

Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Updates and achievements in 2022-23

This is a summary of updates shared by DCC Suicide Prevention Strategic Implementation Group members in June 2023, to reflect on work undertaken in 2022-23.

Preventing Suicide in Public Places			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
Highways England	Road safety -suicide prevention	Installed Heras fencing to raise height of parapets to 1.8m at 2 high risks structures and have installed 6 Samaritans 24 hour crisis helpline call tower stations on 2 iconic and high risk structures.	Installation of Samaritans 24 hour crisis signs on structure that meet criteria
HM Prison & Probation Service	we are trying to ensure prisoners are released with accommodation and not NFA, are naloxone trained and prepared for life on the outside	Sharing of community statistics again prison. Lack of information sharing from LA and the police	Rehab and preparing for life on the outside, accommodation planning
Public Health Devon	Engaged with Network Rail colleagues, who are now members of Suicide Prevention Strategic Group.	Building relationships – to understand locations of concern	Continue to develop relationships, utilise data to understand locations where prevention/early intervention activity can be targeted
Public Health Devon	Continue to use Real Time Suicide Surveillance data to identify possible High Frequency Locations	Real Time Surveillance processes	Engaging with Real Time Surveillance system group
Public Health Devon	Beginning to explore the opportunities to capture data & insights relating to locations being attended re 'concern for welfare/people in distress'	Begun to identify stakeholders to collaborate with. Challenge in capacity to collate data and develop into 'mapping' of locations	All of this, and aim to develop targeted place-based suicide prevention activity

Suicide and self-harm in children and young people			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
Highways England	continue to work closely with multi-agency groups	continue to work closely with partners reaching out to community groups	Development of our suicide and self harm prevention action plan
The Farming Community Network	Delivered Rural + mental health presentation to young farmers clubs throughout Devon prior to COVID.		
Safe from Suicide Team – Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Letter for Tomorrow- co produced with young people (written and audio version) It's Safe to Talk about Suicide - plan to work on one for parents/ carers	Letter for Tomorrow is a big success-launch planned for World suicide prevention day	It's Safe to Talk about Suicide - plan to work on one for parents/ carers
Public Health Devon – Pete's Dragons	Project initiated to develop a post-vention resource for education settings, to inform co-ordinated system response and support following a suspected suicide.	Collaboration to support the development of the resource. It will include prevention content as well.	The resource will be completed by autumn 2023.
Public Health Devon	Developed signposting resources for CYP, and Schools/Education settings, on sources of support	Sharing information Need to ensure it remains easily available	Developing further online suicide prevention information and signposting (as part of wider DCC Public Health online information)
Public Health Devon	Utilising some of the Suicide Prevention Grant funding to resource projects targeting CYP	Take up of grant funding	Continue to facilitate grant funding

Men at risk (all ages)			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
Highways England	continue to work closely with charities such as Andy's mans club and looking to support the Baton of Hope awareness campaign	progress made on all accounts - all positive	continue to implement interventions on structures working in collaboration with partners and charities
HM Prison & Probation Service	Finding prisoners purposeful activity and employment whilst in custody. Working on helping prisoners manage and recognise when they are struggling to cope. Supporting those struggling with gaining the right support for addiction, debt, from the Samaritans, or other sources of support.	Challenges are sharing of information from the community such as the Police or LA with the prisons. Prisoner family engagement is going well, PACT the family service have been supporting this.	Preventing self harm, violence, assaults and suicide. Looking at continuing those who need support to engage and work with practitioners/healthcare/MH services to gain the support required.
The Farming Community Network	Social media etc 'who is your Julie' campaign		
Safe from Suicide Team – Devon Partnership NHS Trust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Risk 2. Safer Wards 3. Developing Family Involvement 	<p>Gone well</p> <p>New Risk Management Policies in place and being embedded- clinical and individual safety and harm minimization, clinical risk assessment , Formulation and Personalised planning.</p> <p>New clinical risk training which is moving from 1/2 day to one day.</p> <p>New suicide prevention training for staff</p> <p>Ligature training</p> <p>Developing work to improve family involvement- refresh carers strategy, carer champions (now 90% wards have one),</p>	All of these

