

The Association of Mental Health Providers

MEMBERS GUIDE



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WE ARE THE LEADING VOICE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Association of Mental Health Providers is the national voice of mental health charities providing services in England and Wales. A registered charity, we represent our membership of small, medium and large service providers – from locally focused to regional and national organisations with the purpose of providing a professional platform on which the vital work of all our members can be seen and heard.

As the only representative body for mental health mental health provider charities, the Association is ideally placed to work across all types of service provision. Our members provide services covering the full range of provision from crisis care, liaison and diversion services, substance misuse services, complex needs, to advice and counselling to people with lived experience. Specialisms amongst our members include BME mental health, children and young people's mental health, housing and homelessness, employment support, IAPT and secure pathways – taking a whole-life and whole-person approach.

The Association is dedicated to supporting the development of the mental health voluntary and community sector to effectively meet the needs of individuals, their mental health and wellbeing. We do this through three key areas of work: sustainability – ensuring the continuation and growth of the sector; whole-system approaches – encouraging coordinated planning to provide joined-up care; and prevention – promoting wellness and good mental health with a consideration of the wider determinants to prevent mental ill-health.

We act as advisers to System Partners through our positions on national boards and steering groups. We act as supporters and advisers to the wider VCSE, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on policy, innovation, quality and regulation. We work in full coproduction with people with lived experience, large organisations, and System Partners on policy, research and delivery. We listen to the voices of people in communities and utilise their knowledge to ensure the mental health voluntary and community sector is understood and continues to develop.

We recognise that everyone can be affected by mental ill-health and we believe it is essential that the mental health voluntary and community sector works together for a whole-system approach to improve health and care in England and Wales.



OUR MEMBERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SUPPORT ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK

Association of Mental Health Providers represents members across England and Wales from locally focused to regional and national organisations. All our members are united in their aim of improving the quality of care for people with mental health conditions and the outcomes of the services provided. We are seeing both challenges and opportunities for the mental health service sector, and by working collaboratively with our members, we can play a key role in shaping the future of services for people with mental health conditions.

Our valued members are instrumental in shaping our work to improve and influence national policy, and to promote the powerful role of the voluntary and community sector in mental health service provision. It is imperative that the not-for-profit mental health sector's voice is clear, present and distinct, and as such, the Association proactively represents all our members at the heart of our work.

By being a member of the Association, you can add your important voice to a growing and diverse network of organisations committed to making a real difference to how mental health services are delivered. There are many benefits to joining our Association as a member - find out more by reading the rest of this membership guide for new members.





SHARE INSIGHTS, DISCUSS CHALLENGES, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER

The Association's Member Networks for Directors and Leads are there to foster collaboration and learning within our membership community. These networks allow key leaders across our member organisations to connect, share insights, and navigate challenges together.

We aim to create confidential, safe spaces where colleagues can engage with their counterparts in similar roles from other organisations. These networks serve as platforms for sharing best practices, discussing common challenges, and offering mutual support. We envision these spaces being member-led and facilitated collaboratively, ensuring that no one individual carries the burden of leadership alone. By rotating facilitation, all members can contribute to shaping these valuable discussions.

We currently host the following Member Networks:

- CEOs Network
- Business Development Leads' Network
- Minoritised Communities' Network
- Lived Experience Leads' Network
- HR Leads' Network
- Communications Leads' Network



Our fortnightly meetings with the Association's membership are important for sharing intelligence and the development of a distinct and strong national network of VCSE mental health provider organisations, with key personnel from the mental health sector being invited to lead sessions regularly.

If you or your colleagues are interested in joining any of these networks or meetings, we encourage you to [get in touch](#).



“THOSE CLOSEST TO THE CHALLENGE ARE ALSO CLOSEST TO THE SOLUTION.”

-DANIA HANIF

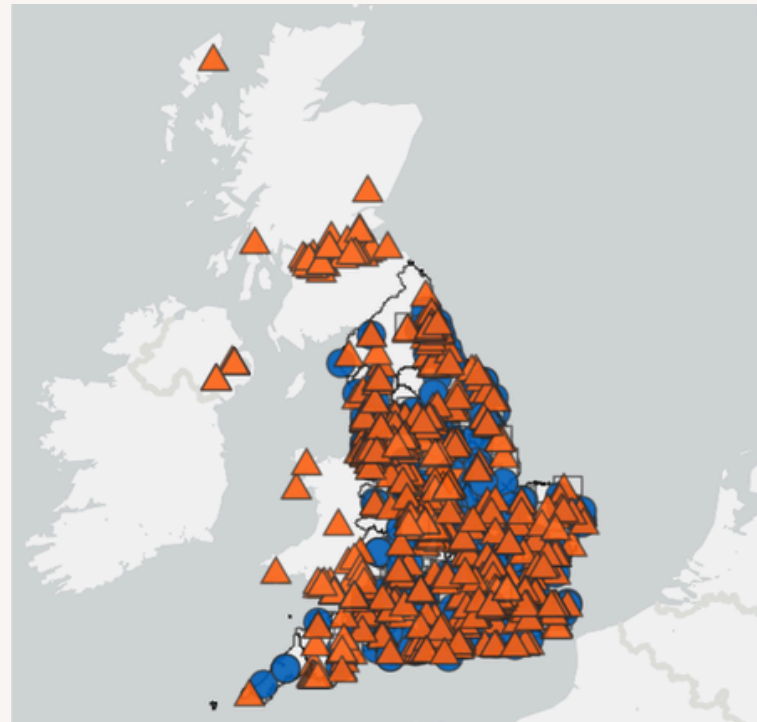
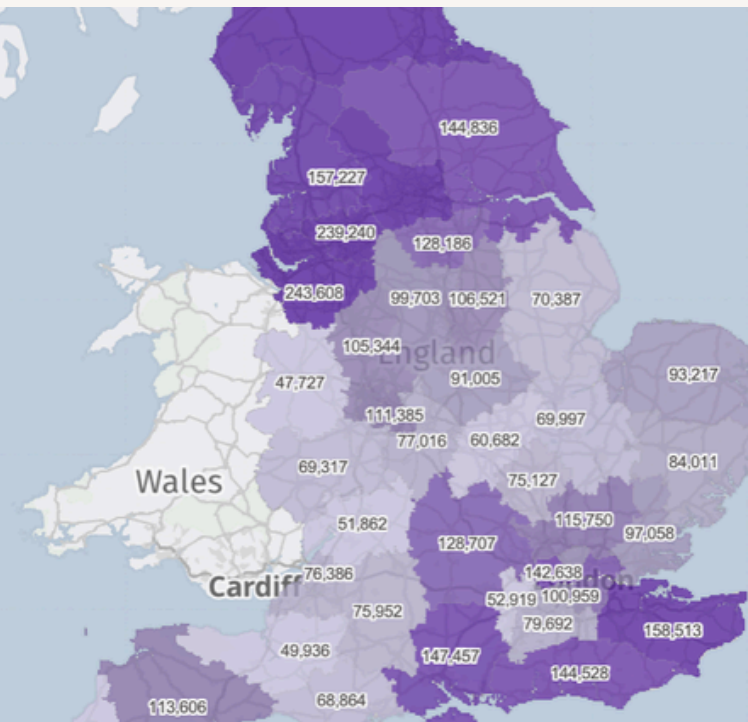
At the national level, we use intelligence gathered from our members, including case studies and stories, to inform the government's work. We participate in numerous task forces and national groups, such as the Advancing Mental Health Equalities Task Force led by NHS England, to address inequalities within services, particularly racial inequalities. This helps ensure social determinants impacting these communities are considered at higher levels.

