

Health and Wellbeing Board

9 May 2018

Report of Sharon Stoltz, Director of Public Health, City of York Council

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Summary

1. This report presents the draft suicide prevention strategy that has been prepared by the City of York Public Health Team. The Board are asked to provide comment on the draft strategy and to give approval for a 12 week public consultation on the draft to commence.

Background

2. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017-2022) outlines the Board's ambitions for the mental health of the population of the City of York. Within this there is a priority to 'ensure that York becomes a Suicide Safer City'. The draft Suicide Prevention Strategy sets out how it is intended that we move towards this goal.

Main/Key Issues to be Considered

3. The central theme of the Strategy is to work towards becoming a suicide safer community in order to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in the City over a sustained period of time. This is a long term ambition which is about changing the culture, attitudes and awareness in our City so that we become a more compassionate, understanding, accepting, resilient and optimistic community where everyone's life matters. The draft strategy then has a further nine objectives, the first seven of which are based on the national suicide prevention plan, the last two are local priorities. These are:
 - Reducing the risk of suicide in high risk groups.
 - Tailoring approaches to improve mental health in specific groups.
 - Reducing access to means of suicide.

- Providing better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide.
- Supporting the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.
- Supporting research, data collection and monitoring.
- Reducing rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk.
- Training and awareness raising.
- Preparedness and post incident management.

Consultation

4. The draft strategy summarised and attached as Annex A to this report has been subject to discussion and consultation involving the key partner organisations within York. The Board are asked to agree further public and stakeholder consultation as part of the recommendations within this report. If agreed the consultation questions will be drafted by the Suicide Safer Delivery Group.

Options

5. There are no options provided within this report.

Analysis

6. Not applicable.

Strategic/Operational Plans

7. Suicide prevention is embedded within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Mental Health Strategy and the Local Crisis Care Concordat action plans, which all explicitly reference working towards a suicide safer City. The draft Strategy is aligned with the Clinical Commissioning Group's Commissioning Intentions (2018-19) which prioritise working towards supporting more people in the community and building resilience around mental health.

Implications

8. The Board are advised that the proposal is to undertake a public consultation on the draft strategy following which a further report will be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We will work with the Mental Health Partnership, the Vulnerable People's Partnership Group, and the Safeguarding Adults Board to support the consultation. We will also work with the HealthWatch readability panel to ensure the Strategy is written in an accessible way. The

York Suicide Safer Community Delivery Group will develop an action plan to ensure delivery against the strategy. There are no financial, HR, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, IT or property implications to this report. An impact assessment will be carried out on the Strategy prior to the final draft being produced for the Board.

Risk Management

9. None identified.

Recommendations

10. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider the initial draft strategy for Suicide Prevention and agree to further public and stakeholder consultation before a final version is submitted to the Board for agreement.

Reason: Health and Wellbeing Board oversight of the Suicide Prevention Strategy.

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**Report
Approved**



Date 30/04/2018

Wards Affected:

All

For further information, please contact the author of the report.

Annexes

Annex A – Draft Suicide Prevention Strategy