NO LIMITS

Helping Young People Help Themselves

PORTSMOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES FOR UNDER 18s

CRISIS SUPPORT

Childline

Advice, support and information for under 19s about anything you're going through

childline.org.uk

0800 1111
Available 24/7

Samaritans

A supportive listening phone service. You can also contact them by email and letter, and get face-to-face support at a local branch.

samaritans.org

116 123
Available 24/7

CALM

Phoneline and webchat available for anyone struggling with their mental health.

thecalmzone.net

0800 58 58 58
5pm - midnight every day

SHOUT

A text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. Available for free on all major mobile networks.

giveusashout.org

Text 'HANTS' to 85258
Available 24/7

NHS 111

Mental health support over the phone from the NHS.

111.nhs.uk

111
Available 24/7

FURTHER SUPPORT

No Limits

Free information, advice and support for children and young people under 26 in Southampton, Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. Youth workers are trained to help with a range of issues including mental health, relationships, employment, housing, money and substance use.

nolimitshelp.org.uk

02380 224 224

Motiv8

Supporting young people across Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham to improve life chances through mentoring, hubs, skills, voice and community programmes.

motiv8.org.uk

Mental Health in Portsmouth

A place to go to find local services and support. Anyone aged 16+ living in Portsmouth can call their Mental Health Hub.

mentalhealthinportsmouth.co.uk

0300 123 6621
8pm - 6pm, Mon - Fri

NHS Talking Therapies

Counselling, courses and support for anyone aged 16+ registered with a GP in Portsmouth.

talkingtherapieshiow.nhs.uk/portsmouth

0300 123 3934

Mind Children & Young People's Safe Haven

A safe and confidential space for young people experiencing difficulty with their mental health or wellbeing to access immediate one-to-one emotional support, and take part in wellbeing activities, mindfulness, art & crafts and peer support.

easthantsmind.org/services/children-and-young-people-safe-haven

YoungMinds

Online information for young people and parents about young people's mental health.

youngminds.org.uk

Kooth

Free, confidential online counselling and mental health support.

kooth.com

The Mix

Online information and resources on all aspects of a young person's life including mental health, relationships, work/study, money, housing.

themix.org.uk

Autism Hampshire

A charity offering a range of services to support autistic people and/or those with ADHD.

autismhampshire.org.uk

24/7 Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Line

A free, confidential emotional support and listening service for anyone over the age of 16 affected by sexual violence or abuse living in England and Wales.

247sexualabusesupport.org.uk

0808 500 2222
Available 24/7

Treetops Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Support to anyone of any age who has been raped or sexually assaulted.

hiowhealthcare.nhs.uk/sarc

0300 123 6616
Available 24/7

Sexual Trauma and Recovery (STAR) Counselling

Working with people who have experienced sexual trauma across the south and east of Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

starcounselling.org.uk

Drug & Alcohol Support Service (DASS)

A free, confidential service for young people under 25 in Portsmouth who are using substances.

Search 'DASS Portsmouth'

07979 706 037

Hampshire 24/7, by Catch 22

A treatment service offering targeted, specialist and family support for children and young people in Hampshire who are affected by substance use.

catch-22.org.uk/find-services/hampshire-247

4U Youth Group

A safe space for 13-19 year olds in Portsmouth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender variant or who are questioning their gender identity or sexuality.

Search '4U Portsmouth'

SELF-HELP APPS

Here are some of our top picks for self-help apps for your phone.

All apps are available on the Apple App Store and Google Play and also include the age ratin and whether they are recommended by the NHS.

Calm Harm: Helping young people manage the urge to self-harm — 13+ NHS

DistrACT: Trusted information for people who self-harm or feel suicidal. — 16+ NHS

Stay Alive: Helping you to plan and stay safe during a mental health crisis. — 4+ NHS

HarmLess: Empower your resilience against self-harm and life's stresses. — 4+

Tellmi: Share your mental health concerns anonymously and get help and advice. — 13+

MyPossibleSelf: Your companion for anxiety, sleep, stress, depression and wellbeing. — 13+ NHS

Mindshift CBT: Manage your anxiety and stress using cognitive behavioural therapies. — 13+ NHS

I Am: Daily affirmations to help build self-esteem and change negative thoughts. — 9+

Calm: Helping you to sleep more, stress less and live mindfully. — 4+

Headspace: Lifelong guide to mental health, mindfulness and meditation. — 4+

Catch It: Better understand your moods using an ongoing mood diary. 13+ NHS

Finch Self Care: A self-care pet app helping you feel prepared and positive one day at a time. 4+

Kinder World: Wellbeing Plants: Find peace and relaxation in everyday life as you raise plants. 4+

Tiimo: Daily planning and learning app designed for neurodiverse individuals. 9+

Habitica: Habit-building and productivity app to gamify your tasks and goals. 4+

I Am Sober: Get motivated by tracking sober days and build new habits and connections. 18+ NHS

Everything AA: Helping you on your Alcoholics Anonymous Journey. 13+

Callie: Take control of your personal safety. 4+

Hollie Guard: Turn your phone into a personal safety device and help protect you from violence. 4+

WalkSafe+: Travel safely, create a safety circle and enjoy a safer experience when out with friends. 4+

Y-Stop: Record yourself and monitor how Police Stop & Search is conducted. 4+

LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Talk to someone you trust

Let someone know how you feel. Talking can help you to unload how you're feeling and is often the first step to tackling your issue.

