

To: **Gail Hancock**
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Please ask for: Gail Hancock

Phone: 01452 425775

Our Ref: GH/dh

Your Ref:

Date: 25th June 2021

Dear Colleagues

Re: Employee Assistance Programme – Extension of Support for Agency Locum Staff

I trust you are all keeping well and looking forward to some better weather which I understand is on its way next week. For those of you who follow the football, I hope your team is progressing well in Euro 2021. I got Scotland in the in the sweep stake and they're already out, so enough said about that!

Anyway, the main purpose of this communication is to focus on additional support for agency locum social work staff. I am delighted to be able to confirm that Gloucestershire County Council has made arrangements to extend the existing Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) to support agency locum social work staff as well as continuing to provide EAP support for permanent and substantive employees.

The EAP is provided by Health Assured who have a generous offer that includes:

- **Life support:** Access to counselling for emotional problems and a pathway to structured therapy sessions (employees only) at your convenience.
- **Legal information:** For issues that cause anxiety or distress including debt management, consumer, property or neighbour disputes (employees only).
- **Bereavement support:** Health Assured offers qualified and experienced counsellors who can help with grief plus legal advisors to help with related legal matters.
- **Medical information:** Qualified nurses are on hand to offer support on a range of medical or health-related issues offering practical information and advice.
- **Online CBT:** We recognise the value of self-help tools in dealing with a range of issues, which is why we have a range of CBT self-help modules, informative fact sheets and invaluable advice videos from leading qualified counsellors.

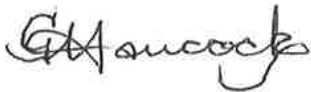
There are Helpline services available to support staff and immediate family members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by calling **0800 028 0199**. Health Assured define immediate family members as a spouse/partner and children aged 16 to 24 in full-time education, living in the same household.

There are a number of attachments which provide more information about an App, with a poster, employee's frequently asked questions, manager's frequently asked questions and more about EAP.

I trust that this communication and the attachments will be a helpful reminder for all existing permanent and substantive employees but also provides a helpful introduction to all of our valued agency locum social work staff too.

Thank you for your continued commitment and hard work to ensure vulnerable children and young people in Gloucestershire have remarkable lives and fulfil their true potential.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hancock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gail Hancock

Interim Director for Children's Safeguarding and Care