

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children, Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>14th October 2024</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>Implementation of the B&amp;NES Suicide Prevention Strategy</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Action Plan for B&NES Suicide Prevention Strategy (2019-2023)		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of progress with implementation of the 2019-2023 B&NES Suicide Prevention Strategy. It also provides an outline of next steps with the refresh of the local strategy and an update on the BSW Suicide Prevention Strategy.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the progress made to date and is invited to comment or make suggestions for the forthcoming plans.

## 3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Bath and North East Somerset Suicide Prevention Strategy ran from 2019 to 2023.

- 3.2 It focused on seven key themes, in line with the national approach. These are set out below:

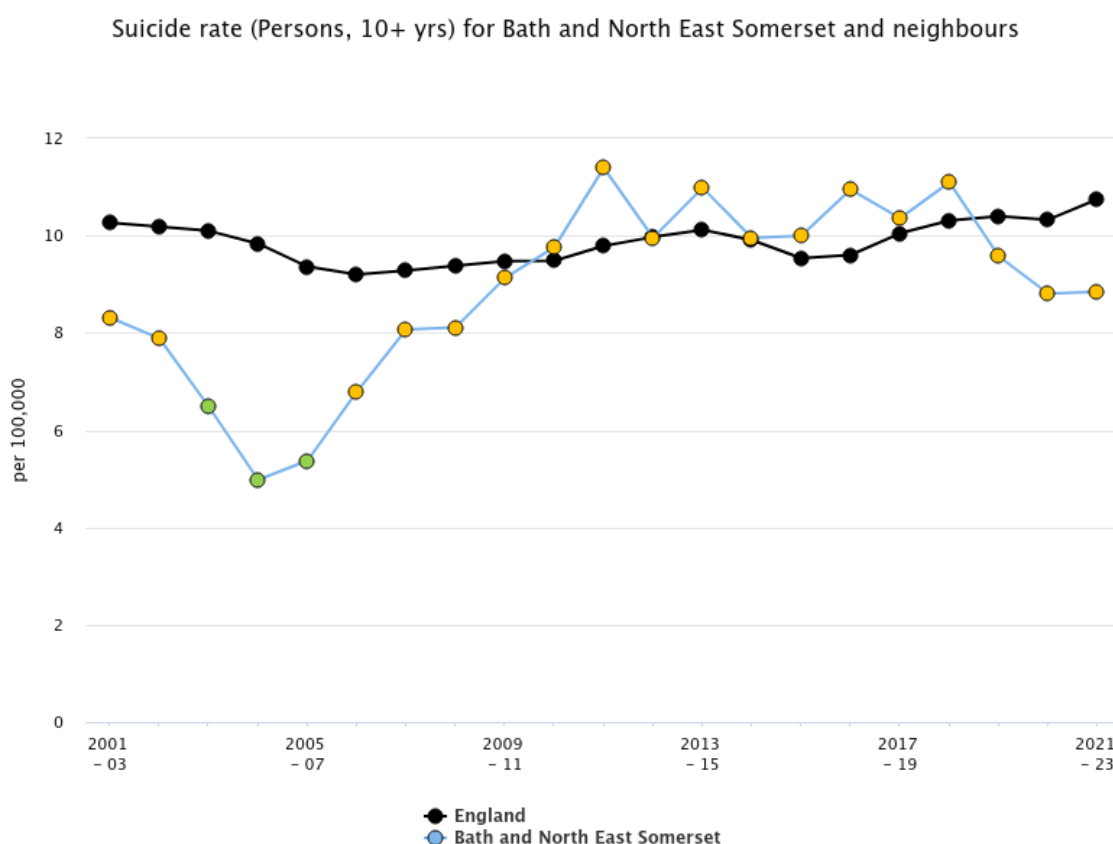
- a) Keep up to date with research on suicide prevention
- b) Improve population mental health and wellbeing
- c) Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups and reduce the risk of suicide in the highest risk groups
- d) Reduce access to the means of suicide
- e) Support people bereaved by suicide

- f) Support the media to deliver sensible and sensitive approaches to reporting suicide and suicidal behaviour.
- g) Reduce rates of self-harm.

3.3 An action plan was agreed, with contributions from key local partner organisations. This is attached with this report.

3.4 Considerable progress has been made across the objectives set out above and many of these are now ongoing as business as usual. This is shown in the report.

3.5 The rate of suicide in the B&NES population has fallen during the time period of the strategy, although we don't make a direct link between these things. The rate is shown in the figure below (*Source: Office for National Statistics*).



3.6 A new strategy is now in creation for B&NES and we will be sharing a draft of this at the annual stakeholder meeting in November 2024.

3.7 A wider framework across BSW has been established, which takes on board priorities set out in the new national Suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023 to 2028.

3.8 This includes targeted support to priority groups

- a) children and young people
- b) middle-aged men
- c) people who have self-harmed

- d) people in contact with mental health services
- e) people in contact with the justice system
- f) autistic people
- g) pregnant women, and new mothers.

### 3.9 And addressing common risk factors

- a) physical illness
- b) financial difficulty
- c) economic adversity
- d) harmful gambling
- e) substance misuse
- f) domestic abuse
- g) social isolation and loneliness.

3.10 The main focus of work across BSW will be about joining up surveillance data so that we can learn about risk factors or higher risk groups in a prompt fashion.

3.11 Each locality within BSW will be implementing its own suicide prevention action plan that responds to the national issues identified above as well as other local factors.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

5 The need to develop local suicide prevention strategies and action plans that engage a wide network of stakeholders in reducing suicide was set out in the government's previous national strategy for England, *Preventing suicide in England: a cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives* and also in the Mental Health Taskforce's report to NHS England, *The five year forward view for mental health*.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

6.1 This work is carried out from within existing resources, staffing and budgets.

## **7 RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

## **8 EQUALITIES**

8.1 A key component of our strategy and action plan is to identify groups at higher risk of poor mental health and suicide ideation and taking steps to reduce this risk. These groups overlap with other groups with protected characteristics and tailored work to reduce risk of suicide in these communities should help improve equality in B&NES. This might include the much higher risk of suicide among males, or the much higher rate of self-harm among young females, or the higher risks of poor mental health amongst LGBT+ people.

## 9 CLIMATE CHANGE

9.1 It is not anticipated that this work will have either a positive or negative impact on climate change.

## 10 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10.1 None

## 11 CONSULTATION

11.1 This report has been considered and cleared for sign off by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer. The plan has been subject to wider engagement with local partner organisations through our annual stakeholder event each autumn.

<b>Contact person</b>	Paul Scott - Consultant & Associate Director of Public Health Bath & North East Somerset Council (01225 394060)
<b>Background papers</b>	Suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023 to 2028 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-strategy-for-england-2023-to-2028">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-strategy-for-england-2023-to-2028</a>
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