



September 2023

Dear Colleague,

**2023 National Workforce Benchmarking Survey of Social Workers and Wider Social Care Workforce Employed Within Employed Within VCSE Sector Supporting People With Mental Health Conditions Across England**

The NHS Benchmarking Network and NHS England are pleased to announce that the 2023 National Workforce Benchmarking Survey of the Social Workers and Social Care workforce within mental health services across England is now open for data submissions. The data collection template is attached but can also be found here <https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/social-workers-2022/23>.

The collection will build on previous work delivered in 2020 and 2022 by the NHS Benchmarking Network that profiled social workers working in mental health services. This collection will help establish a comprehensive profile of the social worker and the wider social care workforce including data from the NHS, local authorities, the independent and voluntary sector.

Using this evidence, we can inform education and workforce planning and investments for now and in the future as part of the Mental Health Implementation Plan to achieve the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions.

We would be grateful if your organisation could complete the enclosed data specification template before or by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 17:00**. Please can you also identify a lead within your organisation who can act as the point of contact with the NHS Benchmarking Network for this collection.

Your contribution to this project is greatly appreciated, and as part of your contribution you will receive both a national and local report. The evidence gathered from the project will also be central in informing local system workforce planning and delivery of the mental health investment ambitions.

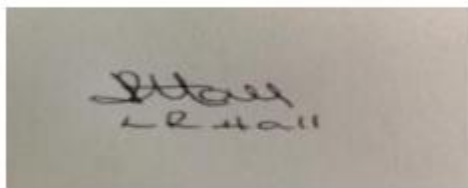
NHSBN will also be running drop-in sessions to support you completing the data template, links to these sessions are available on the website listed above.

To submit the data template and if you require any assistance with data definitions beyond those provided on the attached template, please contact the project team at [nhsbn.swsc@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbn.swsc@nhs.net).

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you.

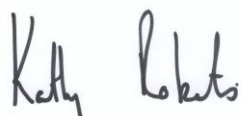
Best wishes,

Lynne Hall

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Lynne Hall'.

Head of Portfolio – National Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism  
NHS England, Workforce, Training & Education Directorate

Kathy Roberts

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Kathy Roberts'.

Chief Executive - Association of Mental Health Providers