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Bosses sign up to mental health charter

Bosses in the North East public sector are pledging to support workers with mental health problems following a high-profile event last month.

Of the latest 33 organisations to sign up to the Mindful Employer charter nationally, 18 are from the region. And one of them – NHS South of Tyne and Wear – was the 300th to put pen to paper.

Over 50 delegates attended a breakfast get-together in Newcastle to highlight the charter and celebrate those organisations which had already signed up to it.

They included the Association of North East Councils, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Mental Health NHS Trust and Middlesbrough Council.

The event was organised by Neil Johnson, mental health lead at Public Health North East and the regional Care Services Improvement Partnership.

He said: “It was a hugely positive occasion. A number of organisations signed up on the spot and it has been encouraging to see how many have followed suit.

“Around one in three adults face mental health problems at some time in their lives and a key objective of the charter is to challenge the stigma attached to this.

“Mindful Employer aims to increase awareness of mental ill health and provides information and support for employers in the recruitment and retention of staff.

“With the right support in place, people with mental health issues can and do stay in work and employers can continue with their business.”

Regional director of public health Professor Stephen Singleton highlighted the importance of promoting positive mental health in the workplace and bringing about the culture change necessary to do this.



Regional director of public health Professor Stephen Singleton is pictured at the Newcastle event with One North East head of human resources and facilities Marilyn Wright (centre) and Lynda Keith, a deputy regional director at Government Office for the North East.

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