

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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City mental health team axed on World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was held on October 10

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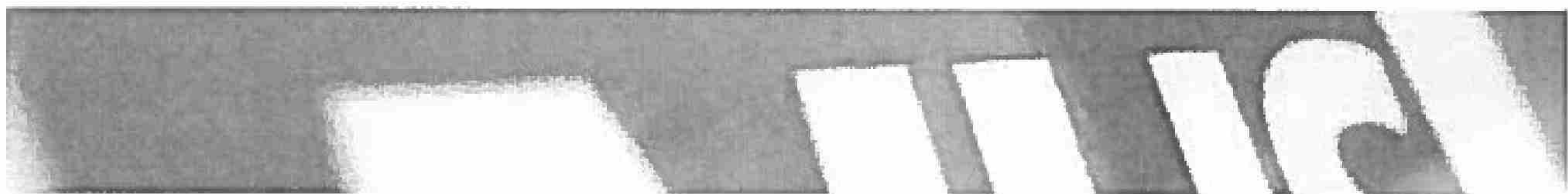


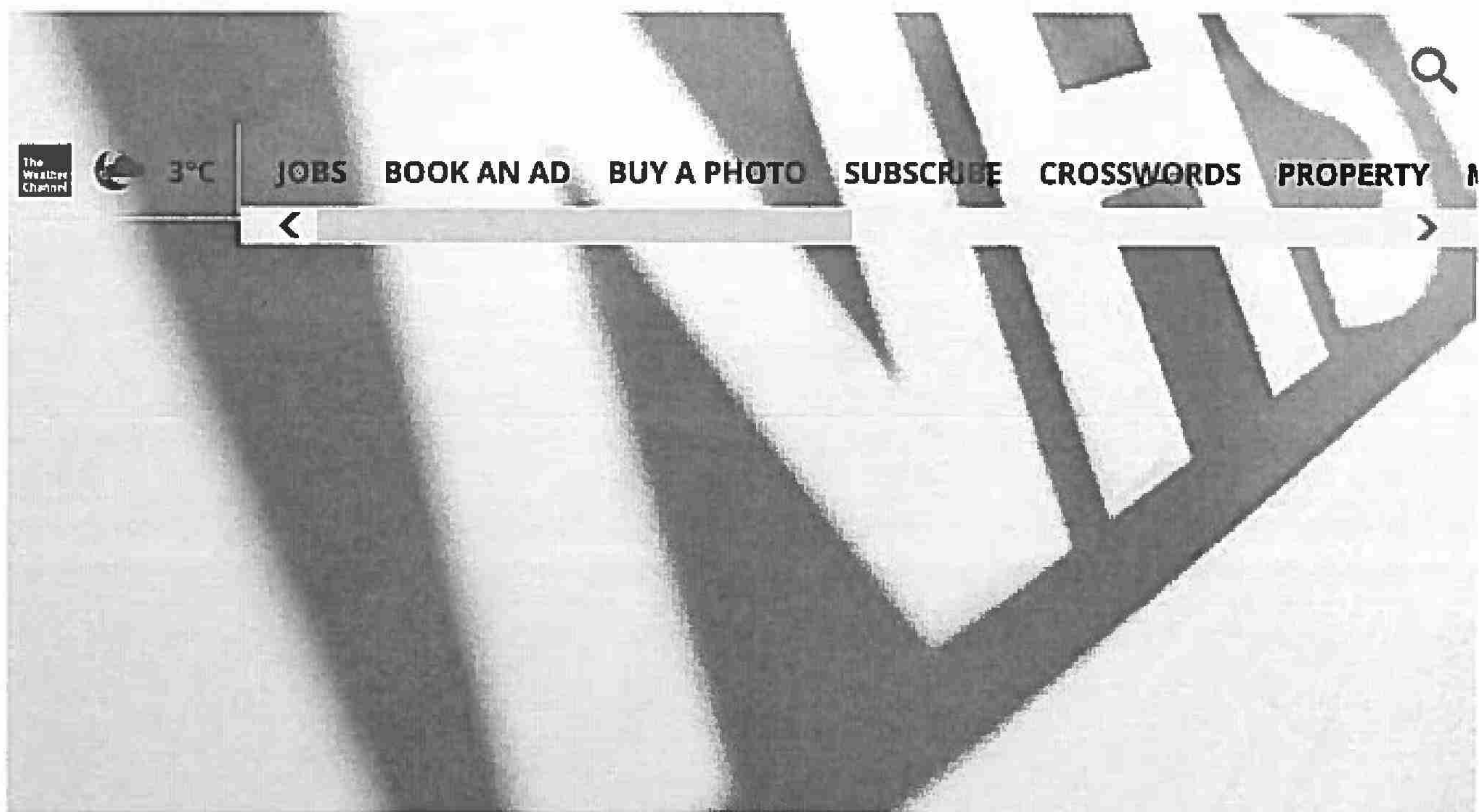
By **Jon Pritchard** Deputy Digital News Editor

11:59, 11 OCT 2018 | UPDATED 13:35, 11 OCT 2018

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A team of ten nurses who provide mental health care to those in the city were told they were being decommissioned - on World Mental Health Day.

Known as the Primary Care Mental Health Service in the City, the team visits GP surgeries across Nottingham, providing mental health care to those who are not ill enough to be admitted to hospital.

A decision was made by Nottinghamshire Healthcare **NHS** Trust and Greater Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to end the service due to "funding constraints".

A member of the team, who contacted Nottinghamshire Live anonymously, said they had concerns over the provision of mental health in the city following the announcement.

They said: "People who go to their **GPs** with mental health issues which doesn't require hospital admission will have no one to go to.



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"The announcement was made on World Mental Health Day. We are absolutely incensed. Where are these people going to go? We have massive concerns."

A spokeswoman for Greater Nottingham CCGs said the team cost £500,000 to run per year, which was less than one percent of its total expenditure.

She added they had increased mental health expenditure by 3.2 percent this year, and those who used the Primary Care Mental Health Service in the City team would be seen by other mental health nurses.



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Dr Hugh Porter, GP and Clinical Chair of NHS Nottingham City CCG said: "We expect our spend on mental health services in the City to grow by 3.2 percent this year to £55.5 million. We know that mental health is a significant matter for local people and we must take it as seriously as physical health.

"If anyone is feeling anxious, stressed or depressed then talking therapies might help. You can self-refer to these by searching for talking therapies on our website – www.nottinghamcity.nhs.uk" or alternatively speak to your GP.

The joint statement said: "**Nottinghamshire** Healthcare has been working with the Greater Nottingham CCGs since the beginning of this year to determine the future of the service known as the Primary Care Mental Health Service in the City.

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"The service was funded through the Better Care Fund, which is a joint budget between the NHS and **Nottingham City Council**, which is under increasing financial pressure and as a result this service will not continue to be funded.

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Steps are now being taken to inform GPs of this decision and to signpost people to other forms of support available.

The Trust are working closely with staff to look at alternative employment options within the Trust so that they can continue to support those with mental health issues.

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