



SUBJECT: Mental Health Awareness

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

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A NEW report by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) has found that one in four construction workers have considered suicide.

A report - *'Understanding Mental Health in the Built Environment'* - has been published to mark Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May 2020) and found that:

- **26%** of construction industry professionals thought about taking their own lives in 2019;
- **56%** of construction professionals work for organisations with no policies on mental health in the workplace;
- **97%** of those surveyed recorded being stressed at least once in the last year.



Other significant related findings include:

- men frequently feel unable to discuss their mental wellbeing due to 'hyper-masculine' expectations of how they should behave;
- female construction workers often have to work with poor or no toilet facilities and inadequate sanitary conditions;
- over **30%** of all construction sites have no hot water or toiletry facilities.

The President of the CIOB said: "It is almost guaranteed that COVID-19 will have made things worse in the industry" adding that, "Tackling mental ill-health is going to remain a significant challenge for the industry over the next few years, and we must work as a collective - involving industry, government, and professional bodies - to make more fundamental changes and improvements to mental health provision." A full copy of the *'Understanding Mental Health in the Built Environment'* report can be found [here](#).

Lincolnshire County Council's policy on the **Management of Mental Health in the Workplace (G22)** can be found [here](#) and includes links to the 'Mindful Employer Charter', the 'Mental Health Awareness toolkit for Managers' via GEORGE, and the LCC Employee Support and Counselling Service'.

Information and contact details of LCC's **Occupational Health** service (HML) can be found [here](#).

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject, please contact the Corporate Health & Safety team at: corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk.