

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health – Update

Report of the Director of Public Health

Recommendation: that the Board be asked to note the following update.

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### **1. Suicide Prevention**

Governance: There are now a number of STP – wide Suicide Prevention initiatives in place or about to start:

NHSE 3rd Wave Transformation Monies were awarded last year (although the money has not yet ‘flowed’ down to the Local Authorities). The funding will provide an additional £235,000 a year for 3 years to enable us to develop a system – wide suicide prevention programme, the focus of this money is on community/ population initiatives. Please see appendix a for further information.

NHSE Transformation Funding for Suicide Bereavement and Post Vention Support: In 2019 Devon STP were awarded monies to expand the existing Suicide Bereavement and Support service, (Pete’s Dragons) across the Devon STP footprint. This is currently out to tender and a fully commissioned service will commence in April 2021.

NHSE Trailblazer Funding (Self Harm) – Supporting a ‘Family Intervention Pilot’ in Torbay, with the intention to share the learning across the Devon – STP footprint.

STP Prevention monies are supporting further initiatives;

Men’s Mental Health Project – working with The Lions Barbers Collective, to deliver training to barbers/ hairdressers, including via the Further Education Colleges. Due to Covid, this project has been postponed, with elements of it being delivered on line.

Wider post vention support including the roll out of an on- line training course focussing on understanding grief, Suicide Prevention Awareness and Suicide Bereavement, aimed at non- clinical professionals working with ‘at risk populations.

In order to monitor the progress of these projects, an STP- Wide oversight Group has been established. The Suicide Prevention Oversight Group (SPOG) is chaired by Sarah Lees (Consultant in Public Health, Plymouth) and the membership comprises of the other 2 Local Authority Public Mental Health Leads, a representative from the CCG Mental Health Commissioning Team, The Associate Director for Mental Health (CCG) representatives from DPT, Livewell South West (adult and Children’s services) and a representative from Child Family Health Devon.

Terms of Reference make it clear that the governance for Suicide Prevention sits with the respective Local Authority Health and Well Being Boards and a reporting chart has been devised to illustrate this (see appendix b).

Devon Suicide Prevention Strategic Group Update:

The Devon Suicide Prevention Action Plan is currently being updated. The Strategic Group have chosen to prioritise the following areas:

Preventing Suicide in Public Places

Developing a Post Vention Hub

Supporting Victims of Crime

Preventing Suicide in Children and Young People

Task and Finish Groups have been set up for the first three priorities, Children and Young People may become an STP -Wide workstream which the Devon Strategic Group will support.

## **2. Better Mental Health For All**

Workplace Wellbeing

Devon County Council are setting up a 'Listening Ear' Project aimed at the business community. Devon Communities Together will be delivering the project. Volunteers will receive Connect 5 Training.

The Communities Team are supporting another 'Listening Ear' Initiative being delivered by The City Community Trust and the District Council. This service is being offered to people across Devon experiencing Loneliness and Social Isolation. Volunteers will receive Connect 5 Training.

Prevention Concordat Action Plan.

Public Health England have relaunched the Prevention Concordat. This means that Devon can officially sign up.

Work will commence on developing a Devon Action Plan with the ambition for it to provide the framework for DCC's Recovery work.

Steve Brown  
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Devon County Council

[Electoral Divisions: All]

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