		<p>Letter of hope - adults, young people and easy read Update Its Safe to talk about suicide with DCC Stronger Together training for carers and practitioners QI work with teams to develop carer support groups, Welcome packs for carers</p> <p>Challenges Embedding new policy Venues for ligature training and lack of capacity to move into community teams Funding for Stronger Together training and identifying carers to attend Implementation of carer strategy</p>	
Public Health Devon	Hosted an engagement event in March 2023 to showcase local projects, to share good practice, and promote connections and collaborations	Really positive feedback from the event delegates and showcase projects. Challenge in capturing resulting actions & activities	Continue to focus on men at risk, and facilitate connections and collaboration.
Public Health Devon	Work in collaboration with colleagues in Plymouth & Torbay to deliver Men's Mental Health activity	Some challenges and delays in delivery of expected activities	Continue to collaborate, to plan Men's Mental Health activities
Public Health Devon	Utilising some of the Suicide Prevention Grant funding to resource projects targeting men at risk	Take up of grant funding	Continue to facilitate grant funding
Public Health Devon	Promote Connect 5, Community Suicide Awareness, & Emotional Resilience training to those supporting men	Having consistent training offer across Devon, Plymouth & Torbay. Uptake of training varies.	Training will continue through 2023-24

Exploring links between suicide and domestic and sexual violence & abuse			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
Highways England	work on-going	Partnership working	Partnership working
HM Prison & Probation Service	Little is known as again this information is not always shared by the LA or police unless this is the primary reason for their incarceration.	Information sharing between LA and police to the custody setting. In-cell phone monitoring helps to look at possible controlling/DV relationships and evidence of this is reported.	Monitoring those at risk, supporting families of those affected
Safe from Suicide Team – Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Clinical risk, suicide prevention and Stronger Together training all consider domestic abuse It is included in the new risk policy	As before	All the training
Public Health Devon	Collaborate with Commissioners and Strategic Leads for Domestic Abuse services to inform data/needs assessment and joined up working	Positive connections made, data sharing and specific activities will begin soon	This will continue through 2023-24
Public Health Devon – Real Time Suicide Surveillance	Improving data collection relating to Domestic Abuse for Real Time Suicide Surveillance to inform understanding of themes and needs	Domestic Abuse status (victim, perpetrator, both) now routinely included in dataset	This will continue through 2023-24

Engaging people with lived experience			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
Highways England	working on a suicide prevention study programme with consultants WSP	Sharing of information and workshops	possibly running of workshops with WSP
HM Prison & Probation Service	The prison service does this a lot to support prisoners in forums etc		
Safe from Suicide Team – Devon Partnership NHS Trust	All the training we deliver has been written with the views of people with lived experience. The Stronger Together training is totally co-produced as is the Letter of Hope, It's Safe to talk about suicide, Carer strategy work	Feedback from those with lived experience has been that they feel valued and listened to	Letter of Hope Its Safe to Talk about Suicide
Public Health Devon	Working as part of a system wide approach to engaging people with lived experience and developing a Lived Experience Reference Organisation (for multiple topic areas)	Beginning to link with system partners to develop collaborative approach rather than silo working	This will continue through 2023-24

Financial pressures & debt			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
HM Prison & Probation Service	These are massive issues in a prison setting, we have had advice and support from the national team to support establishment. The cost of living crisis has had a massive impact on those in custody		Continue to support those at risk and those creating the debt and the violence and self harm associated.
The Farming Community Network	It is a big issue in farming 25 percent of farmers live below poverty line.		
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	All the training we deliver includes this issue and it is included in the new risk policy		
Public Health Devon	Promoting Connect 5, Community Suicide Awareness, and Emotional Resilience training to workforces supporting people who are/may be experiencing financial pressures	Having consistent training offer across Devon, Plymouth & Torbay. Uptake of training varies.	Training will continue through 2023-24
Public Health Devon	Co-organised an online South West region suicide prevention/public mental health network with theme of financial wellbeing in September 2022	High attendance & good feedback Promoted collaboration and connections	Themed network event was one-off, however continue to join regular South West networks

Loneliness & isolation			
Organisation	What have you achieved / been working on	What has gone well What challenges / barriers	What will continue through 2023-24
HM Prison & Probation Service	Massive in prison, we have supportive peer led mentor schemes to support those at risk	The Samaritans relaunch post pandemic, and also THREADS being launched in 2 out of 3 of the Devon prisons.	Identifying those at risk, supporting those with packages of support and plans to reduce this.
The Farming Community Network	Research project with Exeter university	Reconnecting events, Yarn in the barn, breakfast with Dartmoor hill project, mental health first aid Market Chaplaincy. Health hub Exeter Market.	All of these
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	All the training we deliver includes this issue and it is included in the new risk policy		
Public Health Devon	Promoting Connect 5, Community Suicide Awareness, and Emotional Resilience training to workforces supporting people who are/may be experiencing loneliness and isolation	Having consistent training offer across Devon, Plymouth & Torbay. Uptake of training varies.	Training will continue through 2023-24