

A background image showing a group of diverse young people sitting on wooden steps. The image is partially covered by a purple semi-transparent rectangle behind the title and a red semi-transparent rectangle behind the subtitle. Decorative diagonal stripes are present at the top and bottom of the page.

Mental Health Support in Leicestershire

GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In this guide you will find information, advice and support on your feelings and mental health, from these Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland services:

Health for Teens – www.healthforteens.co.uk

ChatHealth – www.chathealth.nhs.uk/start-a-chat

Kooth – www.kooth.com

My Self Referral – www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk

Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service –
www.bit.ly/3XxsrqF

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

IT'S OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY, AND YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



HEALTH FOR TEENS

The Health for Teens website is packed with tips, articles and other helpful information on lots of areas that you may be worried or just intrigued about, including:

Feelings

Relationships

Growing up

Sexual health

Health

Lifestyle

There's also a focus on the support that's available for you in Leicestershire.

Check it out:

www.healthforteens.co.uk





Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community you can join, which includes support for you if you live in Leicestershire.

On Kooth, you can find:

- Free counselling and live chat with a member of the team about whatever's on your mind
- Discussion boards where you can start or join a conversation with the Kooth community
- Kooth Magazine, featuring articles, tips and personal experiences from young people and the team
- A daily journal and other self-help tools that you can use to track your emotions



Find out more at www.kooth.com



Free online counselling support for young people!
Discover everything Kooth has to offer

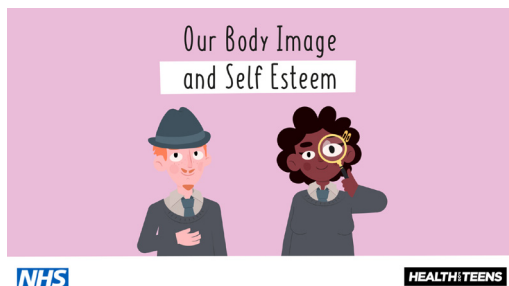


Sign up for free at Kooth.com

Supporting your feelings around body image and self-esteem

How you feel about yourself and your body matters, and this is all linked to your body image and self-esteem.

In this animation, devised by the Public Health (School) Nursing Team at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, you can find out more about what the terms mean, how and when to get support if you're struggling with any aspect related to the way you look and tips on how being kind to yourself can positively affect your emotional health and wellbeing.



Supporting you through exams and handling exam stress

Your body is good at telling you when you are stressed, and this stress can be common around exam season.

In this animation, devised by the Public Health (School) Nursing Team at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, uncover fantastic tips and advice for dealing with exam stress, managing your emotions and the support that is available to you at this time.



Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service

The coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis has caused major disruptions to family life, through the introduction of social distancing, school closures and lockdown.

In difficult times like these, looking after our mental health is just as important as taking care of our physical health. It's normal for everyone to feel anxious at the moment, and children and young people of all ages are just as affected as adults by the worry and stress coronavirus can cause.

This may be even more pertinent if you or those around you are directly affected by Covid-19. All those involved

will have been affected in some way, though each person's experiences of the event will be personal and therefore different. You may have thoughts and feelings which you have not experienced before. This is a normal reaction to a very abnormal experience and these emotions may last for some time.



HOW YOU MIGHT BE FEELING

There is no right way to feel or respond in stressful situations. But below are some common reactions:

- In the early stages you may have been in shock and felt confused, helpless or anxious. You may also have felt scared and sad.
- As time went on you may have felt angry with yourself, with school or with others. You may have even felt guilt or shame.
- You may have been visualising or dreaming about your experience.
- You could find yourself avoiding anything to do with the event, including talking to other people involved, being in places related to

the event or blocking out thoughts.

- You might be distancing yourself from other people.

People react differently and take different amounts of time to come to terms with what has happened. Even so, you may be surprised by the strength of your feelings. It is normal to experience a mixture of feelings:

- You may be alarmed or confused by your reaction to the event
- You may have some negative and positive feelings and thoughts – for example, feeling grateful for your personal circumstances, as well as guilt or anger.

