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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	24th October 2019	Agenda Item	2.4
Report Title	Suicide Prevention		
Report Author	Bethan Jenkins – Principal Public Health Practitioner		
Report Sponsor	Dr Keith Reid, Interim Executive Director of Public Health		
Presented by	Dr Keith Reid, Interim Executive Director of Public Health		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	To update the committee on action being taken on suicide prevention in the Swansea Bay area, as requested.		
Key Issues	This report sets out progress since a multi-agency workshop was held in March 2019, in response to the need to take collective and co-ordinated action to address the high suicide rate locally and respond to the national Talk to Me 2 Strategy.		
Specific Action Required (please choose one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recommendations	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE the content of the report; and • CONSIDER whether they are content that the governance of the partnership elements of this work is via the Joint Public Service Board arrangements. 		

SUICIDE PREVENTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Suicide is a major cause of death among the 15 to 44 age group. Between 2013 and 2017 the overall rate of suicides across Swansea Bay UHB was in line with the Wales average, at 13.2 per 100,000 and 12.4 per 100,000 population respectively.

However, suicide rates for Neath Port Talbot (NPT) for this period, continued to increase and it is the only local authority in Wales which is statistically significantly above the Welsh national average at 15.8 per 100,000 (equating to a total count of 99 suicides), which is the third consecutive period increase. The rate in Swansea is lower at 11.9 per 100,000 however this still equates to 126 deaths during this period.

Suicide is a tragic event which deeply affects many people and communities. There is rarely a single reason and it is usually in response to a complex series of factors that are contextual to the individual. However, suicide is largely preventable if risk factors at the individual, group, and population level are effectively addressed. This means that collective action is needed to tackle the issue.

Data source: Public Health Wales, Public Health Outcomes Framework (Available at <http://www.publichealthwalesobservatory.wales.nhs.uk/phof>)

2. BACKGROUND

Talk to Me 2 (T2M2) is the national strategy and action plan to prevent suicide and self-harm in Wales. All local areas are required to have an action plan. Until now NPT and Swansea have not had an integrated, multi-agency strategy or action plan although many agencies and organisations are involved in work locally that deals with and aims to prevent suicide and self-harm. Local activity has reported directly to the Mid and West Regional Forum but work has largely been conducted in isolation.

In response to the need to take collective and co-ordinated action to address the issue in light of the continued high suicide rate locally, a Task & Finish Group was set up by the local Public Health Team (Public Health Wales) to initiate a conversation around suicide locally and garner support to take collective action to address the issue of suicide across Swansea Bay. The Task & Finish Group, which included representatives from key partners, organised a workshop in March 2019, facilitated by the local Public Health Team. The event was opened by Andrew Davies, then Chair of ABMU Health Board followed by a number of key speakers with different experiences of and perspectives on suicide & self-harm prevention to set the agenda for the day. This was followed by a series of workshops focussed around the six strategic objectives within the T2M2 strategy.

Following the workshop a Multi-agency Action Group was convened to lead on the development of an integrated action plan to inform and direct collaborative action for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Representatives of the group include Swansea Bay UHB Mental Health Delivery Unit, Primary and Community Service Delivery Unit, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), NPT CVS, Swansea and NPT Social Services, South Wales Police, local authority representatives including education, and safeguarding, probation services, and led by the local Public Health Team.

The plan, to be available in draft in quarter 3, is being co-designed, co-produced and co-delivered by key agencies and those with lived experience. Priority areas include:

- Workforce development: initial training needs have been identified. Further training needs analysis to be undertaken to address gaps in skills and knowledge.
- Local intelligence-led action: understanding the causes and drivers of our high suicide rates, through a suicide audit and appropriate sharing of data to inform action and interventions.
- Insight research with high risk groups to understand factors contributing to wellbeing and mental distress including how people respond in crisis.
- Comprehensive multi-agency rapid review process in event of a suicide, to identify learning and any necessary postvention action required, including bereavement support.

Actions already being progressed include:

- learning from processes and interventions in other localities,
- gathering local intelligence to enable interventions to be targeted and tailored,
- mapping of opportunities to engage with people with lived experience,
- applying for funding to resource a training plan,
- pilot in Swansea of a new under 18's multi-agency rapid review process in event of a suicide,
- discussions with Ospreys in the Community about potential opportunities to raise awareness of suicide and mental health issues and available support,
- planning for insight research with working age men, including application for funding.

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

There are no governance issues associated with this report. Governance arrangements for this work have been established via the Joint Public Service Board, to ensure collectively agreed actions are progressed and momentum maintained. The group will next report to the Joint Public Service Board in January.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no funding attached to this work. Welsh Government have recently made a small pot of non-recurrent funding available to pump prime local activities to support local action plans. The Multi-agency Action Group submitted a collaborative application for activities to support its priority areas. Awaiting outcome of application.

Even if this application is successful in full, it will fall short of the funding required to support the local action plan. The group will need to look to partners, including the Health Board, to support resourcing of plan and/or look for alternative funding opportunities.

5. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- **NOTE** the content of the report; and
- **CONSIDER** whether they are content that the governance of the partnership elements of this work is via the Joint Public Service Board arrangements.

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives (please choose)	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
(please choose)	Staying Healthy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
The local action plan is being developed in line with local suicide prevention planning guidance issued by the National Advisory Group for suicide and self-harm. As the plan develops, it is likely that there will specific actions for the health board to take on key areas e.g. suicide audit/internal review, staff awareness training (across the HB) etc.		
Financial Implications		
Please see main report		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
There are no legal implications of this report		
Staffing Implications		
There is a need to continue to support relevant staff in membership and actions of the Multi-Agency Group and wider Health Board workforce to be engaged in this agenda as appropriate.		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
<p>Contributing to the 'A Healthier Wales' wellbeing goal, the work will meet the sustainable development principle by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the need to provide an immediate response in the event of a suicide with the need to take a long term approach to addressing risk factors at the individual, group and population level. Acknowledging complexity within the system and working to influence and align priorities within the Health Board and with partners over the <u>longer term</u>. Focusing on <u>prevention</u> activity, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing to prevent mental distress and ill-health leading to crisis. 		

- Integration of priorities, acknowledging the range of components required for an effective suicide and self-harm prevention strategy and the contributions needed from different partner agencies.
- Working in collaboration to co-produce and co-deliver with key partners, a local integrated suicide and self-harm prevention action plan. Pro-actively building relationships and partnerships.
- Involvement is key to the approach to developing the action plan, and corresponding activity and interventions. The work is led by a multi-agency action group and people with lived experience will be engaged in the process.

Report History	
Appendices	None