The Association's Chief Executive Dania Hanif says:

“We will stand beside our members – not only advocating nationally, but providing support, connection, and leadership across the sector. We will strengthen our voice through evidence, through lived experience, and through the unshakeable belief that those closest to the challenge are also closest to the solution.

I am clear about our role: not just to respond to policy, but to shape it.”





We developed the UK's first Mental Health Data Observatory, a unique platform that maps mental health services nationwide by postcode, alongside detailed census data on deprivation, gender, age, caring responsibilities, ethnicity, and faith. By comparing these local population characteristics with the services provided by our members, we're able to identify not just where services exist, but also where there are gaps, unmet needs, and growing demand within communities.

Our first mapping exercise, published in 2022, provides government partners and decision-makers with a practical tool to demonstrate specific local needs and inform smarter commissioning based on up-to-date population data. Members can add their services to our mental health sector mapping tool [here](#).

This Observatory is one of the most transformative projects we've delivered in recent years. Developed in collaboration with partners and members, it showcases the unique contributions of VCSE mental health services, particularly in communities that are often overlooked or underserved, and translates this knowledge into meaningful action.

The Observatory helps reclaim data as a tool for equity, empowering our members to shape decisions that will impact the future of care. This work is foundational to changing the conversation around mental health services, demonstrating that our sector is not just "optional," but essential to the well-being of people and communities across the UK.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED, CONNECTED, AND AMPLIFIED

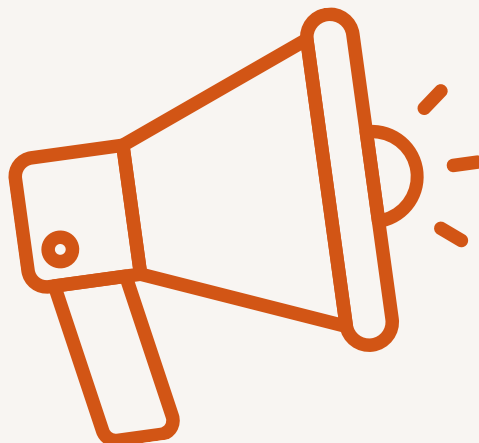
As a member of the Association, you have access to a range of communications channels designed to keep you informed, amplify your work, and connect you with the wider VCSE mental health community.

Our fortnightly Member Bulletin is your go-to source for key Association updates, the latest news and developments from the VCSE sector, and information about upcoming events. It's a space to stay informed about what's happening across the sector and to share your news and achievements with fellow members.

Our Lived and Leading Bulletin is created specifically for people with lived experience of mental ill-health. It offers opportunities to engage directly with the Association, get involved in initiatives, and connect with the wider sector. This bulletin shares relevant updates, opportunities, and stories, ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience remain at the heart of our work.

In addition, we promote members' initiatives and successes across our social media channels, support participation in Association-led campaigns, and invite guest contributions to our blog. These platforms offer further opportunities to share your insights, celebrate achievements, and contribute to the ongoing conversation about mental health.

We encourage all members to make the most of these communications opportunities, to share your impact, raise your profile, and help strengthen our collective voice.





GET ONLINE

As a member of the Association, you can access our members' pages on our website, which provide access to your profile, a learning portal, events, webinars, and bulletins.

Our learning portal contains a variety of information and resources on: legal issues, governance, fundraising and bid writing, marketing, strategy, and race(ism). These resources have been kindly provided in part by private sector partners in our Mental Health Sustainability Programme, while other resources and links are from publicly available sources.

The Association hosts several events, including members' meetings, subgroups focusing on member-led workstreams, roundtables, webinars, and other events.

Webinars delivered by experts in the mental health sector on a range of topics will be uploaded here following their occurrence. Members will also be able to download related documents.

Fortnightly and monthly e-bulletins providing updates on news, opportunities, insights and ways to engage with our work are uploaded here too.





CONTACT US

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