

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

25.05.22

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025</b>
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### List of Appendices

Appendix A Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy  
Appendix B Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan

### **1. Purpose of Report**

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1.1 To seek approval of the Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **2. Executive Summary**

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2.1 The Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 provides an update on national and local context for suicide. It provides a short review of the previous strategy, then sets out the seven priorities for the strategy.

2.2 The seven priorities are:

- Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
- Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
- Reduce access to means of suicide
- Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
- Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
- Support research and data collections
- Reduce the rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk.

2.3 The corresponding action plan sets out the key objectives and actions for each priority. The strategy will be reviewed annually, and the report will be made available to the public.

### 3. Recommendations

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3.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Endorse the Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 and Action Plan
- Endorse the recommendation that the Suicide Prevention Steering Group lead the implementation of strategy, working closely with local partners and communities
- Endorse the recommendation that the Mental Health Learning Disability Autism (adults), and Healthy Minds and Healthy Brains (children and young people) Collaboratives maintain strategic oversight of the implementation of strategy
- Note work and for members to provide comments, and for delegation to the chair for final sign-off of the strategy.

3.2 Reasons for recommendation:

- To comply with the new statutory duty as the strategy and action plan will be in the public domain. The “Cross-government suicide prevention workplan” [Jan 2019] commits every Government area to take action on suicide.
- Offers a sensible approach to reducing the level of suicide through a coordinated response to suicide prevention, improving services and outcomes for all those affected, building on work at all levels in the health and care system, including community-based activities targeted at the wider factors that affect mental health and wellbeing.
- Strategy identifies priority groups and the actions needed to reduce suicides across the life course (young people, middle-aged adults, older people, the homeless, people with mental health problems)
- Development and implementation of structures and processes to improve the reporting and analysis of suicides, working with the coroner’s office to provide real time data and response on suicides

### 4. Report Background

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4.1 The current Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy was developed for 2017-2020. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the strategy was extended till 2022. With a Suicide Prevention Public Health Officer and Data Analyst in post, the strategy has been reviewed and updated to reflect the current situation.

4.2 Suicide continues to be recognised as a nationally growing concern. The “*Preventing suicide in England: A cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives*” report sets the following overall objectives: a reduction in the rate of suicide in England’s general population; and better support for those affected or bereaved by suicide. The National Strategy is committed to tackling suicide and presents seven key areas of action, as highlighted in section 2.2 above.

4.3 Northamptonshire’s prevalence of suicide is statistically similar to the England and East Midlands regional averages. North Northamptonshire’s prevalence of suicide resembles the England and East Midlands averages, and West Northamptonshire’s prevalence of suicide is

statistically better than the England average, and similar to the East Midlands average. There is some variation in the prevalence of suicide across the county.

- 4.4 Significant achievements have been made in implementing previous strategy since 2017. They include improved partnership working, improved understanding of suicide cases and the effects of suicide, reducing the risk of suicide in high risk groups and improved positive emotional health and wellbeing and resilience among high risk groups.
- 4.5 We will review the outcomes of this Strategy by monitoring the progress of the action plan through the Suicide Prevention Steering Group. The outcomes of the review will be reported through the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities & Autism Collaborative (ICS) Programme and to the North Northants and West Northants Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 4.6 An Annual Report will be produced reviewing progress against the Strategy and summarising changes in intelligence and policy which may require adaptation to our local approach. The Annual Review will be publicly available online.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 The new strategy is a single document for all-ages across the whole county. The Suicide Prevention Steering Group partners involved operate across the whole county. To ensure a coordinated approach, a single action plan has been produced.
- 5.2 In addition to the county-wide approach, future intelligence and data sources will be developed to reflect any locally specific issues and opportunities across North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire and at neighbourhood level.
- 5.3 The Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 has seven priorities:
  - Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
  - Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
  - Reduce access to means of suicide
  - Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
  - Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
  - Support research and data collections
  - Reduce the rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk.
- 5.4 The Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 has been informed by the:
  - National strategy, "Preventing suicide in England: A cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives," 2012.
  - National Mental Health Taskforce, "The five year forward view for mental health," 2016.
  - Public Health England (now Office of Health Improvement and Disparities), "Local suicide prevention planning: a practise resource," 2020.
  - NICE guidance, "Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings," 2018.
  - Report, "Preventing suicide in England: Fifth progress report of the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives," 2021.

5.5 The Strategy was also informed by six Task and Finish Groups. Each group addressed one or two of the identified priorities. The objectives of the groups were:

- To provide an update on current priorities in Northamptonshire
- To highlight key areas of improvement
- To guide the priorities and actions for the new strategy

5.6 Each group had wide membership from local agencies involved in suicide prevention across Northamptonshire, and people with lived experience of suicidal ideations. The groups produced and approved the approaches and actions to be taken for the seven priorities, which were then reviewed and approved by the Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

## **6 Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

- There are no resources and / or financial implications arising from the proposals at this stage.
- Currently the NHS Wave 3 Transformation funding supports the delivery of the suicide prevention strategy and will fund some of the actions set out in the action plan.
- In 2021/2022, the Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group received NHS Wave 3 Transformation, an allocation of £198,000, against the following criteria:
  - Prevention beyond secondary services: place-based community prevention work - middle-aged men, self-harm primary care support
  - Reduction within services via quality improvement - self-harm care including within acute hospitals and general within mental health services
- The Wave 3 Transformation funding has been approved for 2022/2023.
- There may be additional resources or financial implications arising from the proposals during 2022-2023.

### **6.2 Legal**

- The recommendations in this report do not include any specific legal obligations, other than local partners having a coordinated approach to reducing the level of suicides in the area and providing effective support to those affected.

### **6.3 Risk**

- There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.
- The risk of not making a decision is that the Health and Wellbeing Board will not be complying with national recommendation of local areas having a suicide prevention strategy. In addition, the Board will not be moving forward on agreed plan to reduce suicides and improve the mental wellbeing of people affected by suicides in Northamptonshire.

## **6.4 Consultation**

- The Northamptonshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025 was coproduced by a wide range of partners and local agencies, including people with lived experience of suicidal ideation.
- We have a consultation plan to obtain endorsement from key partnerships from example, Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards, Children's Trust and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

## **6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

- To incorporate feedback from meetings where strategy has been discussed.

## **6.6 Climate Impact**

- There are no climate/environmental impact that may arising from the strategy and action plan.

## **6.7 Community Impact**

- The strategy gives considerations to community impact and details specific actions to address priority groups and places.

## **7 Background Papers**

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- The list of background papers to the strategy are set out in section 5.4 above.