

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Health Select Commission
	DATE:	4 June 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Ruth Fletcher-Brown Public Health Specialist, ACH&PH 255867
	TITLE:	Follow up to scrutiny of Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2020 – 2022 and Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan 2019 - 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2020 – 2022**
Loneliness is a priority within the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy (Aim 4) and a priority within the refreshed Place Plan.
- In order to tackle loneliness and promote good social connections a response is required from individuals, communities, statutory partners, voluntary and community sector and local businesses.
 - The draft action plan went to all partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board for consultation during January and February 2020.
 - Final action plan went to the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WbB) in March 2020.
- 1.2 Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan**
Rotherham takes suicide prevention seriously. Suicide Prevention is in the refreshed Place Plan and is part of Aim 2 of the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.
- Following the symposium on 6th June 2019, with input from Professor Nav Kapur, Head of Research at the Centre for Suicide Prevention at Manchester University, the Rotherham action plan was refreshed.
 - The refreshed plan went to the H&WbB in November 2019 for approval.
- 1.3** This paper provides a response to the feedback and recommendations made when the Health Select Commission (HSC) scrutinised the two plans.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2020 – 2022** (discussed at HSC in February 2020)
- 1 Referencing of research sources needed to be clearer.*
- The action plan has been updated following the period of consultation and incorporated feedback.

2 Ensure a link to Carers Strategy.

The action plan will link to other supporting strategies and action plans, for example, Thriving Neighbourhoods, Rotherham Carers Strategy and the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm action plan.

3 Report back on progress with detailed examples (to link into agreed reporting)

Annual updates on progress will be to the H&WbB.

4 Better links to schools – including Trailblazer

Partners implementing the action plan will look to work with schools in Rotherham to address loneliness amongst young people.

2.2 Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan 2019 – 2021 (discussed by HSC in October 2019)

1 To consider presenting the information about the local picture (pages 8 and 9 of the draft plan) in a different way so it was clearer, as it was hard to understand fully.

The action plan was updated following a period of consultation and incorporated the feedback.

2 To ensure all foster carers and social workers have information and contact details for mental health services.

Partner organisations working on the implementation of the action plan will look to ensure that information on support and services continues to be provided to attendees on suicide prevention training, through the Be the One website and accompanying resources, this includes foster carers.

3 For foster carers to be considered as a potential cohort for youth mental health first aid training and other relevant training due to the mental health needs of many young people who were fostered.

Training information is promoted across Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) including practitioners who work with foster carers. Self-Harm awareness sessions are being promoted to carers and parents. Further funding may be secured for mental health and suicide prevention training in the new financial year. Future courses will be promoted to foster carers.

4 For letters from RMBC in relation to finances/debt to include the phone number of counselling services, near the top of the letter not at the bottom.

In Revenues, Benefits and Payments, contact details for the Citizens Advice Bureau, National Debt Line and Step Change are included on debt letters and another contact detail could be added. However, these details are on the back of each letter, referred to on the front, and to move these onto the front would be difficult for many of their letters. Housing were happy to look at the letter template but did include information for multiple support agencies on the letter.

5 To check that autism was being addressed both strategically and within staff training.

Suicide prevention and self-harm awareness training sessions are promoted to Learning Disability services. Discussions are taking place to see if a trainer from Learning Disability can attend Cohort 2 of the Train the Trainer self-harm awareness course.

The autism strategy action plan makes the following commitments:

- Under Promoting Healthy Lifestyles for children and young people with autism - commitment that Rotherham's suicide prevention programme includes autistic people by June 2022.
- Under Living Well: To raise awareness of the risk of suicide for autistic people through the campaign 'Be the One'.

6 Train the trainer training/awareness raising should include a focus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB&T) people as a specific cohort.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid covers vulnerable groups including LGBT young people. Links to helpful websites are included on the Be the One website.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1 Annual updates will be given to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the implementation of the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan and the Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan.

3.2 Issues are escalated as and when required to the Mental Health and Learning Disability Transformation Group, which reports to the Place Board.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Health Select Commission to note progress with recommendations made previously on the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan and the Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan.