

Question: "How are you?"

Reply: "Fine", "ok", "tired"

Although it is the first month of a new year, it can often be quite a stressful time of year. For starters :-

- it's a long month and pay day can't come quick enough for some of us after the run up to Christmas
- it's cold and dark mornings/evenings are still here
- we have indulged far too much over Christmas and are wanting motivation to shift those extra pounds gained
- our new year resolutions have already fallen by the wayside
- COVID seems to be still very much in our lives.

If you have noticed changes in a person, it could be time to read between the lines;

F.I.N.E - Freaked out, Insecure, Need help, Emotional

- O.K Overwhelmed, Knackered
- T.I.R.E.D Torn apart, Ignored, Really faking their smile, Exhausted, Drowning

It's easy to reassure yourself that someone is simply having a bad day or week but they could need support;

STOP -if you are unsure ask again and try to get them talking LOOK - has the persons appearance changed? LISTEN -what is their tone of voice telling you?

Burnout is an increasing concern and there are symptoms to watch out for;

| PHYSICAL | EMOTIONAL | MENTAL |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Sleep problems | Anxiety | Forgetfulness |
| Appetite changes | Depression | Lack of concentration |
| Headaches | Tension | Disorganisation |
| Shortness of breath | Irritability | Indecisiveness |
| High blood pressure | Angry outburst | Pessimism |

If you have any concerns for yourself or others contact your Line Manager/Wellbeing lead at your place of work or any mental health first aiders/organisations.

Take care and stay safe Mrs B





