

Public health select committee update May 2018

1. Public health newsletter

Public Health News May 2018



Coping with Suicide

Schools are being alerted to locally developed guidance to support educational settings in the event of a suicide. This has been produced by Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Suicide Prevent Strategy Group, in conjunction with the B&NES Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and can be found on the LSCB webpages under LSCB Procedures, LSCB resources and Working with Children: [Coping With Suicide Guidance \(guidance for schools\)](#).

This guidance brings together in one place existing resources and support available making these easier to navigate. It provides support in the event of a death by suicide, or a death where suicide is suspected covering:

- Support available from the local authority
- Checklists and flow chart of things to do and consider
- Links to support for families, pupils and staff
- Suicide prevention messages and resources



Opportunity to become a MECC trainer

Are you interested in delivering Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training within your organisation? An opportunity to become an accredited MECC trainer has arisen and applicants are invited to attend a train the trainers' course in Swindon during June. For further information see flyer [here](#) and application form [here](#). Due to tight timescale please also email Emily Jenkins-Pandya EJenkinsPa@swindon.gov.uk ASAP to register your interest



Suicide Let's Talk - Free online suicide prevention training

The BANES Suicide Prevention Strategy group have recently reviewed the free online training course 'Safe to Talk' developed by the NHS and endorsed by the Zero Suicide Alliance. The group now want to promote this training to staff working in any organisation across the local authority. 'Suicide Safe to Talk' is

a simple but effective training video that combines facts about suicide with stories of real people who have experienced the impact of it on their lives. It also provides advice on how to speak to someone with suicidal thoughts and real life scenarios to give the skills to be able to deal with difficult conversations with loved ones, friends or colleagues.

It is estimated that the training takes around 20 mins to complete and is for all of us as everyone will know someone who may have problems mounting up and who may need help.

Click on https://www.relias.co.uk/hubfs/ZSACourse3/story_html5.html

and start the course NOW



Exam stress

As young people across B&NES get closer to the GCSE and A' level exam period, their stress levels and those of their parents and carers may be rising. See flyer [here](#) for a short set of tips for families that may provide some help. Please share widely.

Connect Five

Free Mental Health Training available to staff working across services in B&NES



The Connect 5 Programme is an accessible, evidenced based training that is relevant to the whole of the public facing workforce. It provides participants with skills and competencies that build confidence in having conversations about mental health and wellbeing. It presents tools to empower others to take proactive steps to build resilience and look after themselves. Connect 5 takes the position that we don't need to be mental health specialists to support those who are experiencing emotional and mental health problems.

The course is accredited by the Royal Society of Public Health and courses are delivered by a range of local accredited trainers. It is a modular course with up to 3 sessions available. How many sessions you cover will depend on your role. Session 1 dates from June to October are now open for booking. Further session 1 and session 2 & 3 dates to be publicised as soon as possible. Connect 5 training compliments MECC training. For further details and how to book on a course, please see flyer [here](#)

2. National breast screening programme incident

A separate briefing has gone out concerning this large and worrying incident from Rebecca Reynolds to all Councillors. It is embedded in this email

A verbal update on more recent developments will be given to the committee.



Breast screening
national incident cllr b

3. Public health team developments.

Structural

The public health team is fully involved in the process of integrating the council and CCG's health and care commissioning arrangements. Since almost all public health services are part of the "your care, your way" contract this is entirely logical.

The DPH has also been asked to review options for a potential merger with another local authority public health team and that process of review has begun.

Functional: the DPH award

In the voluntary redundancy process the worker who ran the schools' part of the Director of Public Health award scheme will be leaving as part of the drive to reduce staff costs and also to bring public health expenditure down to the level of the DH public health grant. This is a regrettable loss which will certainly diminish our offer to schools, although the worker will remain in post until September to round off this year's scheme well and help with future planning. We will be discussing how we can continue to support school health promotion using existing staff.

There may be some positive mitigation from within the education system as OFSTED become more interested in school health promotion and also if the green paper on improving children's mental health delivers on its intentions of strengthening the mental health support given within and to schools and general improvements in access to child and adolescent mental health services.