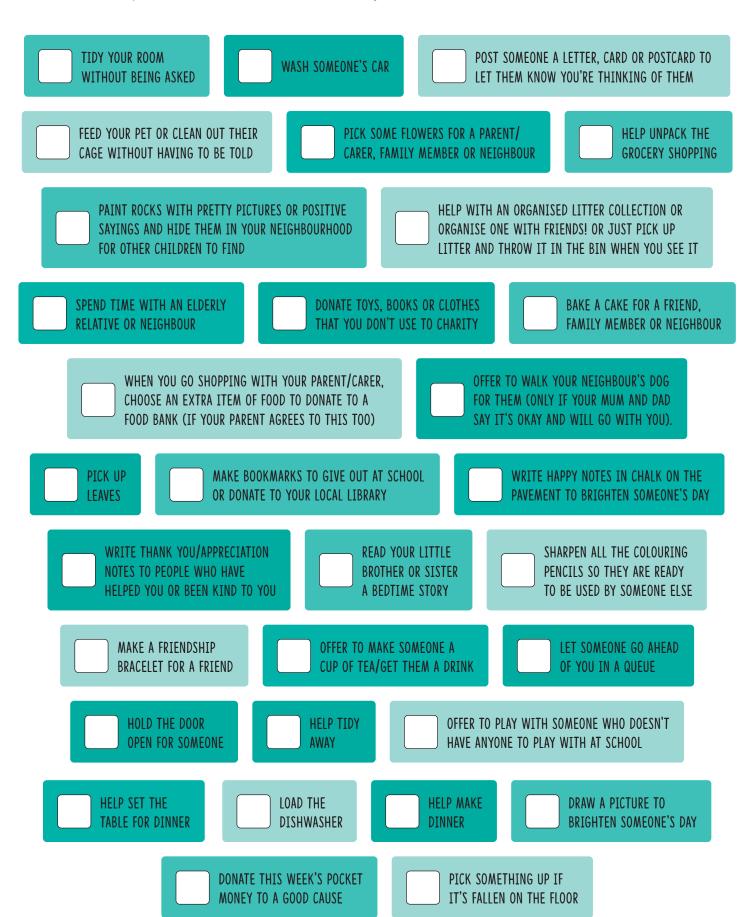
- Noticing means being aware of, paying attention to, and being in the present moment. Noticing how you feel (emotionally and physically), and what is going around you.
- You can practice the art of noticing and being in the present moment by trying this grounding exercise using your five senses; <u>https://youtu.be/rGpZ\_r3c1PU</u>
- Playing games and activities such as 'Eye Spy', wildlife spotting (eg, birds, bugs and trees), geocaching, foraging and treasure hunts are fun ways of connecting with, and being in the present moment, and noticing your surroundings.
- Paying attention to, and looking after your body is important. Noticing how you are feeling; whether you are hungry, thirsty, too hot/cold, tired, in pain, etc, and responding appropriately. You can practice doing a body scan to see how your body is feeling. Here is a short film on body scanning and muscle relaxation; <u>https://youtu.be/Li6BNa75TQw</u>
- Whatever is going on for you, be aware that moments come, and moments go, whether good or difficult. Try not to judge, change, or wish away moments; practice accepting moments as they are, knowing that they will come and go.

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## GIVING TO OTHERS

Why not do a daily "Random Act of Kindness". You can pick from the list below or think of your own: Services provided by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust



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### SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT KINDNESS MEANS TO YOU

Fill in and decorate our kindness hearts. You can do this on your own or in a group and create a kindness collage of all the things kindness means... WHAT KINDNESS MEANS TO ME ...

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#### PRACTICE **KINDNESS** TOWARDS YOURSELF

#### CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHERS?

PRACTICE KINDNESS			E FRESH AIR LET SOMEONE KNOW/ASK FO HELP IF YOU ARE STRUGGLIN			
TOWARDS	LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU SPEND ON YOUR PHONE/ USING SOCIAL MEDIA	MAKE A POSITIVE BOARD; THING THAT MAKE YOU SMILE, MOTIVAT YOU OR THAT MAKE YOU FEEL GO	E (CLEAN AND ORGANISED PACES CAN	ACCESS SELF-HELP IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING: www.hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk		
YOURSELF	USING SUCIAL MEDIA					
Self-compassion and kindness towards oneself if really important; it benefits	WATCH A FAVOURITE FILM, READ A GOOD BOOK	MAKE GO TO BED EARLY AN A GOOD NIGHT'S SLE	ET WASH YOUR HAIR			
our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.	SPEND TIME		🔪 🎢			
It's not always easy being kind to ourselves or putting our needs first but with practice this will help you to feel healthier and happier.	WITH A PET		LOOK THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS OF FUN TIMES WITH FRIENDS AND	MAKE YOURSELF A SELF- SOOTHE COPING BOX;		
Here are some ideas of self-care activities to practice.	Contraction of the second	~ •	PLAN THINGS TO DO WITH THEM	HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/OYFGODSSDV4		
See if you can practice every day of Mental Health Awareness Week and hopefully by the end of the week you will want to build it into your everyday routine:		SPEND TIME DOING ACTIVITIES THAT HELP RELAX YOU (E.G., LISTEN TO MUSIC)	PLAN THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO CREATE A DAILY ROUT GET UP AND GO TO BE SIMILAR TIMES EVER	D AT YOU ARE FEELING		
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHERS?	HAVE AN AFTERNOON/ NIGHT OFF FROM STUDYING	BAKE OR COOK SOMETHING WITH A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER		G NEW THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS (LEARN A NEW SKILL OR HOBBY)		
Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Services provided by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust	UNFOLLOW OR DELETE ACCOUNTS/APPS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL RUBBISH	SET YOURSELF SOME GOALS TO ACHIEVE (MAKE SURE THEY ARE REALISTIC AND ACHIEVABLE)	WRITE A LIST OF YOUR POSITIVE QUALITIES OR THINGS YOU ARE PROUD OF; CELEBRATE THE UNIQUENESS OF YOU	SPEND TIME DOING A HOBBY OR INTEREST THAT YOU HAVEN'T DONE FOR A WHILE		

## FIVE FINGER POSITIVITY CHALLENGE

Every day, practice identifying and saying out loud five strengths and positive qualities that you possess.

