

Report Title:	BERKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2021-26
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Carroll, Cabinet Member Adult Social Care, Health, Mental Health and Children's Services
Meeting and Date:	Health and Wellbeing Board – 18 th January 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Anna Richards – Consultant in Public Health
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-26 (annexed as Appendix A) for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 Following publication of the Government's national suicide prevention strategy - Preventing Suicide in England, a cross governmental strategy to save lives (HM Government, 2012), councils were given the responsibility of developing local suicide prevention strategies and action plans through their work with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups and wider partners.
- 1.3 This strategy has been developed through the work of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Group, that has representation of partners across the system, and is founded upon local data, intelligence and knowledge.

2. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board approves the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy (2021-26) as set out in Appendix A.

THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 This strategy builds on the previous Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy (2017-2020) and serves as a refresh of that strategy, where we take forward the key underlying principles and identify new priorities.
- 2.2 The vision for this strategy is 'To reduce deaths by suicide in Berkshire across the life course and ensure better knowledge and action around self-harm'.
- 2.3 The strategy has been developed by the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Group, who have worked together to identify key priority areas, derived from local data, intelligence, trends and action. A small subgroup of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Steering Group was responsible for further defining the content

for each of the priorities and providing regular updates to, and receiving feedback from, the main steering group.

2.4 The priorities of the national suicide prevention strategy (2012), and subsequent progress reports are the guiding principles to how we work to prevent suicide across Berkshire.

The 7 principles for this strategy:

1. Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-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
7. Reduce rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk

2.5 The five core priority areas principally address the national priority to tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups, but the commitment remains to all of the national principles and reducing suicide rates across all population groups. Our local intelligence has demonstrated a need to have some specific focus on the following key areas:

1. Children and Young People
2. Self-harm
3. Females
4. Economic stresses
5. People bereaved by suicide

2.6 Whilst these are the agreed strategic priorities across Berkshire, there will remain a need to monitor trends and risk factors, particularly from the impacts of COVID-19 and to respond to latest changes.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The strategy positively complements, and directly contributes towards, one of the Health and Wellbeing strategic goals which aims to “Champion mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation”.

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategy.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Not applicable

6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

6.1 Equalities.

6.1.1 The Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy has a specific focus on five priority areas (including children & young people and women) that have been chosen due to local data, intelligence and evidence, but the commitment remains to reduce suicide for all residents across Berkshire. Equality and diversity has been consistently considered throughout the development of this strategy. The Equality Impact Assessment is annexed as Appendix B.

6.2 Climate change/sustainability.

6.2.1 The Berkshire Suicide Prevention Plan does not address climate impact directly or indirectly, as it is focussed upon reducing suicide and self-harm across the life course. It is not foreseen that the strategy will have an impact on carbon emissions or resilience to the effects of climate change. The climate assessment is annexed as Climate Assessment Appendix C.

6.3 Data Protection/GDPR.

6.3.1 The strategy does not require a Data Protection Impact Assessment as the real time suicide surveillance data is held and controlled by the Thames Valley Police, and within the strategy the data are not identifiable to any individuals.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Whilst there has been no formal public consultation, as was done previously, this strategy has a local focus and contains the perspectives from professionals working in the statutory, private and third sector organisations and colleagues who support people who have been directly affected by suicide have also been involved.

7.2 The strategy reflects the commitment of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy Group who worked together on identifying the key priorities, which have been derived from reviewing local data, intelligence, and information.

7.3 A small subgroup of the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Steering Group was responsible for further defining the content for each of the priorities and providing regular updates to, and receiving feedback from, the main steering group.

7.4 The Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy has previously been delivered to the RBWM Place Committee on the 26th October 2021 and to the Corporate Leadership Team on the 27th October for comments to be taken back to the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Group for consideration.

8. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Following approval from all six Health & Wellbeing Boards across Berkshire, the strategy will be published for all residents to access, the intended date for this is January 2022 (subject to approval).

8.2 Following on from the official publication of the strategy, the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Group - membership of the group includes representation from all six local authorities, NHS/CCG colleagues, VCSE organisations, the Thames Valley Police, the Real Time Suicide Surveillance (RTSS) Team and residents - who meet bi-monthly, will identify suitable action plans across all five priority areas to outwork the recommendations included within the strategy.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 This report is supported by the following Appendices:

- Appendix A –  Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2
- Appendix B –  Equality Impact Assessment - Suicide
- Appendix C -  Climate Change Assessment .pdf

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 This report is supported by this background documents:

- The [Five Year Forward View for Mental Health \(NHS England, 2016\)](#).
- [National strategy for England, Preventing Suicide in England](#), a cross governmental strategy to save lives (HM Government, 2012)

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