

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 January 2016

Report of the Interim Director Of Public Health

Suicide Prevention

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a brief overview of the work around suicide prevention in York. A further report will be presented in due course together with any recommendations from the Suicide Audit that is currently being undertaken in partnership with the Coroner's Office.

Background

2. Suicides are not inevitable. They are often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events; the prevention of suicide has to address this complexity. This can only be done by working collaboratively across all sectors. Suicide causes much distress to the families and friends affected and this is one of the key areas for consideration in suicide prevention.
3. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Suicide and Self-harm published an "Inquiry into Local Suicide Prevention Plans in England" in January 2015. The APPG considered that there were three main elements that are essential to the successful implementation of the national strategy for suicide prevention. All local authorities must have in place:
 - Suicide audit work to understand local suicide risk
 - A suicide prevention plan in order to identify the initiatives required to address local suicide risk
 - A multi-agency suicide prevention group to involve all relevant statutory agencies and voluntary organisations in implementing the local plan.

4. Under the Health and Social Care Act, Public Health transferred into the local authority. Suicide prevention is one of the indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework and so it falls under the strategic responsibility of the local authority Director of Public Health.

Main / Key Issues

5. The national strategy for suicide prevention “Preventing suicide in England” outlines six areas for action:
 - Reduce the risk of suicide in key high risk groups
 - Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
 - Reduce access to means of suicide
 - Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
 - Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
 - Support research, data collection and monitoring
6. A North Yorkshire and York Suicide Prevention Task Group is in place which is led by North Yorkshire County Council Public Health. The group has representation from North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police, NHS agencies, Probation and the Samaritans. City of York Council representation has recently been strengthened since previously under-represented. There are linkages to the statutory Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) through the joint North Yorkshire and York CDOP Co-ordinator. In addition a new Senior Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator post has been created which is jointly funded by NYCC and CYC to increase capacity for suicide prevention work and take responsibility for suicide audit.
7. The Suicide Prevention Task Group has an action plan which is based on the six areas for action highlighted above.
8. There are separate suicide audits being undertaken for North Yorkshire and York to take account of the differences in geography and population. The work is being carried out in partnership with the Coroner and involves a review of all deaths recorded as suicide over a 5 year period. There were a total of 62 confirmed suicides in York over the period 2010 to 2014 with an age range of between 12 to 90 years. A further report will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board with the outcome of the suicide audit once this is completed.

9. In addition, there is a time-limited multi-agency group established for the City of York which is chaired by the interim Director of Public Health which is working on the development of a multi-agency Suicide Community Response Plan for the City in line with Public Health England guidelines and best practice. Further information about this will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in due course.
10. Linkages are being made to the work on the Crisis Care Concordat for mental health and the importance of recognising the links between self harm and suicide risk.

Consultation

11. There has been no consultation on this report since it is for information only to raise awareness of the work being undertaken on suicide prevention.

Options

12. There are no specific options for the Board to consider other than noting the report.

Analysis

13. There are no specific options for the Board and therefore no analysis is required.

Strategic/Operational Plans

14. This report links to the following elements of the Council Plan 2015-19:
 - A focus on frontline services
 - A Council that listens to residents.
15. Suicide prevention is a responsibility of Public Health Teams; whose functions now sit within local authorities.

Implications

16. There are implications for workforce capacity but these are currently being managed within existing resources.

Risk Management

17. No risks have been identified in relation to this report.

Recommendations

18. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the contents of the report.

Reason: To keep the Health and Wellbeing Board apprised of the work being undertaken on suicide prevention.

Contact Details

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Specialist Information Officers: None

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Report Approved

Date 5 January 2016.

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

- Public Health England (PHE), (2014) Guidance for developing a local suicide prevention action plan: information for public health staff in local authorities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-developing-a-local-action-plan>
- Public Health England (PHE), (2015), Identifying and responding to suicide clusters and contagion: A practice resource, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/45930/3/Identifying_and_responding_to_suicide_clusters_and_contagion.pdf
- HM Government (2015) Crisis Care Concordat: <http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk/>
- HM Government (2015), Preventing suicide in England: Two years on Second annual report on the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives

Annexes

None