

Devon STP Suicide Prevention Funding 2020/2021

Introduction:

2020 has been an extraordinary year. Worldwide the Spread of Covid -19 has resulted in major disruption to public and private life. Whilst the aim of limitations on all our lives has primarily been to reduce the spread of the virus, it is anticipated that prolonged social isolation and lack of employment will result in an increase of poor mental health. This along with economic difficulties and relationship breakdowns could also see a rise in the suicide rate. Whilst it is too early at this stage to identify any rise in suicides, evidence from the 2003 Sars outbreak in Hong Kong shows that there was a subsequent a spike in suicide numbers.

This paper sets out a proposal to amend the project plan that was submitted to NHSE in January 2020 in response to the Covid – 19 Pandemic and its anticipated repercussions.

Background:

The Devon STP area which includes Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay were invited by NHSE to put together a funding proposal for suicide prevention initiatives. This was because NHSE were looking to award £235,336 a year from 2020/21 – 2022/23.

The STP Devon Area have already been awarded a recurrent fund of £88,000 to extend the Suicide Bereavement service to cover the STP footprint, plus an additional £87,000 from the STP to set up and operate a Real Time Surveillance system. The STP have also awarded £87,000 aimed at improving men's Mental Health.

A funding proposal was submitted in January 2020 and it consisted of six elements:

- Safer Suicide Communities – Monies to support grass roots community initiatives that raise awareness and aim to prevent suicide.
- Safer Suicide Primary Care – training for Primary Care staff – working with Dr Becki Osborne to expand her training offer from Cornwall into Devon.
- Targeted Training offer - aimed at non-clinical staff working with high risk groups and 'Bystanders'; taxi drivers, dog walkers, etc.
- Understanding Torbay's suicide and self-harm rate – A piece of research utilising people with Lived experience.
- Communications and Media Reporting – working with a range of partners including the press to ensure that any reports of potential suicides are within Samaritans Guidelines
- Programme support – Project Management and Admin to support the delivery of the programme

Figure one: Initial financial proposal for Officer support submitted 27.01.2020

Pay 2020/21							
Description	AFC Grade (or equivalent)	WTE	Q1 (£)	Q2 (£)	Q3 (£)	Q4 (£)	TOTAL
Programme Support Officer	LG F/25	yes		9,152.10	9,152.10	9,152.10	27,456.30
Admin Support Officer	LG D/10	yes		6,250.00	6,250.00	6,250.00	18,750.00
Total Pay			-	15,402.10	15,402.10	15,402.10	46,206.30

Figure two: Initial funding breakdown by project submitted 27.01.2020

Non-Pay 2020/21					
Description	Q1 (£)	Q2 (£)	Q3 (£)	Q4 (£)	TOTAL
Safer Suicide Communities		16,250.00	16,250.00	16,250.00	48,750.00
Safer Suicide Primary Care		3,000.00	3,000.00	4,000.00	10,000.00
Targeted Training offer		18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	56,250.00
Understanding Torbay's Suicide Rate		11,500.00	21,500.00	21,500.00	54,500.00
Safer Suicide Communications and Media Reporting		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	4,500.00
People with Lived experience engagement fund		10,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	15,000.00
Total Non Pay	-	61,000.00	63,500.00	64,500.00	189,000.00
Total 2020/21 cost	-	76,402.10	78,902.10	79,902.10	235,206.30

Project Support:

Figures below have been revised to include on-costs for each post including pension contributions.

Arguably, the Programme Support Officer needs to be at a salary to attract a person with the right set of skills, so at this point the salary remains unchanged. The addition of NI contributions and pension means that the FTE for this post is £44,772. However, it is more realistic to expect this post to be in place by 01.09.2020 rather than 01.07.2020 so there may be some savings in this financial year.

The admin support officer has been reduced to a .5 post which would hopefully be adequate to cover their responsibilities. It may be easier to recruit this post as soon as the money has been awarded.

Figure three: Revised Project Support Costs

Description	AFC Grade (or equivalent)	WTE	Q1 (£)	Q2 (£)	Q3 (£)	Q4 (£)	TOTAL
Programme Support Officer	LG F/25	yes		11,193.00	11,193.00	11,193.00	33,579.00
Admin Support Officer	LG D/10	0.5		3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	10,500.00
Total Pay			-	14,693.00	14,693.00	14,693.00	44,079.00

Actions:

- Need to agree the role of the Programme Support Officer and their level of pay
- Need to agree which Public Health team will host the PSO and Admin Support.
- Need to agree Job Descriptions for both posts and start recruitment process.

