

CABINET

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019

REFERENCE FROM HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

23. Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy 2019-2023

The Director of Public Health submitted a report setting out the proposed Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy for the period 2019-2023. In presenting the report the Director of Public Health drew Members' attention to:

- The recommendation of the All Parliamentary Group on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention that Local Authorities undertake a suicide audit, develop an action plan and have a Suicide Prevention Reference Group.
- The commitment of B&NES Swindon and Wiltshire to reduce the suicide rate.
- A breakdown of suicide rates in B&NES Swindon and Wiltshire as well as the regional and national levels.
- A break-down of suicide rates in Swindon by age group in the period 2008 to 2017.
- Trends, emergency admissions to hospital, and Self-Harm rates in B&NES Swindon and Wiltshire and together with regional and national statistics.
- Work to reduce suicide in high risk groups.
- The recommissioning of community health and wellbeing services to target vulnerable groups and the availability of services for those who self-harm.
- Training for GPs on self-harm and suicide prevention.
- A focus on Children Looked After to ensure they can access services in a timely manner.
- A review of the personality disorders pathway.

The Board in considering the report and presentation discussed:

- Whether those people committing suicide had engaged with medical professionals or services.
- Ways in which lessons from suicide were shared between partner agencies to improve the identification of issues leading to the death and how communication could be improved.
- The investigation process when a notification of a suicide was received and where the person was receiving mental health treatment.
- Concern at the increase in self-harming of young people aged under 24 years of age and representation on multi-agency groups dealing with this issue.
- The possibility of further work in relation to the creation of a Children's self-harm prevention strategy.

- The increased prevalence of social media leading to self-harm in young people.
- The recording of self-harm in Swindon as a hospital admission (as young people are admitted for observation in accordance with NICE Guidance) when attending the Accident and Emergency Department. It was noted that increased the recorded rate of self-harm of young people in Swindon as compared to other areas which don't record the figures in a similar way.

Resolved – (1) That this Board notes the findings of the Swindon Suicide and Self-harm Audit and Strategy and endorses its strategic recommendations.

(2) That the Council's Cabinet and Clinical Commissioning Group's Board be requested to note the Swindon findings, endorse the report's recommendations and adopt the BSW Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2019 -2023.