

CARING FOR YOURSELF IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULT WORK

Our work can be overwhelming. Our challenge is to maintain our resilience so that we can keep doing the work with care, energy, and compassion.



10 things to do for each day

- Get enough sleep
- Get enough to eat
- Do some light exercise
- Vary the work that you do
- Do something pleasurable
- Focus on what you did well
- Learn from your mistakes
- Share a private joke
- Pray, meditate or relax
- Support a colleague

switching on and off

It is your empathy for others that help you do this work. It is vital to take good care of your thoughts and feelings by monitoring how you use them. Resilient workers know how to turn their feelings off when they go on duty, but on again when they go off duty. This is not denial; it is a coping strategy. It is a way they get maximum protection while working (switched off) and maximum support while resting (switched on).

How to become better at switching on and off:

- Switching is a conscious process. Talk to yourself as you switch
- Use images that make you feel safe and protected (switch off) or connected and cared for (switch on) to help you switch
- Find rituals that help you switch as you start and stop work
- Breathe slowly and deeply to calm yourself when starting a tough job