

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Update on progress of the Suicide Prevention Strategy and action plan**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 Update on the progress of the Suicide Prevention Strategy and action plan
- 1.2 High level analysis of any implications arising out of the recently published Public Health England (PHE) toolkit: *Local Suicide Prevention Planning (2016)*

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 In April 2013 public health responsibilities transferred from the NHS to local government. Suicide prevention consequently became a local authority led initiative working closely with partners including the Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), specialist mental health services, acute hospital trusts, primary care, coroners, the local branch of the Samaritans and the voluntary sector.
- 2.2 The NHS Five Year Forward for Mental Health requires all areas to have a Suicide Prevention Strategy in place by April 2017. North Lincolnshire has published a Suicide Prevention Strategy launched at the Suicide Prevention Conference in March 2016.

The Suicide Prevention Strategy 2015-2018 sets out North Lincolnshire's priorities for action for preventing suicide reflecting the required national six key areas with local knowledge, intelligence and data. The 6 priorities for action are;

- 1. Reduce the risk of suicide in higher-risk groups
  - 2. Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
  - 3. Reduce access to the means of suicide
  - 4. Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
  - 5. Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.
  - 6. Support research, data collection and monitoring
- 2.3 There is a vibrant and well attended local Suicide Prevention Strategy Group that oversees the progress of the suicide action plan. The Suicide Prevention Strategy Group has made significant progress in a number of areas under each of the actions. The progress is summarised in Appendix 1.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the Suicide Prevention Strategy and associated action plan and progress made.
- 3.2 The activity associated with the action plan is ongoing. The Local Authority and partners are currently planning for the 17/18 action plan.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 In October 2016 PHE published the 'Local Suicide Prevention Planning: A Practice Resource'. North Lincolnshire complies with the three main elements recommended as being essential to a successful implementation of a Suicide Prevention Strategy;

- Establishing a multi-agency suicide prevention group
- Complete a suicide audit
- Develop a suicide prevention strategy and/or action plan based on national strategy and local data.

The detail of the practice resource will be considered in the refresh and development of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 17/18.

### 5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 None as a direct consequence of this report.

### 6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 6.1 No IIA required for this report.

### 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 7.2 There are no known conflicts of interest associated with this report.

### 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to consider content of this paper and to note progress made.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PREVENTION AND COMMISSIONING

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB

Author: Victoria Gibbs, Head of Integrated Partnerships and Health Improvement

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

## Appendix 1

### Priority Action 1 – Reduce suicide in key higher risk groups:

- 5 year suicide audit (2011-2015) completed in order to understand the nature of prevalence and higher risk groups, this in turn has included a focus within the action plan for those who may be more vulnerable
- Completed audits in relation to presentations of self-harm and attendances at Scunthorpe General Hospital
- Consultation is underway with higher risk groups including, people accessing mental health services, people accessing drug and alcohol services and working age men in order to inform local action.

### Priority Action 2 – Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups:

- Safe TALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) training has been commissioned and delivered for a range of staff groups across North Lincolnshire. Safe TALK has been delivered to over 110 people including NLC employees, Police, Fire and Rescue, Education and Schools, Healthwatch, a major local employer and mental health services. In addition over 50 people have been trained in ASIST
- The Local Safeguarding Children’s Board has developed the “Let’s Talk About it Toolkit” to support practitioners in talking to children and young people in relation to emotional health, wellbeing and self-harm
- A number of initiatives have taken place for children, young people and adults including:
  - Launch of Positive Steps to emotional health event hosted by the Youth Council in September 2016
  - Development and Launch of the “Life Central” website and app – providing advice and information for children, young people, parents / carers and professionals.
  - Mental Health Awareness Week May 2016
  - Suicide Prevention Day 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – Sponsored Walk and Talk at Central Park
  - World Mental Health Day in October 2016
  - Armed Forces Day June 2016

### Priority Action 3 – Reduce access to the means of suicide:

- The findings of the 5 year suicide audit and wider intelligence is being used alongside the PHE ‘Preventing Suicides in Public Places’ guidance to inform consideration of frequently used locations or potential locations.
- The guidance is being used to inform planning applications within North Lincolnshire.
- Developed multi-agency practice guidance to respond to a potential or actual suicide cluster or contagion. The practice guidance has been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

**Priority Action 4 – Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide**

- Suicide Surveillance Group is in place through the Suicide Overview and Audit Panel (SOAP).
- In December 2016 North Lincolnshire Council and Humberside Police will launch the Real Time Surveillance pilot. The aims of the pilot are to establish a mechanism to share information about suicide at the time that this occurs in order to respond to suicide, offer support to those affected if appropriate, and consider learning in relation to prevention.
- The local Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) group are members of the Suicide Prevention Strategy Group. Their experiences have helped to inform local action.

**Priority Action 5 – Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour:**

- The Samaritans have the lead on working with and supporting the media in relation to sensitive reporting.

**Priority Action 6 – Support research data collection and monitoring.**

- The Suicide Overview and Audit Panel has been established. The SOAP is responsible for overseeing the 5 year audit in relation to deaths by suicide, and understanding national and local trends in order to inform future suicide prevention activity.