

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Suicide Prevention in Oldham

Portfolio Holder:

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Purpose of the Report

For the Board to consider Oldham's Suicide Prevention Plan and the future governance arrangements for the Oldham Suicide Prevention Group.

Recommendations/Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Suicide Prevention Partnership recommends that the governance for the delivery of the Oldham Strategy for Suicide Prevention 2017-20 be formally taken on by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Suicide Prevention in Oldham

1. Background

- 1.1. Suicide is a significant cause of death in young adults and is seen as an indicator of underlying rates of mental ill-health in a local area. Nationally, suicide rates have been on the rise since 2015.
- 1.2. In Oldham during the period 2013-17 the suicide rate per 100,000 population was as follows:
 - 10-34 years of age: 13.6 per 100000 against an England average of 10.5
 - 35-64 years of age: 17.2 per 100000 against an England average of 20.1
 - 65+ years of age: 11.1 per 100000 against an England average of 12.4
- 1.3. Suicide is a major issue for society and a leading cause of years of life lost. Suicide is often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events, but there are many ways in which services, communities, individuals and society as a whole can help to prevent suicides.
- 1.4. Since 2012, Local Authorities have been involved in suicide prevention work. Following the publication of the 2012 national strategy, LAs were given the responsibility of developing local suicide action plans through their work with their Health and Wellbeing Boards. A deadline of 2017 was set by the Government by which the local action plan was to be agreed.
- 1.5. Oldham, in line with the picture nationally, has also formed a multi-agency suicide prevention partnership, incorporating public health, the clinical commissioning group, social care, primary and secondary care, the voluntary sector, criminal justice system and those affected by suicide.
- 1.6. On an ongoing basis, data on the local picture in Oldham is received by the group – this may be anecdotal information and come from a number of sources, including the media. Or it may be gathered from coroners' reports. In addition, service level data from, health, social care and community agencies (both specialist mental health and others) has provided vital information about any patterns, trends, geographic hotspots and risk factors.
- 1.7. Oldham's Suicide Prevention Strategy and action plan (2017-2020) has been in place since 2017 and is currently owned and reviewed by the partnership group.
- 1.8. As part of the Oldham Locality Plan for Health & Social Care Transformation 2016-2021 mental is recognised as being central to good health. The plan highlights its commitment to addressing mental health in Oldham, which includes promoting good mental wellbeing, tackling stigma, preventing poor mental health and actions to promote recovery.

2. Current Position

Oldham Context

- 2.1 The Chair of the local Suicide Prevention group in Oldham is currently with the CCG and Dr Jeffery. This is a new and interim arrangement following the Public Health Consultant leaving the authority and the vacancy in the public health team as a result. The work is still being supported and managed through the public health team. This approach is uncommon across the country, where nationally either the local authority safeguarding lead or public health team chair and manage the group. There are local benefits to this arrangement as Dr Jeffery is also the Chair of the Mental Health Partnership Board.
- 2.2 Following the passing of the Chair from Safeguarding in the LA to public health in mid-2018, a decision was made to revisit the local action plan. The plan didn't take into account the Greater Manchester focus and priority areas as well as being made up of largely completed actions. A workshop to address this was held in January 2019. Attendees included the members of the local multi-agency group (including the Clinical Director for Mental Health at the CCG) as well as colleagues who are leading on the Greater Manchester Strategy. Discussions focussed on the elements included in the action plan; how the action plan is managed; membership; structure of the meetings.
- 2.3 Following the workshop, a range of proposed changes were put forward including:
- Changing the structure of the group to a Suicide Prevention Partnership which will have wider membership and meet 6-monthly; and a smaller Implementation Group which will meet more regularly and aim to deliver the action plan.
 - Reviewing the membership to include more people in the partnership and a more focussed group in the implementation group
 - Rewrite of the action plan to include new areas (leadership & governance; high risk groups including bereavement/depression/self-harm/acute MH patients; training; and data monitoring) and to ensure better delivery (having named leads for actions and timescales for delivery). It was also suggested that the action plan reflect the Greater Manchester priorities where they were also known issues in Oldham. It was felt by the group that although an exact mirror of the plan wasn't needed there were areas in the GM strategy that as intelligence has changed over the years, should also be in the Oldham plan.
- 2.4 The workshop also addressed the issue of governance and to who and how the newly formed Suicide Prevention Partnership was going to be accountable. It was agreed to seek steer on this from both the Mental Health Strategic Partnership as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Greater Manchester Context

- 2.5 Following the formation of the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care partnership in 2016, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention has been a key area of focus.
- 2.6 In September 2018, with the lead from the Mayor of Greater Manchester and on World Suicide Prevention Day, the re-refresh to the GM Strategy was launched. The

Mayor attended this event and talked about the new national (and increased) focus on suicide prevention politically, with the appointment of the first Suicide Prevention Minister. Mayor Burnham went on to talk about the challenges faced in Greater Manchester and the investment from the H&SC Partnership into mental health services across the region to support the ambition of a significant reduction in the suicide rate in Greater Manchester. The new strategy also focused for the first time on self-harm and further expanded the known high-risk groups of people.

- 2.6 In late 2018 the Greater Manchester Suicide Prevention Executive appointed their first full time, dedicated Suicide Prevention Programme Manager for the region.

3. Data and Intelligence

- 3.1. The following information is taken from Oldham's JSNA;
Ensuring the population of Oldham experiences good mental health continues to be an important public health priority for a range of reasons. Good mental health is important for ensuring the development and maintenance of family relationships and friendships, our education, training and ability to fulfil our potential in employment. It is also important for ensuring good physical health and as it impacts on all aspects of people's lives it is the responsibility of not only the individual, but also families, friends, employers and the wider community to enable people to develop and importantly maintain good mental health.
- 3.2. The JSNA goes on to reference the data that is available on the Public Health England, Fingertips website for details of the local prevalence rate of suicides on Oldham.
- 3.3. The data from Fingertips, along with the Coronial information received by the Public Health team post inquest, make up the local intelligence picture.

4. Key Issues for Health and Wellbeing Board to Discuss

- 5.1 Health and Wellbeing Board are requested to note the report, current strategy 2017-20 and recent recommendations for structural changes to the local partnership, discuss and provide appropriate challenge where required.

5. Key Questions for Health and Wellbeing Board to Consider

- 5.1. The key question for the Board to consider is; does the Health and Wellbeing Board support the governance arrangements for Oldham's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2017-20 as they are proposed in this paper?
- 5.2. Pending the decision made about future governance arrangements, a further update could be received by the Health and Wellbeing Board in the autumn of 2019.

6. Appendices

- 6.1. Appendix 1 - Oldham's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2017-2020.
Appendix 2 - The Greater Manchester Suicide Prevention Strategy