

The Employment Support Co-ordination Service...

What is it?

Research shows that being in work can have enormous benefits for people with mild to moderate mental health problems such as depression, anxiety states and phobias.

Dorset Mental Health Forum and primary care mental health services are working in partnership to support adults:

- **needing help to keep their job**
- **wanting to return to work**
- **thinking about training for a job**

How does it work?

A dedicated team of Employment Support Co-ordinators (ESCs) has been appointed to work with primary care mental health services, employers and individuals throughout Dorset.

If you are an employer or a mental health professional, look inside to see what we can offer you.

**Get in touch with
YOUR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT
SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR.**



Please be aware that all our team members work part-time and may not be available immediately.

**Dorset
Mental Health
Forum**

promoting wellbeing & recovery

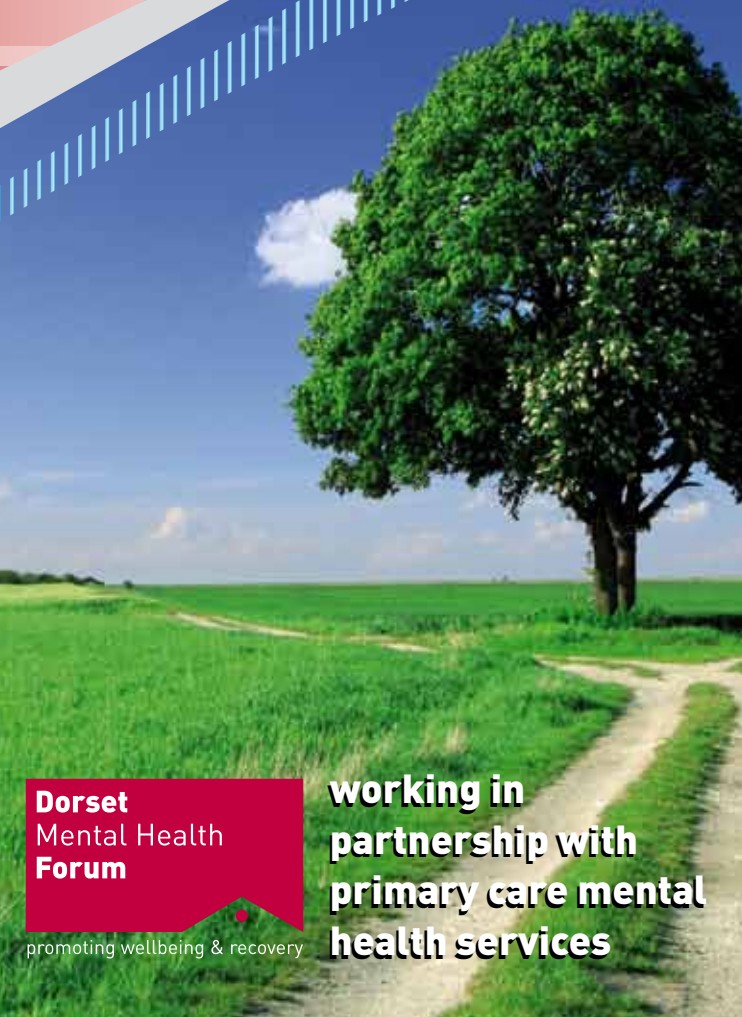
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WorkWise

The Employment Support Co-ordination Service for Dorset



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WHAT WE DO

What the programme does

The local ESCs work to provide an educational and information service for local employers while linking with employment agencies and the providers of primary mental health care services.

The service includes:

- **information and advice**
- **support**
- **signposting**
- **referral**
- **training**

Benefits

The ESC programme is part of a national focus on helping people with common mental health problems to remain in work or to regain the confidence or gain the skills to return to working life.

The Dorset ESCs

There is a team of part time Employment Support Co-ordinators for Dorset. (Contact details are given on the back page.)

COULD WE HELP YOU?

Are you an Employer?

As you probably know, the Equalities Act says that people with disabilities must not be disadvantaged either at work or in searching for work. A mental health problem may, in some instances, be regarded as a disability. And since one in four people will experience a mental health problem in their life, the chances are that a member of your staff may need help at some time.

...would you know how to spot it?

...would you know how to handle it?

The reality is that by knowing how to be aware of difficulties early on, you can support a member of staff to recover more quickly and even continue to work efficiently.

By helping them, you can help your business with:

- **reduced sickness absence**
- **increased productivity/performance**
- **better staff retention**
- **improved staff morale**
- **increased staff loyalty**
- **a health-friendly reputation**

Do you work in primary mental health care services?

If so, we are available to work with you to help facilitate the recovery process of:

- **people in work and struggling**
- **people on statutory or employer sick pay**
- **people claiming out of work welfare benefits.**

By working with you we can provide expert advice on early and swift access to employment options, focusing on wellbeing and recovery.

Our ESCs can offer:

- **Knowledge of a range of effective and accessible work related information and advice tailored to individual needs**
- **Links to Jobcentre Plus, Stepping Stones, local training providers, educational opportunities and community and peer support groups.**