Allocation of Funds for Specific Projects

Suicide Safer Communities:

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, there have been many great examples of how communities have come together to support each other and their more vulnerable neighbours, during the 'lockdown period'. There is arguably an opportunity to build upon this by supporting communities to develop their own suicide prevention initiatives.

The proposal is to maximise the budget for the Safer Suicide Communities strand of the programme. This money will then be distributed to each Public Health Team. The amount will be calculated by taking into consideration, size of respective populations; suicide rate per 100,000, levels of deprivation and geographical spread. Each Public Health Team would then have their action plans to suit local geography and need. There should however be common elements:

- Year one – scoping out what is already in place, engaging with communities to identify what is needed, seed funding to support new initiatives or to expand existing ones.
- Year two – building on and developing work started in year one.
- Year three evaluation and support to make projects sustainable.
- Involvement of People with Lived Experience in all aspects of the project.

Monies can be used to employ 'Community Development Workers' or Community Connectors or to fund Community Groups directly. The funds may be distributed directly from Public Health or through a third party e.g. a VCSE organisation.

Action Points:

- Agreement needed to expand the Safer Suicide Communities Budget between the three PH teams and NHSE
- Need to agree a formula of how to split the money between the three PH teams. This could be done independently using an algorithm if there is no agreement between the teams.

Safer Suicide Primary Care:

This remains the same; the proposal is to expand the training being currently developed and delivered in Cornwall by Dr Becki Osborne.

Actions:

- Agree spend for 2020/21
- Contact Becki to agree payment for her services.

Targeted training Offer:

Currently remains the same, although we may need to consider the implications of Covid – 19 in relation to face to face training.

It would be helpful to work with current training providers to understand what training is currently being delivered and what professions/ groups/ communities have received the training

Actions:

- Agree Spend for 2020/21
- Explore on-line training opportunities
- Carry out a training audit for each Public Health area
- Review training offer in light of Covid-19 e.g. could training be offered to the NHS volunteers.

Understanding Torbay's Suicide Rate

The proposal is to use the first year 2020/21 to develop relationships with Academic bodies with the aim of gauging their interest and gaining support. There could also be a scoping exercise and initial engagement with 'People with Lived Experience', by making contact with

existing support groups such as Recovery Devon. A research proposal would then be produced which could then be used to attract further funding and support. As part of the Third wave of Suicide Prevention funding we are already linked into the NCISH and the RCPSYCH, so it may also be worth approaching them.

Actions:

- Agree amendments to the project plan
- Make contact with Exeter University Mind Disorder unit
- Carry out a Literature Review
- Ask for support from the National Suicide Prevention Alliance
- Ask for support from NCISH, RCPSYCH and NHSE

Local Media Reporting:

This remains the same for 2020/201 but the event has been moved until later in the year, in the anticipation that an event of this size may be allowed to take place by then.

Actions:

- Review holding an event.

Engagement fund for People with Lived Experience

This money has now been added to the Safer Suicide Communities fund so that each Public Health Team can develop their own arrangements.

At the time of writing the bid it was anticipated that the Devon Suicide Prevention Alliance would be one of the organisations that would support the involvement of people with lived experience, to enable them to actively contribute to local suicide prevention activity. The future and role of the Alliance is to be discussed, but each Public health Team will need to explore how they may include People with Lived Experience in each aspect of the project plan.

Actions:

- Agree Above.

Figure Four: Revised Project Funding Allocation

Description	Q1 (£)	Q2 (£)	Q3 (£)	Q4 (£)	TOTAL
Safer Suicide Communities		35,000.00	35,000.00	40,000.00	110,000.00
Safer Suicide Primary Care		3,000.00	3,000.00	4,000.00	10,000.00
Targeted Training offer		18,750.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	56,250.00
Understanding Torbay's Suicide Rate				10,000.00	10,000.00
Safer Suicide Communications and Media Reporting			4,500.00		4,500.00
People with Lived experience engagement fund					
Total Non Pay	-	56,750.00	61,500.00	73,000.00	191,250.00
Total 2020/21 cost	-	71,443.00	76,193.00	87,693.00	235,329.00