

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	22 nd November 2023
	LEAD OFFICER:	Ruth Fletcher-Brown Public Health Specialist, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health 01709 255867
	TITLE:	Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan

1. Background

- 1.1** In September 2023 the Government published a five-year cross sector strategy on suicide prevention for England.
- 1.2** This 5-year cross sector strategy, addresses the following themes:
- Improve data and evidence.
 - Provide tailored and targeted support to priority groups.
 - Address common risk factors.
 - Promote online safety and responsible media content.
 - Provide effective crisis support across sectors.
 - Reduce access to means and methods.
 - Provide effective bereavement support.
 - Make suicide everybody's business.
- 1.3** There are no targets attached to this strategy, it is a call to action, acknowledging that suicide is a collective responsibility.
- 1.4** The national strategy announced that there will be updated guidance for local areas for the development of local plans. This guidance is due by the end of 2024.
- 1.5** The Office of National Statistics have not released the latest dataset for suicides in England and Wales. These are normally published in September.
- 1.6** Within this national context, the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action plan runs until the end of 2023 so is due to be refreshed this year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** The Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) will be refreshing local action plan guidance to support the development of local plans by end of 2024, and with the delay of the ONS data, it would be prudent to await both before a full redraft of the action plan for Rotherham. Instead, some actions will need updating in light of local data and targets which have already been met.
- 2.2** The Board should be reassured that whilst there is a wait for the ONS dataset and the national planning guidance, it will not delay suicide prevention activity in Rotherham.

	<p>Work is continuing and there are robust processes in place to respond to any emerging themes, risks, and priority groups.</p>
2.3	<p>Rotherham is part of a South Yorkshire real time suicide surveillance system, so receives details of suspected suicides which enables; timely support for those bereaved an affected, identification of trends and patterns and early intervention and prevention actions.</p>
2.4	<p>The Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan for 2022-2023, already addresses priorities of the national strategy with actions which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are informed by real time data, with a focus on priority groups, themes and common risk factors • ensure that staff and public have access to courses which increase their knowledge and skills • provide postvention support to all those bereaved and affected by suicide.
2.5	<p>In addition, work is progressing with Place Partners to look at the crisis offer.</p>
2.6	<p>Work is progressing with the local actions within the current plan, and this is overseen by partners on the Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Group.</p>
2.7	<p>The Rotherham Suicide Prevention Operational Group looks at actions to address themes, priority groups and ensures that support is offered to all those bereaved and affected.</p>
2.8	<p>The Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Group and the Rotherham Suicide Prevention Operational Group are best placed to oversee the refresh of some of the actions within the current plan. Both groups have membership from all Health and Wellbeing Board Partners.</p>
2.9	<p>Some actions with the local plan are addressed at a South Yorkshire wide level by working with partners represented at the ICB Suicide Prevention Group.</p>

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	<p>The Rotherham Public Health (PH) Suicide Prevention Lead is meeting with other SY PH Suicide Prevention Leads to look at sharing best practice and actions which can be taken at an ICB SY level and at Place (November 2023).</p>
3.2	<p>The Y&H OHID Community of Interest Group are having a bespoke workshop to look at female deaths to suicide, drawing in national expertise. Findings from this will inform the Rotherham action plan (Dec/Jan 2023).</p>
3.3	<p>The Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Group and the Suicide Prevention Operational Group will look at any actions within the existing plan which need updating or adding (Dec-January 2023/24).</p>
3.4	<p>The updated action plan to be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board (March 2024).</p>
3.5	<p>The Office of National Statistics Suicide Prevention data should be available at the end of 2023 or early 2024. This will help inform the local action plan.</p>

3.6	OHID will issue local action plan guidance to support the development of local plans by end of 2024.
3.7	The OHID guidance and ONS dataset will inform a full refresh of Rotherham's Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan. This will take place in 2024 through stakeholder events with Partners. The action plan will be presented to the HWB (end of 2024).
4. Recommendations	
4.1	The Board to approve the recommendation to update existing actions within in the plan whilst awaiting the issue of the national planning guidance and ONS dataset for suicide rates.
4.2	The Board to receive the updated plan in March 2024.
4.3	The Board will continue to receive regular updates on progress.
4.4	The Board to expect a full refresh of the action plan, supported by the release of the latest ONS dataset and OHID local planning guidance, towards the end of 2024.