



Triggers & signs

of mental health problems

We all have mental health just as we have physical health, but it can seem more difficult to spot the signs of mental health problems. Here are some of the common triggers which might impact on someone's mental health and signs that suggest they may need support.

Triggers

People often undergo significant life changes without developing a mental health issue. But for some people changes in their work or personal life, including happy events, can prove stressful and may trigger mental health problems.

Here are some examples of circumstances which might trigger mental health problems:



Personal life changes



Bereavement



Relationship breakdown



Having children



Health scares or physical illness



Changes at work



Starting a new job



Coping with an increased workload or a promotion



Poor relationships with colleagues or managers



Redundancy, or fear of redundancy

Signs to spot

Recognising a mental health issue is the first step in getting the support needed to recover. One of the first signs of mental health problems may be changes in the person's behaviour.

Physical

Some of the signs to look out for



! Frequent headaches or stomach upsets

! Suffering from frequent minor illnesses



! Difficulty sleeping or constant tiredness

! Being run down



! Lack of care over appearance

! Sudden weight loss or gain

Emotional & Behavioural



! Irritability, aggression or tearfulness

! Being withdrawn, not participating in conversations or social activities

! Increased arguments or conflict with others

! Increased consumption of caffeine, alcohol, cigarettes or sedatives

! Indecision, inability to concentrate

! Erratic or socially unacceptable behavior

! Increased arguments or conflict with others

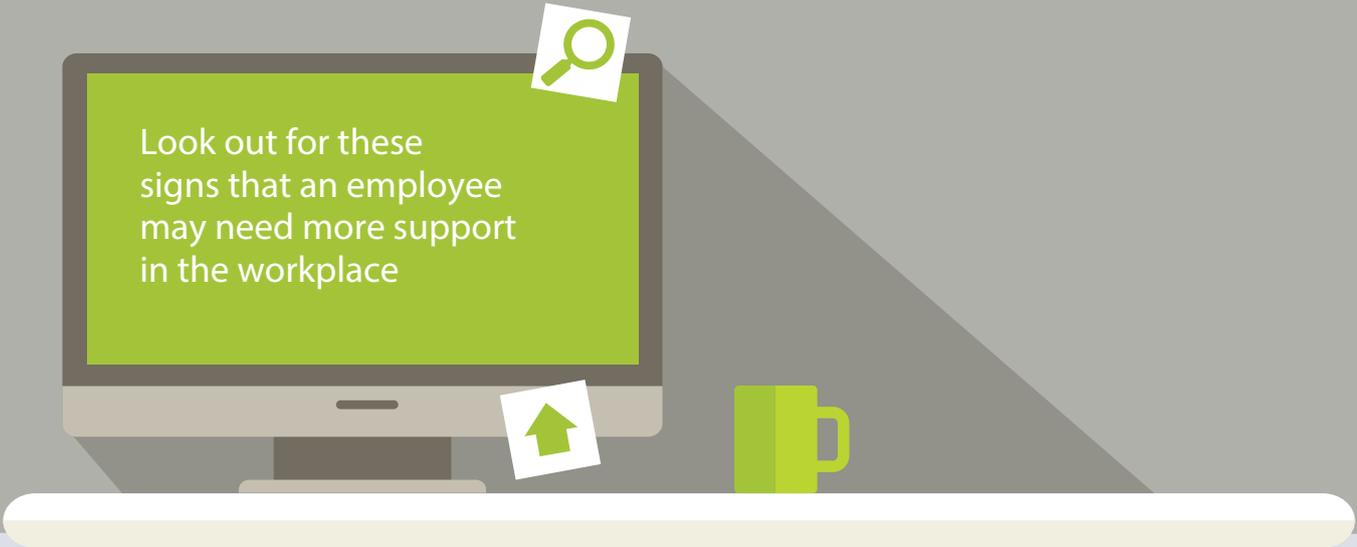
! Being louder or more exuberant than usual

! Loss of confidence

! Difficulty remembering things

At work

-  Increased errors, missing deadlines or forgetting tasks
-  Taking on too much work and volunteering for every new project
-  An employee who is normally punctual arriving late
-  Working too many hours: first in, last out, sending emails out of hours or while on leave
-  Increased sickness absence
-  Being fixated with fair treatment and quick to use grievance procedures



Look out for these signs that an employee may need more support in the workplace

#mhfaireland this World Mental Health Day

To find out more about how employers can support mental wellbeing and supportive behaviours, visit www.mhfaireland.ie

