

The Surviving Work Survey

If you're working in mental health it's time to talk about money. Whether you're a psychologist or a counsellor, trainee or honorary, mental health nurse or working in private practice the growing reality is that you're probably concerned about earning enough to sustain yourself in the current mental health job market.

The lack of understanding about employment relations in the sector exposes a range of problems faced by mental health workers, including the growth of contract and agency labour, the use of unwaged labour, the insecurity of 'permanent' staff in the NHS and the retreat into private practice.

Because of the growing insecurity of work in mental health and the fear of blacklisting of individuals who raise their concerns, people are often unwilling to speak up at work. As a result not much is known about what is happening to wages, working conditions and clinical practice in our sector.



www.survivingwork.org/surviving-work-survey

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The aims of this survey are to help us build a map of the trends in working conditions for mental health workers in the UK. Through the questionnaire and anonymous case studies we want to create a map which measures:

- trends in wages and earnings in the sector
- what jobs people are doing in mental health
- the scale of unwaged and honorary work, principally by trainees
- growth of private contractors and private employment agencies providing clinical services
- impact on clinical supervision and professional practice
- impact on our states of mind and our relationships with each other

The online survey can be accessed here www.survivingwork.org/surviving-work-survey

As we build a picture of our sector, we will produce infographics and an online map to raise awareness and encourage debate about the future of work in mental health.

The Research Team

The research will be jointly carried out by:

- Elizabeth Cotton, Surviving Work & lead researcher
- Leanne Stelmaszczyk, British Psychoanalytic Council
- Clare Gerada, Practitioners Health Programme
- John Grahl, Professor in Economics, Middlesex University

The lead researcher for the project is Elizabeth Cotton. If you would like to contact her anonymously to help build up a picture of what is happening in our sector please email her on info@survivingwork.org.

Anonymity

We guarantee that all information submitted will be anonymised and used only for the purposes of this mapping exercise. You do not need to submit your name or contact details in the survey. We only ask participants to provide us with a personal email address if they are willing to have a follow up phone interviews to deepen our understanding of the issues faced by mental health workers in the UK.

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