



Office for Health  
Improvement  
& Disparities



Yorkshire  
Universities

# **Yorkshire & the Humber Student Mental Health Network - *where we started, our focus and where we want to go***

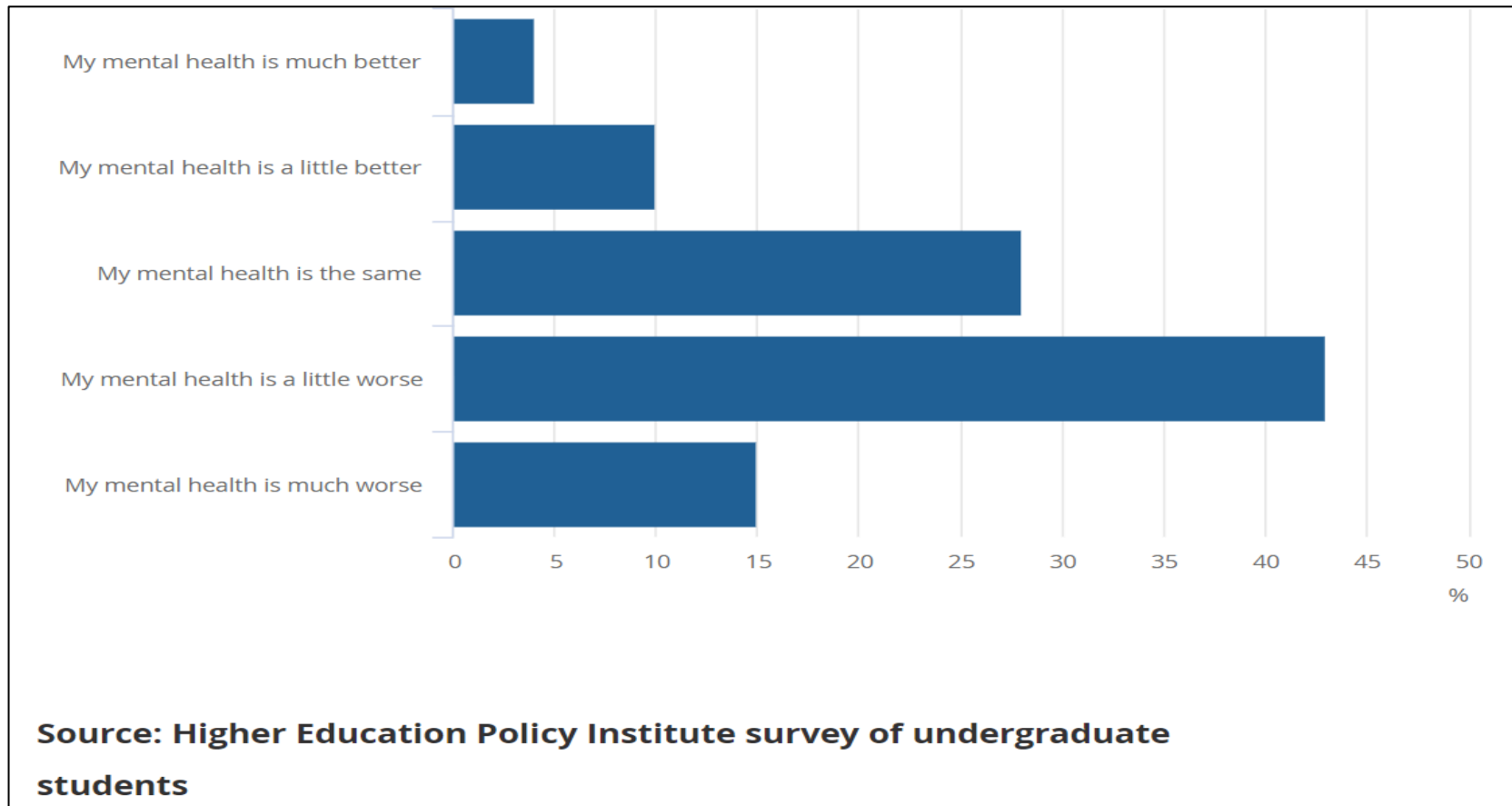
**Anji Gardiner – Chair of Y&H Student Mental Health Network**

**Laura Hodgson – Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager, Office of Health Improvement & Disparities, DHSC**

**Dr Peter O'Brien - Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities**

# Y&H Student Mental Health Network

ONS data published December 2020 demonstrated that pandemic measures had a huge impact and more than half of students reported that their well-being and mental health has worsened as a result of the pandemic.



# Y&H Student Mental Health Network

Convened a meeting of Higher Education partners from across the region in February 2021, to share latest data, evidence and the approaches Universities were taking in response.

As a result, the Yorkshire and the Humber Student Mental Health Network was established in Spring 2021.

Currently supported by Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (was Public Health England), Yorkshire Universities and chaired by Anji Gardiner.

Aim to bring Higher Education and Further Education Institutions together across Yorkshire and the Humber to share emerging challenges as a result of pandemic measures.

# Y&H Student Mental Health Network Objectives

## Objectives of the network:

Facilitate shared learning, expertise, knowledge transfer and peer support

Build collaboration and partnerships between and across areas

Horizon scan and consider emerging issues, opportunities and potential risks

Support partners to deliver effective strategies to improve and promote positive mental health for students across the region

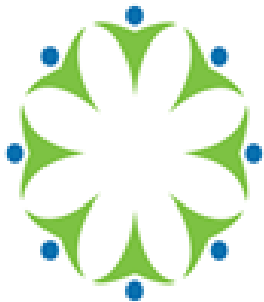
# Y&H Student Mental Health Network Agreed Actions

## Deliverables/ Actions of the group:

- Provide a platform to share and learn about both local and national best practice and to work collaboratively to facilitate cross boundary working.
- Promote the network and strengthen links between Integrated Care Systems , HE and FE institutions, Public Health England (PHE) and Yorkshire Universities (YU) across the region.
- Engage national colleagues and improve the translation of national policy into practice.
- Facilitate the effective use of data, intelligence and insight from students' mental health and ensure that this is at the heart of decision making.
- Improve stakeholder engagement and communication for the network.
- Support the implementation of mental health (MH) frameworks to improve and promote positive mental health for students across the region.

# Next steps for the Student Mental Health Network

- Providing opportunities for collaboration and peer support between HEIs across Yorkshire and the Humber will continue to be a key focus for Yorkshire Universities and wider partners.
- We want to support existing networking opportunities and widen and deepen collaboration between partners across the region.
- We want to draw upon the region's capabilities and assets to drive the Network forward.
- We would like to hear your views about the network and future opportunities.
- There will be an online survey towards the end of today where we would be keen to hear your views.



Yorkshire  
Universities



Office for Health  
Improvement  
& Disparities

**If you are interested in joining the network,  
please do get in touch:**

**Laura Hodgson – [laura.hodgson@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:laura.hodgson@dhsc.gov.uk)**