

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel	
MEETING	09 March 2021	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 9999
TITLE:	Action Plan for B&NES Suicide Prevention Strategy	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Action Plan for B&NES Suicide Prevention Strategy 2020-2023		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 About 17 people take their own life each year in Bath & North East Somerset and approximately 500 residents are admitted to local hospital each year following an episode of self-harm.
- 1.2 There are evidence-based actions we can take to reduce the risk of suicide across our communities, for example amongst young people, men, people who self-harm and people known to mental health services.
- 1.3 Creating a local plan helps to align local work around nationally recommended priorities and to make the most of local resources and opportunities.
- 1.4 This has been set out in a refreshed B&NES Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the contents of the refreshed B&NES Suicide Prevention Action Plan.
- 2.2 Suggest any comments or amendments to the Action Plan.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The existing B&NES 2016-19 Suicide Prevention Strategy was refreshed at the start of 2020. This strategy aligned with similar strategies of our neighbouring authorities in Swindon and Wiltshire to join up our work where possible across the CCG area.
- 3.2 This was followed by a stakeholder event in February 2020 to build engagement across the local third sector and statutory partners and learn from each other. A key aim was to develop an action plan based on people's proposals.
- 3.3 The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic meant this work had to pause for several months during the most acute parts of the local response. However, in autumn of 2020 we developed a draft action plan and would like to share this with the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel before progressing to implementation.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The need to develop local suicide prevention strategies and action plans is set out as a key recommendation in the government's national strategy for England, *Preventing suicide in England: a cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives* and the Mental Health Taskforce's report to NHS England, *The five year forward view for mental health*.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 There are no new resource requirements to implement this strategy beyond the existing relatively small sums within the Public Health budget allocated for several projects such as workforce training and monitoring of deaths with the Avon Coroner.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 Every suicide death is a tragedy and impacts on friends, family, support services, health care professionals and society. However, suicides are not inevitable and there are many ways in which services, communities, individuals and society can prevent suicides.
- 7.2 The action plan has considered all protected characteristics and has taken a life course approach ensuring communities of all ages and backgrounds are reflected in the priority areas and actions.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The Suicide Prevention Action Plan doesn't fit into this area however the wider Public Mental Health programme aligns well with the Council priorities for addressing climate emergency and rebuilding the economy in a way that is sustainable. Some of the alignments include;

- Ensuring organisations and communities promote physical activity and active travel as way to improve mental health and healthy working routine.
- Promote accessibility and availability of green spaces and the environment to increase mental health and wellbeing.
- Consider how mental health can support carbon reduction plans and strategies including transport policy, air quality, food procurement etc.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 There are no other options needed to implement this strategy and action plan.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The action plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of local internal and external stakeholders:

- 66 people attended the stakeholder event in February 2020.
- 11 individual organisations have provided further comment around their actions and have shared information about what they are doing on suicide prevention.
- 12 external stakeholders have their actions / pledges featured in the main action plan.

10.2 Over 13 individuals will be on the Suicide Prevention Governance Group who will oversee the delivery and implementation of the action plan.

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Background papers	<i>Action Plan</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	