

Appendix C: Invitation to the Suicide Prevention Strategy launch

Attention to: Slough Borough Council Health and Wellbeing Board

Invitation to launch of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy & Conference

Wokingham Town Hall, 17th October 2017, 9.30am-2.00pm

Suicide is a devastating event. It is an individual tragedy, a life-altering crisis for those bereaved, and a traumatic event for communities and services. The impacts are immediately and profoundly distressing. Suicides are tragedies for all involved. For every person who dies by suicide at least 10 people are directly affected. The social and economic cost of a suicide is substantial. The average cost of suicide in someone of working age in England is estimated to be £1.67 million. The highest suicide rate in the UK in 2015 was among men aged 45 to 59, at 22.3 deaths per 100,000, slightly lower than the record high seen in 2013. This age group also had the highest rate among women, at 7.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

The suicide audit taken in Berkshire between 2012-14 recorded 120 deaths, 70% of these were classified as suicide by the coroner and the other 30% were undetermined deaths / open verdicts.

The NHS Five Year Forward View for Mental Health sets a target on all NHS agencies and partners to reduce the current level of suicide by 10% by 2020. Ultimately, zero Suicide should be our aim; as it is in the gift of the combined efforts of these organisations, and of society at large, to put in place the policies and services which protect people from mental distress, and to ease the factors which cause that distress. This strategy therefore forges ahead with an ambition to reduce suicide by at least 25% by 2020, thus ensuring that this becomes a shared priority across organisations and areas. We thus need to be sure that in the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities in Berkshire, an alliance of stakeholders takes preventive and ongoing action covering the main risks.

We hope you can join us at the launch of this strategy at our Suicide Prevention Conference on the 17th October 2017 at Wokingham Town Hall. We are inviting a range of speakers to support and work in partnership with us to reduce suicide, support families and raise awareness.

If you would like to book your free place, please email Rukayat.Akanji-Suleman@slough.gov.uk and provide your name, title and organisation name. For any queries please contact Manawar Jan-Khan on 0118 908 8195. Lunch will be provided so please do let me know if you have any dietary requirements or if you have access needs.

Yours sincerely

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Berkshire Suicide Prevention Lead**