

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

15 SEPTEMBER 2014

TEES SUICIDE PREVENTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To receive the Tees Suicide Prevention Implementation Plan for information and comment.

BACKGROUND

2. At the panel's meeting in July, Members received a presentation from the Director of Public Health. In discussing the levels of deprivation across Middlesbrough, Members were particularly interested in whether or not there was a link between the pattern of deprivation across the town and levels of suicide.
3. Members were also interested in the work that was being undertaken to assess the needs of vulnerable groups in deprived wards, specifically with regard to suicide prevention.
4. Members heard that there was a Suicide Prevention Action Plan which had been developed to address these issues and Members were keen to receive information on this. Hence Joe Chidanyika, Health Improvement Specialist, Public Mental Health Lead, has been invited to today's meeting to take the panel through the plan.
5. A copy of the plan can be found at appendix 1.

Areas for Discussion

6. Whilst not an exhaustive list, Members may wish to focus their attention on a number of issues, for example
 - a) What are the links between deprivation and suicide levels, and how are they being addressed?
 - b) The plan outlines that suicide prevention depends upon several inter-connected factors – including the availability of resources, in today's economic climate, are those resources available?
 - c) The plan outlines that the levels of suicide had been reducing in the UK and the North East, however there has been a recent increase, are the factors for this increase known? What links are being made

with research being undertaken on the effect of Welfare Reforms on people's mental health?

- d) The report says that suicides are not inevitable, indeed most are preventable, and that there are many things that services, communities, individuals and society can do – are there any specific ways in which Councillors and this panel can assist?
- e) The plan mentions a 'blended' approach for high risk and vulnerable groups. What particularly is being done to help children and young people known to mental health services and in particular vulnerable children such as looked after children and children in need?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7. It is recommended that the scrutiny panel
 - i) Note the plan and make any comments as appropriate.
 - ii) Agree if the Panel would like to receive regular updates on the implementation of the plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in this report.

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