You could adapt this and think of different things each day; five qualities that make you a good friend, five of your life goals, five things you enjoying doing, five things you are proud of, five things that make you unique etc.



## 21 IN 21

Research shows there are five simple things you can do as part of your daily life – at work and at home – to build resilience, boost your wellbeing and lower your risk of developing mental health difficulties.

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are:

- Connect
- Be Active
- Keep Learning
- Give

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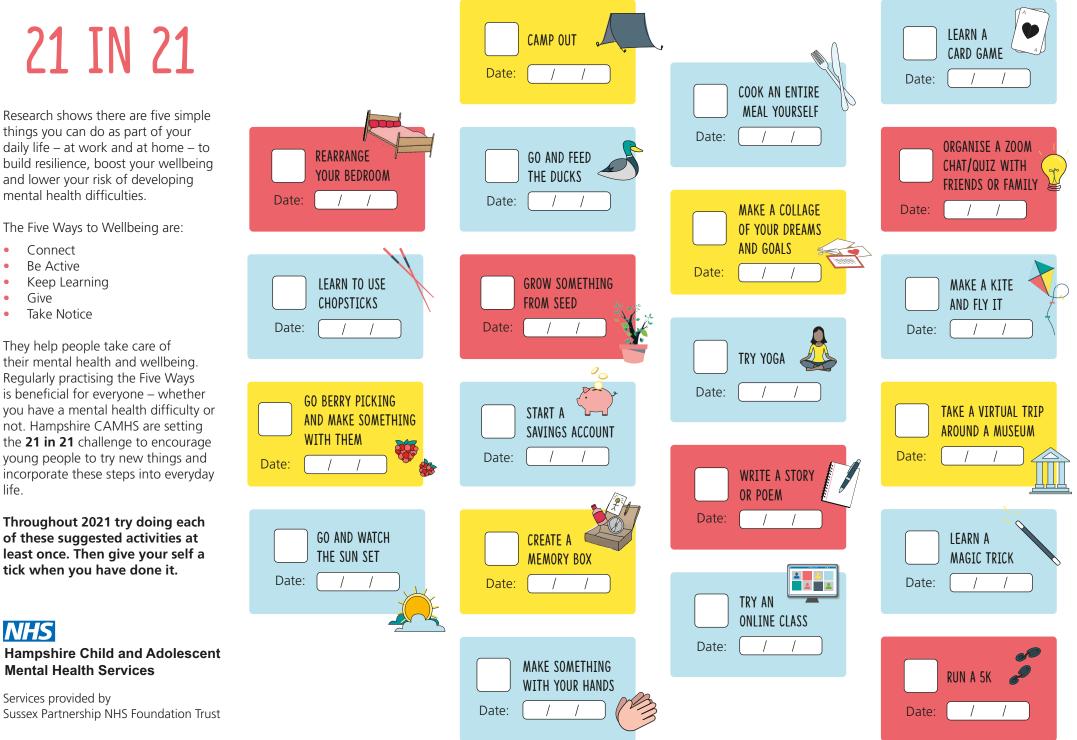
Take Notice

They help people take care of their mental health and wellbeing. Regularly practising the Five Ways is beneficial for everyone - whether you have a mental health difficulty or not. Hampshire CAMHS are setting the **21 in 21** challenge to encourage young people to try new things and incorporate these steps into everyday life.

Throughout 2021 try doing each of these suggested activities at least once. Then give your self a tick when you have done it.

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## THE VIRTUAL ACTIVITY PLANNER

Use this simple calculation to help you work out an activity to do!

Choose a number between 1 and 9

Multiply it by 3

Add 3

Multiply it by 3 again

Add the two digit number you get together

The number you get will be the activity you will be doing!

1. Try an online class

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- Write a letter to someone and post
- Bake something
- Listen to some new music

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- Play a game with family/household 5.
- Watch your favourite film

- Start a diary/journal 7. Go for a long walk 8. Plant something/grow some herbs from seed 9. Read the book you have been meaning to read 11. Phone a friend for a chat
- 12. Try meditation



13. Cook something new Try something artistic 15. Learn to juggle 16. Go and collect a bag of litter locally 17. Have a day without social media 18. Make a new playlist

#### IDENTIFY AND RATE YOUR EMOTION

0/10 = no emotion 10/10 = max intensity of emotion

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SAD							
<b>NGRY</b>							
WORRIED							
• • EMPTY							
TIRED							
HAPPY							
© • CALM							
EMPTY EMPTY CO TIRED HAPPY							

For more useful tips and activities visit: hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk

#### TICK THE ACTIVITY THAT YOU TRIED & WRITE "H" IF IT HELPED YOU TO MANAGE THE FEELINGS YOU EXPERIENCED

#### DIAL UP MY ENERGY

