

Item No. 9	Classification: Open	Date: 16 November 2023	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Preventing Suicides in Southwark. Our strategy and action plan 2023-2028	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Sangeeta Leahy Director of Public Health Southwark Council	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board note the findings within the draft "*Preventing Suicides in Southwark. Our strategy and action plan 2023-2028*" report (Appendices 1 to 3).
2. That the Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board approve and formally adopt the draft "*Preventing Suicides in Southwark. Our strategy and action plan 2023-2028*" report (Appendices 1 to 3).
3. That the board receives an annual report outlining progress against the '*Preventing Suicide in Southwark*' strategy and action plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Every suicide is a tragic event with devastating effects on families, friends and communities. In Southwark, we know that many suicides are preventable with timely, evidence-based support.
5. Health and Wellbeing Boards are required by the Department of Health and Social Care to develop Suicide Prevention Strategies and Action Plans to reduce the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in their locality.
6. This report has been prepared by the Director of Public Health and has been approved by the Strategic Director of Children and Adults Services and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.
7. The draft Preventing Suicides in Southwark Strategy describes the current picture of suicides within the borough and outlines Southwark's approach to suicide prevention.
8. The Action Plan sets out what will be delivered across the borough over the next 5 years to reduce the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in Southwark.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. The Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board approve, and formally adopt, the “*Draft Preventing Suicides in Southwark. Our strategy and action plan 2023-2028*” report (Appendices 1 to 3).

Policy framework implications

10. Our ambition is to prevent suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm and ensure residents receive access to good quality and timely support. In order to achieve this vision, we have set out actions around five priority areas for action:
 1. Reducing the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in high risk groups;
 2. Preventing suicide in high-risk locations and reducing access to the means of suicide;
 3. Reducing the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm among children and young people (CYP), and providing support to educational settings;
 4. Monitoring and collecting data on suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm; and,
 5. Supporting the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behavior.
11. The priority areas were informed by the recommendations outlined in the 2012 and 2023 national Suicide Prevention Strategies and tailored to local needs, as identified through stakeholder engagement, community engagement and data analysis.
12. Our draft 5 year Action Plan (Appendix 2) brings together key activities to reduce self-harm and suicide in Southwark and sets out committed actions across our five key priority areas. The Southwark Suicide Prevention Stakeholder group will meet on a six-monthly basis to monitor progress against the strategy and review the actions identified.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

13. Each and every death by suicide is a tragic loss that has a major impact on our community.
14. This strategy will help to reduce the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in our community and ensure residents receive access to good quality and timely support. Our draft 5 year Action Plan (Appendix 2) provides specific examples of how the strategy will deliver positive impacts for our community.

15. The community was involved in the development of the strategy and action plan and will continue to play a key role during its implementation.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

16. A Joint Equality and health analysis has been completed which found no negative equalities impacts as a result of the strategy. The strategy will undergo continuous evaluation through regular meetings of the Southwark Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Group. If any negative equalities impacts arise, these will be addressed by the stakeholder group.

Health impact statement

17. This strategy will help to reduce the risk of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in our community and ensure residents receive access to good quality and timely support.

Climate change implications

18. There are no immediate climate change implications.

Resource implications

19. There are no resource implications as a direct outcome of this report. The outcomes within the action plan are able to be delivered through the implementation of projects and work plans already agreed by council departments or partner organisations. Resources have already been identified to complete these actions.

Legal implications

20. There are no legal implications.

Financial implications

21. There are no financial implications.

Consultation

22. Engagement and consultation with a wide range of residents has played an important part in the development of the strategy. An online consultation survey was open between 23 June 2023 and 20 August 2023 in which 44 people responded. In addition, we organised community focus groups and visited community events to hear people's views. We also engaged with a range of external and internal stakeholders including key community, statutory and non-statutory organisations which are detailed in the strategy documents. The Southwark Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Group developed and signed off on the strategy. Some key members of the partnership are provided below:

- Metropolitan Police Service
- South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Southwark Council Public Health
- South East London Integrated Care System
- Thrive London
- Southwark Council Education
- Southwark Council Children and Adult Social care
- Southwark Council Communications
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- British Transport Police
- Southwark Council Drugs and Alcohol Team
- Southwark Council Commissioning teams
- Network Rail
- London Southbank University

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

23. N/A

Strategic Director, Finance

24. N/A

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027	Southwark Council	Paul Hudson, Public Health Policy Officer for Mental Health
https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/177533/Southwark-s-Joint-Health-Wellbeing-Strategy-2022-27.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	DRAFT Preventing Suicides in Southwark Strategy 2023-2028
Appendix 2	DRAFT Our Action Plan. Preventing Suicides in Southwark 2023-2028
Appendix 3	DRAFT Data and Supporting Evidence. Preventing Suicides in Southwark 2023-2028.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Arrthi Pangayatselvan, Consultant in Public Health	
Report Author	Paul Hudson, Public Health Policy Officer for Mental Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	3 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	Yes	N/A
Strategic Director, Finance	Yes	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		6 November 2023