

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board

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PART I

FOR AGREEMENT

BERKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2017-2020 & SLOUGH SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek the Wellbeing Board's approval of the draft multi-agency Suicide Prevention Strategy for Berkshire (at Appendix A) and Suicide Prevention Action Plan for Slough (see pages 47 – 51 of the Strategy).

2. Recommendation/s

The Wellbeing Board is requested to recommend that:

- a) The draft multi agency Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Slough Suicide Prevention Action Plan (at Appendix A) be approved; and
- b) To resolve that a progress report on the Strategy be brought back to Wellbeing Board on an annual basis, preceded by Health and Adult Social Care PDG oversight.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) 2016 – 2020, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Five Year Plan 2017 - 2021

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) 2016 – 2020 Priorities

Suicide is often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events; the prevention of suicide has to address this complexity. The pan-Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy is a response to recommendations made in the National Prevention Strategy - "Preventing Suicide in England" (DH, 2012). The aims of this Strategy are to:

- Outline how partners across the county will work to prevent suicide in Berkshire.
- Outline governance structures for Suicide Prevention work in Berkshire.
- Provide clarity on how the public, partners and other stakeholders can deliver the actions outlined therein.

The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Reduce suicides in Berkshire by 25% by 2020; and
- Ensure better support is provided for those bereaved or affected by suicide.

Slough's Suicide Prevention Action Plan is intended to provide an approach to suicide prevention that recognises the contributions that can be made across each of the following Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing

3b. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Slough's Suicide Prevention Action Plan has been developed using evidence presented in the JSNA and national statistics. National statistics define suicide as "deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm or an injury/poisoning of undetermined intent". Suicide accounted for approximately 36.9 premature years of life lost (i.e. deaths before the age of 75) in Slough, between 2012 and 2014.

3c. Five Year Plan 2017 – 2021 Outcomes

Slough's Suicide Prevention Action Plan supports the delivery of the following Five Year Plan priority outcomes: *Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support need.* It will do this by ensuring appropriate prevention, assessment and support mechanisms are in place to support people's health and wellbeing and independence. These mechanisms need to be inter-agency and reflect the wider partnership, commissioning and influencing ethos of the Council.

4. Other Implications

(a) **Financial** - There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

(b) **Risk Management** - There are no reported risks associated with this report.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** – None.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** – The Strategy advances equality and all reasonable steps have been taken to understand and mitigate negative impact. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was been completed and the results do not require a full assessment. A copy of the EIA can be found at Appendix B to this report.

5. Summary

- *The Wellbeing Board is being asked to formally approve a draft multi agency Suicide Prevention Strategy for Slough.*
- *It is in direct response to the publication of the National Strategy by the Department of Health “Preventing Suicides in England 2012 – A cross government outcomes strategy to save lives”.*
- *Slough’s Suicide Prevention Strategy will also contribute to a multi - agency Suicide Prevention Plan for Berkshire which is being launched at a public event on 17th October 2017.*
- *Slough’s Suicide Prevention Strategy includes six priority areas for suicide prevention in Slough with recommendations for actions. These are set out on pages 47 – 51 of the draft Strategy.*
- *A multi - agency Suicide Prevention Group is being established to implement the delivery of, and monitor the progress made, under this Strategy.*

6. Supporting information

6.1 Suicide is a major issue for society and a leading cause of years of life lost. Suicides are not inevitable. The factors and circumstances that cause a person to contemplate taking their own life are complex and varied. It can have a devastating effect on those affected by the loss, including the families, friends, communities and professionals impacted.

6.2 Berkshire’s draft Suicide Prevention Strategy (at Appendix A) sets out the key priorities, opportunities and challenges associated with ensuring that there is coordinated and integrated multi-agency agreement on the delivery of suicide prevention services across Slough, which are tailored appropriately to local need and are driven by the involvement and feedback from service users. The broad aims of the Strategy are to:

- Reduce suicide rates in the general population in Slough; and
- Provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide.

6.3 The draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan (on pages 47 to 51 of the Strategy) is structured around six key areas for action (based on the national Strategy). These are to:

- 1) Reduce the risk of suicide in key high risk groups
- 2) Tailor approaches to mental health in specific groups
- 3) Reduce access to the means of suicide
- 4) Provide better information and support to those affected
- 5) Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches
- 6) Support research, data collection and monitoring

6.4 Within the Strategy, each area for action is accompanied by an individual action plan. These are reproduced at the end of the document as a consolidated Action Plan which will be the format in which progress is monitored over the next three years.

