

Meeting Date	9th September 2025	Agenda Item		
Name of Meeting	Quality and Safety Group			
Report Title	Response plan for suicide related incidents in non-mental health settings			
Report Author	Jayne Whitney – Quality Priority Lead			
Report Sponsor	Angharad Higgins – Head of Quality and Safety			
Presented by	Jayne Whitney – Quality Priority Lead			
Freedom of Information	Open			
Purpose of the Report	<p>This report outlines Swansea Bay UHB’s response framework for suicide or self-harm incidents in non-mental health settings. It was developed as part of the recommendations of the Thematic Review of Self-Harm and Suicide Incidents presented to Quality and Safety group in March 2025.</p> <p>The proposed responses align with national strategies and governance standards.</p>			
Key Issues	<p>The Immediate Organisational Response Action Card for suicide or significant self-harm in non-mental health settings has been developed in alignment with existing command and control structures and informed by learning from Regulation 28 reports. Stakeholder engagement included Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response, Staff Wellbeing, Safeguarding Leads, TRiM Coordinators, and the Serious Incident Team. The Action Card will be communicated via intranet upload to the Suicide Prevention Hub and Incident Response Resources, and shared with Clinical Site Management under Bronze, Silver, and Gold structures, as well as Operational Managers across Emergency Departments and inpatient wards.</p>			
Specific Action Required (please choose one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance	Approval
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <p>Approve: Action card for immediate organisational response to suicide or significant self-harm.</p>			

RESPONSE PLAN FOR SUICIDE-RELATED INCIDENTS IN NON-MENTAL HEALTH SETTINGS.

• INTRODUCTION

In response to the findings of the Thematic Review of Self-Harm and Suspected Suicide Incidents within Non-Mental Health Settings across Swansea Bay University Health Board (March 2025), a recommendation was made to strengthen our organisational response to potential suicide events. As part of the legacy work from the Quality Priority for Suicide Prevention, a draft process has been developed to guide timely, coordinated, and compassionate responses to such incidents. It was agreed that this process be presented to the Quality and Safety Group in September 2025 for approval.

This document proposes the operational management arrangements for responding to incidents of suicide or significant self-harm causing serious harm within non-mental health settings across Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB). It aligns with the Business Continuity/Significant – Overarching Procedure 2024. The Health Board's overarching arrangements, articulate the escalation processes for business continuity and critical incidents that may impact Health Board wide. Therefore, there is a need for site specific guidance in terms of an organisational response plan to such events.

• BACKGROUND

While such events are fortunately rare, their impact can be profound; affecting patients, families, staff, and members of the public. This plan ensures that the Health Board's core values are upheld by promoting a compassionate, coordinated, and trauma-informed response. It aims to support those affected, and support psychological safety for the public and staff.

The response plan provides a structured and compassionate framework to support hospital management and staff in responding to incidents involving suicide attempts, completed suicides, self-harm, or other significant events occurring within non-mental health settings or public areas. To ensure consistency and clarity in application, key definitions are outlined below.

- A Suicide Attempt: A non-fatal, self-directed, behaviour with an intent to die.
- Completing Suicide: A fatal self-inflicted act with the intention to end one's life.

- Self-Harm: Intentional self-inflicted injury or poisoning, regardless of suicidal intent.
- Significant Incident: Any event involving suicide, self-harm, or related trauma that impacts staff, patients, or the public in a non-mental health or public setting.

Aims and Objectives

The response plan is designed to guide executive teams, service group management teams, and frontline staff through the immediate actions required when a traumatic incident occurs. It aims to ensure that all responses are consistent and provides clear guidance to staff, supports effective communication with leadership, and outlines steps to protect other patients and members of the public. It also emphasises the importance of supporting staff and the wider community during and after such events, reinforcing the Health Board's commitment to safety, care, and coordinated crisis management.

Scope Clarification

It is important to note that this response plan is designed to reinforce an operational response framework and aligns with existing protocols related to the medical management of incidents.

- **GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES**

Incidents of this nature are managed through the Quality and Safety structures and incident management processes.

- **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

While there are no direct financial implications identified at this stage, implementing an appropriate and timely response may contribute to mitigating the risk of staff absence and associated operational pressures following such incidents.

RECOMMENDATION Members are asked to:

Approve: Approve: Action card for immediate organisational response to suicide for significant self-harm.

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 type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
(please choose)	Staying Healthy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
This proposal enhances patient and public safety by ensuring a structured, trauma-informed response to suicide-related incidents in non-mental health hospital settings. It supports staff wellbeing, protects dignity, and minimises disruption to care delivery.		
Financial Implications		
While there are no direct financial implications identified at this stage, implementing an appropriate and timely response may contribute to mitigating the risk of staff absence and associated operational pressures following such incidents.		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
This supports us in our employment duties of being supportive to our staff		
Staffing Implications		
Staff may require additional support following exposure to traumatic incidents, including access to TRiM, counselling, and Occupational Health services.		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
This work aligns with the Act's goals of creating a healthier Wales and cohesive communities by promotion of supporting staff and public well-being.		
Report History	No previous history	
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Action card for immediate organisational response to suicide or significant self-harm. Appendix 2 – Out of hours guidance (TRiM)	