

Suicide Prevention Action Plan Update

Report of the Director of Public Health, Communities & Prosperity

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

For Information Only

2) Background / Introduction

Devon County Council Public Health are System Leaders (along with Plymouth CC and Torbay Council) for the delivery of a Suicide prevention programme. The Devon Suicide Prevention Implementation Group (SPIG) meets three times a year to set priorities oversee and review delivery of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

The Plan adheres to the priorities set by the national strategy and is further influenced by local data via the coronial process and from our Real Time Surveillance data.

There is due to be a new national strategy (the first since 2013), so our priority setting was delayed accommodating this, however the national strategy launch date has been postponed (although promised before September), so the meeting went ahead on the 6th July

3) Main Body / Proposal

The current draft of the Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan (2023-24) is attached – this was discussed at the SPIG meeting on 6th July and the action plan will be further updated to include new actions identified, before being finalised and published.

However, the key priority areas have not changed and remain:

- Preventing suicide in public places
- Suicide & self-harm in children and young people
- Groups at risk: particular focus on men of all ages
- Exploring the links between suicide and domestic abuse
- Financial wellbeing
- Loneliness and isolation
- Engaging people with lived experience

In addition to the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action plan, a summary of updates from 2022-23 was prepared and shared at the 6th July meeting to reflect progress made by SPIG group members (attached).

Additional updates were shared at the meeting, and this summary will be further amended to reflect this – to be published alongside the finalised statement and action Plan

4) Strategic Plan

Clearly explain how the proposal, scheme or policy aligns with the vision and priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan>

This includes

- Be ambitious for children and young people: The strategy prioritises reducing suicide among Children and Young People.
- Tackle poverty and inequality (address poverty, health and other inequalities): The strategy prioritises people who are struggling with debt, are unemployed or on a low income as these factors increase the risk of suicide
- Improve health and wellbeing, including any public health impacts: The strategy seeks to support the emotional health and wellbeing of 'at risk' groups
- Help communities be safe, connected and resilient: Suicide Prevention supports the Safer Communities agenda

5) Financial Considerations

Nil

6) Legal Considerations

No specific Legal Considerations

7) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

N/A

8) Equality Considerations

N/A

9) Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

10) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

For Information only will return with finalised Action Plan for sign off

Director / Head of Service: Steve Brown

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Public Health Councillor Roger Croad

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

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