Consultation on the Strategy

6.5 The Strategy was informed by contributions from the following partners: all Berkshire CCGs, Network Rail, Public Health England, Local Criminal Justice Board, Berkshire Suicide Prevention steering group, BHFT and local leads on mental health. In Slough, the strategy has been approved by the Health PDG.

Launch of the Strategy

6.6 A media launch of the Strategy was held on 11th of September 2017. A county wide launch has been arranged for 17th of October 2017 at Wokingham Town Hall from 9:00am – 2:30pm. Wellbeing Board members are invited to attend this event, (a copy of the invitation is enclosed at Appendix C of this report).

Implementation of the Strategy

6.7 A multi - agency Suicide Prevention Group has been being established to oversee delivery and monitor the progress of this Strategy (See page 56 of the Strategy for membership details).

6.8 Successful implementation of this strategy will require engagement from a wide range of partners and stakeholders*, including:

- a) Service users, Carers, Survivors of suicide
- b) Communities and their leaders
- c) Third Sector organisations
- d) Health Services: GPs, Primary Care staff, Pharmacies
- e) Criminal Justice: Probation, Police, Courts
- f) Education: schools, colleges, university
- g) Fire Service
- h) Local Authority: Public health, Housing, Leisure, children's and adult's services

*Reference to partners in the Strategy includes all of these groups.

Monitoring of the Strategy

6.9 The consolidated action plan will be used to monitor the delivery of the Strategy. Progress against this will be reported on a regular basis to the Health and Social Care PDG, the Wellbeing Board and the Council's Health Scrutiny Panel. The inclusion of suicide as an indicator within the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) will enable us to track progress against this Strategy's objective to reduce the suicide rate locally.

6.10 The consolidated action plan will be refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that the key areas for action are based on need and are informed by what the local data is telling us.

7. Comments of others committees

7.1 The draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan for Slough was considered by Health and Social Care PDG at its meeting on 27 February and 29 of August 2017. At the last meeting, members asked for the following items to be included in the consolidated action plan:

- A column to be included which includes the names of officers with responsibility for delivery specific actions in the plan
- A yearly review of the action plan.

7.2 Both of these suggestions have been addressed in the attached draft.

8. Conclusion

- Slough's Suicide Prevention Action Plan is wide-ranging in its scope and covers the range of issues facing the people of the borough.
- It has been developed in direct response to the publication of the National Strategy by the Department of Health "*Preventing Suicides in England – A cross government outcomes strategy to save lives*" and has been designed to complement (and support the delivery of) Slough's Mental Health Concordat and our CAMHS Strategy.
- It will also support the development of a local Mental Health Strategy for Adults (currently underway), and it is through this aligned approach that we will tackle the harm caused by suicide and preventable deaths to our communities.
- However, the successful delivery of this Strategy will depend on the experience and expertise of a wide range of partners and agencies from the private, public and voluntary sectors working in collaboration.
- It is proposed that this Strategy is now formally approved by the Wellbeing Board.

9. Appendices

- A - Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2017-2020 and Slough Action Plan
- B - Equalities Impact Assessment
- C - Invitation to the launch of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy

10. Background papers

The following documents in combination set the context for the responsibility of local authorities and partner organisations in preventing suicide and in identifying the evidence and best practice required for the Slough Suicide Prevention Strategy:

- 1) The Department of Health launched a new cross-government strategy "*Preventing Suicide in England - A cross government outcomes strategy to save lives*" on world Suicide Prevention Day (10th September 2012) - [See document here](#)
- 2) "*No Health Without Mental Health: A cross-government outcomes strategy for people of all ages (2011)*" is key in supporting reductions in suicide amongst the

general population as well as those under the care of mental health services. The first agreed objective of the strategy is to ensure that more people will have good mental health - [See document here](#) .

- 3) *“Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England (2010)”* gives a new, enhanced role to local government and local partnerships in delivering improved public health outcomes. Local responsibility for coordinating and implementing work on suicide prevention will be, from April 2013, an integral part of local authorities’ new responsibilities for leading on local public health and health improvement – [See document here](#)