



Doncaster Council

Councillor Andrea Robinson
Chair
Health and Adult Social Care
Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Floor 2
Civic Office

Contact: Mayor Ros Jones
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Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 21st December 2017

Dear Andrea

Thank you for your letter dated 1st December 2017, regarding the Doncaster Suicide Prevention Plan. I also refer to the highlighted points made in your letter, and will respond to each in turn.

Veterans

The lead council officer for veterans will be included in future Suicide Prevention Group meetings to ensure that Veterans are always considered. The Council has added veterans to its protected characteristics, above the legal required characteristics, in all our strategies, policies and plans. There is outreach and dedicated on-line and personal support services available to veterans in Doncaster.

Suicide Prevention

The commissioning of a community-based crisis support service is to be underway during February 2018, as a way to improve mental health and suicide prevention across Doncaster.

Bereavement

The specification for the community based crisis support service includes the development of peer to peer support for those bereaved by suicide and will provide tailored support for those affected across Doncaster.

Social Isolation

There are a wide variety of community-based support systems across the Borough including:

- Social prescribing – offered across Doncaster on a GP/community referral basis

Various community and voluntary sector initiatives across the borough including:

- Age UK community circles
- Doncaster Live at Home scheme (1:1 and group support) in a number of areas
- B:friend across Denaby/Thorne/Rossington/town centre and other areas

Data and Information

Further work will be undertaken between Public Health, CCG and South Yorkshire Police on the data development section of the Suicide Prevention Plan, with the aim of identification and response to suicide attempts, as opposed to surveillance of data on actual suicides.

I fully agree with your recommendation that consideration be given to undertaking case reviews on those suicides and sudden deaths registered as 'misadventures'.

Children and Young People

25 schools have been trained in 'Safe talk' (suicide alertness) and PAPYRUS will be delivering four 90 minute suicide awareness workshops targeting 300 safeguarding leads in educational establishments.

I am advised by Public Health that 'Safe talk' training will be made available to School Governors and Members.

Wider Policies, Plans and Partnership Working

I fully agree with your recommendation that consideration be given to further explore what could be achieved across partnerships, picking this up within key plans and policies, such as Accountable Care Systems and mental health, and anticipate that Public Health Officers will take this work forward as a key premise of suicide prevention work across the Doncaster area.

I trust the above is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Ros Jones
Mayor of Doncaster