Talk to someone who you trust and think will support you - this could be a friend, family member, No Limits worker, teacher or someone else.

Take baby steps

When you feel low, everything is 10 times harder than usual. Make sure you take things slowly and feel proud of every small thing you do. Don't beat yourself up if you think you haven't done much - each small step is positive. Even simple tasks like getting out of bed, having a drink or cleaning your teeth can be challenging. However, they are all good achievements.

Soothing things

If you are feeling low or need a bit of a recharge, having some activities or things to go to that you know will comfort you can help. Try writing a list or making a self-soothe box and think about what you could include, like listening to music, something that smells nice, a special teddy or blanket to hold.

Prioritise yourself

It's important to look after ourselves and sometimes that might mean making a decision for yourself instead of others. If you need time to yourself to relax and de-stress, you should give yourself that time. You don't have to say yes to everything and you won't be letting people down.

Look after your physical health

Eating a balanced diet gives our body the right nutrients to be able to function properly, which is important when trying to maintain positive mental health and have enough energy each day.

Getting your body moving can also help, even if it's just a little bit. Movement makes your body release endorphins, serotonin and dopamine, which all make you feel better.

By making gradual changes to your lifestyle, you'll find it easier to adjust slowly, rather than throwing yourself in at the deep end.

Make sure you're also getting enough sleep, too, as not getting enough contributes to feeling low. Try and aim for eight hours a night.

Try mindfulness

Mindfulness is taking time to focus on the present moment, giving our minds a bit of a break from the business and stresses of everyday life. It can reduce our anxiety and stress levels as well as improving our overall health.

Scan the QR code to find out more and try some techniques.
nolimitshelp.org.uk/resource/mindfulness-for-mental-health

If you don't feel ready to talk to someone, a good alternative that still helps you get your feelings out is journalling or keeping a mood diary. Lots of people find that they are more able to understand or let go of feelings once they've written them down.

It is also a good way to track your emotions over time and they can also help you to think of any good things that have happened that day.

TIPS FOR MANAGING ANXIETY AND LOW MOOD

If you ever find yourself needing a way to cope with the immediate future, try some of these:

Breathing techniques

Square breathing

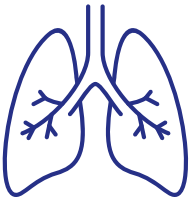
Start by breathing in and follow round until you start to feel relaxed.

Breathe in to the count of four

Hold to the count of four

Breathe out to the count of four

Pause to the count of four



Five finger breathing

Slowly trace round each of the fingers on one hand with a finger from the other. Breathe in on the way up the finger and breathe out on the way down.

Grounding technique

5 Name five things you can see

4 Name four things you can feel

3 Name three things you can hear

2 Name two things you can smell

1 Name one thing you can taste

MENTAL HEALTH PAIN SCALE

This scale can help you to let others how you are feeling emotionally, and what your immediate needs are. Use it to help you explain to your parents, professionals, and other people in your life.

MILD	1	Everything is just right! There's nothing wrong at all and you feel great!
	2	You might be a bit frustrated or disappointed but it isn't going to ruin your day. You'll cheer up soon.
	3	Something might be bothering you, like being overtired or hungry, but you're doing okay.
MODERATE	4	It's been a bad day or a bad few days. But you know you'll get through it. Take care of yourself.
	5	Your mental health is starting to impact on your normal life. Easy things are getting harder. You should talk to someone.
	6	You can't do things you'd usually do because of your mental health. You're getting impulsive and compulsive thoughts that are hard to get rid of.
SEVERE	7	You're avoiding doing things that might make you feel even worse, but this isn't good. You definitely need to talk to someone, it's getting serious.
	8	You can't hide it any longer. You might have issues with things like eating, sleeping, school, having fun with friends and family. Your mental health is affecting almost every part of your life.
	9	You're at a critical point. You aren't functioning properly anymore. Negative thoughts and feelings are constant and you don't know what to do. You may be at risk if you don't get support.
	10	You're experiencing the worst emotional distress possible. Things can't get any worse and you can't see it getting better. You feel like this is it. You need to contact a crisis line immediately.

Service details correct as of July 2026