

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 30 November 2017	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, 2017-2022	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Professor Kevin Fenton, Director of Health and Wellbeing; Richard Pinder, Consultant in Public Health Carolyn Sharpe, Public Health Policy Officer	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are invited to:
 - Note the Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan
 - Recommend approval of the Strategy to Cabinet

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Southwark Public Health Directorate has spent the last year bringing partners together around suicide prevention. A multi-stakeholder expert steering group has been established and one of the first activities of the group has been the co-production of a new suicide prevention strategy and action plan. The previous strategy was written in 2005.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Southwark's Suicide Prevention Steering Group met for the first time on 7 February 2017 and, in-line with national guidance, committed to developing a new strategy and action plan.
4. To inform the strategy Southwark's Public Health Team completed a health needs assessment on suicide and self-harm in Southwark as part of the 2016/17 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
5. The strategy identifies seven priority areas for action that have been built around the recommendations outlined in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy and tailored to local needs:
 - Reduce the risk of suicide in high risk groups
 - Tailoring approaches to improve mental health across all communities
 - Prevention of suicide in high risk locations and reducing access to the 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
 - Reducing rated of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk

- Supporting research, data collection, monitoring and information sharing
6. The strategy vision draws on guidance published in the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health by the independent Mental Health Taskforce which sets a national ambition to reduce the suicide rate in England by 10 per cent by 2020/21. Southwark has therefore set an ambition to reduce the number of suicides across the borough by at least 10% over the five years of the strategy as well as reduce the incidence of self-harm and attempted suicide.
 7. In order to realise the above vision, Southwark's Suicide Prevention Steering Group and partners have committed to implementing over 30 actions over the first two years of the strategy.
 8. At the 18-month point of the strategy, the Steering Group will look to revise the action plan and again, seek approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 9. In order to monitor progress against the actions that partners have committed to undertaking, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been proposed. The framework focuses on near-real time monitoring of suspected suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm as well as local published rates of suicide attempted suicide and self-harm.
 10. Due to the registration delay in reporting suicides - the median registration delay for suicides in London in 2015 was 192 days - and the relatively low number of local cases annually, suicides are reported over a three-year period. Therefore, we recognise that we will not be able to measure the number of suicides in Southwark five years from now, in 2022, until 2025. Therefore, in order to determine success we will look to assess the trajectory in suicide rate at the end of the strategy period, using data for 2018-20.

Policy implications

11. Public Health England and the Independent Mental Health Taskforce have published guidance for local suicide planning and highlighted three main recommendations for local authorities:
 - Establish a multi-agency suicide prevention group involving all key statutory agencies and voluntary organisations
 - Explore opportunities to work with the local coroner court to complete a suicide audit
 - Develop a suicide prevention strategy and/or action plan that is based on the national strategy and local data
12. With the new strategy and action plan Southwark will meet two of three above points.
13. We have committed to exploring opportunities to work with HM Coroner to carry out a suicide audit as part of the action plan.

Community impact statement

14. None

Resource implications

15. The on-going coordination of Southwark's Suicide Prevention Steering Group, monitoring of progress against actions and delivery of actions will be absorbed into daily work activities.
16. No further resource is required.

Legal implications

17. None

Financial implications

18. None

Consultation

19. A public consultation event, led by Cllr Richard Livingston and Dr Richard Pinder, was held on 1 November 2017. Key areas of feedback from the event have been incorporated into the strategy and action plan and we will continue to engage with partners over the lifetime of the action plan.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
JSNA_Suicide&SelfHarm 20170810	Southwark Public Health Directorate	Richard Pinder 07825 693 831
Link: (Copy and paste into browser) \\\\lbsth-lbfp01\LSPHData\SWKPH\Management\Meetings\HWB Board\20171130 Final Papers Package\Suicide and Thrive\ 20170810 Suicide&SelfHarm.pptx		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Richard Livingstone, Adult Care and Financial Inclusion	
Lead Officer	Professor Kevin Fenton, Director of Health and Wellbeing	
Report Author	Richard Pinder, Consultant in Public Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 November 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	20 November 2017	