Other feelings you might experience include:

Frightened that the same experience will happen again, or that you might lose control of your feelings and break down.

Helpless that something really bad happened and you could do nothing about it. You feel vulnerable and overwhelmed.

Angry about what has happened and with whoever was responsible.

Guilty that you have survived when others have suffered or died. You may feel that you could have done something to prevent it.

Sad particularly if people were very poorly or died, especially someone you knew.

Embarrassed that you have these strong feelings you can't control, especially if you need others to support you.

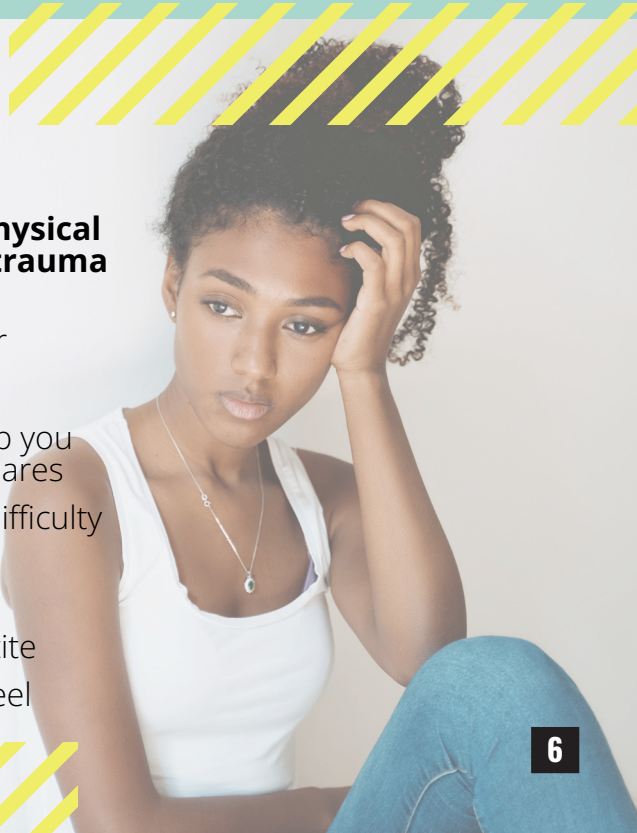
Relieved that the immediate danger is over.

Hopeful that your life will return to normal. People can start to feel more positive about things quite soon after.

WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU NOTICE?

Strong feelings affect your physical health. In the weeks after a trauma you may find that you:

- Feel very tired and have poor concentration
- Cannot sleep, or when asleep you dream a lot and have nightmares
- Have memory problems or difficulty thinking clearly
- Suffer from headaches
- Experience changes in appetite
- Have aches and pains, and feel your heart beating faster



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Give yourself time. It takes weeks or months to accept what has happened and to learn to live with it. You may need to grieve for what (or who) you have lost
- Find out what happened. It is better to face the reality of what happened rather than wondering about what might have happened.
- Your support network. If you go to funerals or memorial services, it can help to spend time with others who have been through the same experience as you for support
- Ask for support. It can be a relief to talk about what happened. You may need to ask your friends and family for the time to do this – at first they will probably not know what to say or do.
- Take time for yourself. At times you may want to be alone, or just with those close to you.

you cry when you talk, it's natural and usually helpful. Take things at a pace that you feel comfortable with.

- Get into a routine. Even if you don't feel much like eating, try to have regular meals and to eat a balanced diet. Doing some exercise can help – but start gently.
- Physical exercise. Some young people find moving about and staying active can provide some temporary relief and occupy your mind with other thoughts.
- Relaxing activities, such as hobbies, writing, or listening to music.

Your feelings and thoughts may be very intense, and should gradually reduce over time (although they may not totally disappear). If your feelings or thoughts continue to cause you difficulties after approximately one month after the event, you may want to consider further support. You could talk to friends or family, or a teacher in school.

If you are a parent/carers, a professional or an education provider in Leicestershire, you can speak to an Educational Psychologist via the Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service Helpline:
(Monday - Friday 9am to 11.30am, inc. school holidays)

0116 305 5100