
Update on the Suicide Prevention Strategy

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 21 July 2022

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Item for: Decision



1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is to provide the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the Suicide Prevention Strategy, previously presented to the Board on 30 September 2021. The development of a local Suicide Prevention Strategy is to deliver the ambition of the national suicide prevention strategy; Preventing Suicide in England: A Cross Government Outcomes Strategy to Save Lives.
- 1.2 In addition to gain the Board's approval for the change in approach and endorsement for the timeframe to make the amendments to the existing strategy, and to agree the approach of putting in place a principles document to ensure work continues on this agenda and can be monitored whilst the amendments are made.

2. Recommendation(s)

For the Health and Wellbeing Board to agree:

- to refresh the Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- for the Suicide Prevention Partnership to arrange a summit for the autumn to launch a full consultation process into suicide prevention to further inform the Strategy refresh.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In 2012 the government published Preventing Suicide in England: A Cross Government Outcomes Strategy to Save Lives. The strategy recommended that local authorities conduct a suicide audit, produce a suicide prevention action plan and set up a multiagency suicide prevention group.
- 3.2 A Suicide Prevention Strategy was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the autumn of 2021 and this Strategy was endorsed by the board. Since its adoption, new data profiles are available and there is a new policy landscape that has led to a review of the local strategy. This is to consider a greater emphasis on patterns of risk and also linked to the focus on health inequalities and the Health and Care Act 2022.

4. Proposal(s)

- 4.1 That a review of the existing strategy is undertaken.
- 4.2 That the Suicide Prevention Partnership is reformed and strengthened.

- 4.3 That a Suicide Prevention Ten Point Plan is put in place to progress work against priorities whilst development of the strategy is underway,
- Introduce suicide prevention across all policy
 - Improve methods to tackle root cause vulnerability
 - Establish a trauma informed approach
 - Assess and strengthen ways of tackling inequalities
 - Establish focus on debt and cost of living
 - Improve focus on children and young people
 - Establish means to address female suicide rates
 - Strengthen focus on links between mental health, self-harm and suicide
 - Continue to develop and establish support for people bereaved by suicide
 - Develop means for family support to ensure individual wellbeing
- 4.4 A Suicide Prevention Summit is held in the autumn to state the ambition and gain wider partner engagement.
- 4.5 A draft document will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2022 and launch the consultation process.
- 4.6 Final Strategy and Impact Assessment to come to Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2023 for agreement and endorsement.

5. Consultation and Engagement

As part of the update to the Suicide Prevention Strategy, a summit will take place in the autumn of 2022 to launch a full consultation with statutory, non-statutory partners, the voluntary sector, LEP, and the community. This will be undertaken using a range of engagement methods, including face to face and online surveys.

Background Papers:

None

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

Suicide touches all aspects health and wellbeing and the impacts on individuals, families and communities are devastating. 1 in 100 deaths worldwide is by suicide. In West Berkshire there were 40 deaths to Suicide in 2017-2019 compared to 35 deaths in 2015-2017 to 5 the previous year. There is also evidence to suggest that female deaths by suicide is increasing at a faster rate than male suicide, although men continue to be at disproportionate risk of death by suicide. The Suicide Prevention Strategy will deliver across the priorities of the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1. Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people

We know suicide disproportionately affects people in certain jobs or professions, we also know that age and gender play a part in risk factors.

2. Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives

By understanding the patterns of suicide, who is most at risk, and when harm is most likely to occur, we can build prevention and early intervention strategies with partners to mitigate risk.

3. Help children and families in early years

4. Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people

5. Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

For priorities 3-5 we need to understand better how risk occurs. Only 28% of people who die by suicide are known to services, we therefore need to work with schools and employers to recognise early signs of people needing support and have services in place to signpost people to.
