

Senior Mental Health Lead

Facilitating Positive Change in Children and Young People

Andrew Hall



What's your number one safeguarding concern right now?

Whenever I ask DSLs what the three most concerning issues are in their school, the top one is mental health. This is true whether I'm in England or working with schools overseas; and in every demographic.

Tackling the impact of poor mental health concerns us all and improving our knowledge is often a priority. Over the past few years we've developed a mental health leadership course that has helped many people develop their expertise to become their school's Senior Mental Health Lead.

Free Mental Health Training?

The government has once again announced further grant funding to cover training for Senior Mental Health Leads. *This means your training could be free to access.* The grant offers £1200 to eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead.

Senior Mental Health Lead Training with Safeguarding In Schools

Our course costs £397+vat, which means that you have an additional £800 to spend on supply cover whilst the staff member trains and on related online resources and toolkits. (It can't be used for interventions or to pay counsellors or therapists.) The course has been quality assured for DfE grant-funded senior mental health lead training.

Probably the last time the grant will be offered

Whilst this training is not compulsory, it is part of the government's commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025. This probably means that this is the last time the grant will be available.

Training will support the senior mental health leads to develop and implement a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. Our training course 'Implementing the role of the Senior Mental Health Lead' is online and self-paced with resources and support available for twelve months.

Already had an SMHL grant? Don't despair!

Even if you have already had a grant for this purpose, you may be able to apply again if your SMHL has moved on (see documentation).

No dawdling!

There is a fixed number of grants available each year. When they're gone, they're gone!

You can start your application today, even if your SMHL won't start the training immediately. However, they must begin by 31st March 2025. I've set out the steps you need to apply for your grant below.

Not eligible?

Even if your school or organisation isn't eligible for the grant, you can still access the course by ordering here: ['Implementing the role of the Senior Mental Health Lead'](#)

Best regards,

Andrew Hall
Director
Success In Schools

Apply for your £1200 grant funding today!

Are you a state-funded school in England?

Have you identified a Senior Mental Health Lead?

Will the SMHL need training before March next year?

Are you booking DfE Quality Assured Training?

If you answered 'yes' to all four questions, you can apply now for a £1200 grant from the DfE.

Applying early secures your funding, even if your SMHL won't start the course straightaway.

Our course has again been assessed as meeting the required quality criteria to deliver DfE grant funded senior mental health lead training for schools and colleges.

**Eligible schools are state-funded schools in England, have not had the grant before and are booking a DfE quality assured course.*

The application process

1. [Complete Form 1](#) **needs a DfE Sign-in Account*
2. DfE send confirmation that application has been received
3. School books a DfE Quality Assured Course (For our course the code is: SMHL105)
4. DfE invites school to complete second stage application form (usually received within ten days)
5. School completes second stage application form including evidence of booking (eg. an invoice)
6. DfE confirm approval of grant
7. DfE payout grants quarterly, at the end of June 2024, September 2024, December 2024 and March 2025
8. SMHL starts the course by the end of March 2025 at the latest.

[Complete DfE Form 1 now!](#)

What is the grant for?

The grant can be used to pay for training and cover the cost of supply staff whilst leads are engaged in their learning. The value of the grant is £1200 and our SMHL course costs £397+vat.

If you are applying for grant-funding, you should book the course using a [Purchase Order](#), as this will include the information you need to submit to the DfE. In most cases, the school will need to pay for the training before they receive the grant.

[Order SMHL Training Now!](#)

About our Senior Mental Health Lead Training

Our SMHL course is available online and is self-paced. All the resources are in the SMHL.Pro Hub and the SMHL works through the modules and completes assessments as they move through. They have a year to complete it.

Our SMHL course costs £397+vat

Find out more here: [Implementing the role of the Senior Mental Health Lead \(DfE Course Code SMHL105\)](#)

The full DfE Guidance on applying for the grant is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/senior-mental-health-lead-training>