



# Doncaster Council

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

To the Chair and Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

## DONCASTER SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE 2018

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nigel Ball Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture	All	No

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report, a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1) and South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw data (Appendix 2), provide an update to the Overview and Scrutiny panel on suicide prevention work in Doncaster in 2018 following a previous report to Overview and Scrutiny in 2017.
2. The suicide rate in Doncaster has remained more or less stable since 2001; however since 2013 the suicide rate for men has risen slightly, whilst for women the rate has fallen. There are approximately 20 to 30 suicides in Doncaster per year and the Doncaster rate is similar to the national rate, at 10.1 per 100,000 of population.
3. To examine risk factors for suicides, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Public Health Outcomes Framework data (Appendix 2) shows that emergency admissions for intentional self-harm, numbers of looked after children (under 18 population), numbers of children in the youth justice system aged 10 to 18 and long term unemployment (proportion of working age population) are worse than the Yorkshire and Humber average.
4. The location of suicides occurring across Doncaster between 2015 and 2018 has been mapped against the index of multiple deprivation, and shows higher incidents in urban centres and areas of higher deprivation.
5. In Doncaster the group of people most likely to take their own life are middle aged White British men.

6. Some examples from the local suicide prevention plan 2017-19 delivery are: targeted training to over 300 professionals, a men's football tournament for 42 players from 7 different occupational groups, and the 2018 contract award to MIND for community crisis support which includes peer led support for those bereaved by suicide. There are also a range of targeted veteran's support services across Doncaster. The local suicide plan has undergone a peer assessment process in co-operation with Bradford, and has highlighted some identified areas for improvement in the next iteration of the local plan.
7. NHS England has made available £84K to Doncaster for 2018/19 and there will be a further funding round in 2019/20. The aim is to reduce suicide by 10% across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw by 2020/21. A plan to spend the allocation on suicide and self-harm prevention is in place.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

8. This report is not exempt.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the information provided in the report and appendices, including the current position and plans to address suicide prevention. In particular, the Panel is asked to note;
  - I. That prevalence of suicide in Doncaster has remained relatively stable since 2001, with a rate of approximately 10.1 per 100,000 population which equates to approximately 20-30 suicides per year.
  - II. That an additional £84K is being made available for Doncaster in 2018-19, from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SYB ICS), with which to reduce suicides and self-harm in accordance with a suicide prevention plan endorsed by SYB ICS.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

10. The local suicide prevention plan and the additional SYB ICS monies will contribute to the prevention of suicides, and improve responses to those affected by suicide, providing targeted support to citizens and professionals.

### **BACKGROUND**

11. In January 2017 a local conference was held, from which the Doncaster Suicide Prevention Local action Plan 2017-20 was developed. Progress of the plan is monitored via a well-attended, multi agency Suicide Prevention Steering group. The outcome of a peer assessed audit of local plans will help in the development of the next iteration of the local plan, for which a further local conference in 2019, to assess progress and scope out the way forward, would be beneficial

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

12. A local plan will be delivered that has been developed through the Suicide

Prevention Group, plus with the SYB ICS targeted work; the local plan will be refreshed with a multi-agency conference in 2019. This will provide the greatest impact on the local population, with additional targeted resources being deployed.

13. A local conference will raise the profile of suicide and self-harm as an issue and provide opportunities for all stakeholders to improve their working relationships and service delivery.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

14.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>From the Public Health Outcomes framework, Doncaster has a high prevalence of working age adults in long term unemployment and this is a risk factor for suicides.</p>
<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<p>The local suicide prevention plan contains targeted actions to support affected groups such as middle aged men and LGBT young people.</p>
<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	<p>The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System plan for 18/19 includes a comprehensive training plan for young people's professionals, including schools and colleges, to receive training on young people's suicide and self-harm issues, to improve confidence, awareness and skills.</p>

<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	<p>The tender for a community based crisis support service was awarded to MIND in partnership with Changing Lives, to deliver a hub based crisis café model which will be fully operational in January 2019 and include a peer led support group for those bereaved by suicide.</p>
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

15. There is a risk that the delivery of the local suicide prevention plan may not achieve the aspiration of reducing suicides by 10% by 2020/21.
16. Recently the burden of proof from Coroner's verdicts has been changed to a lower level of probability, (from 'beyond reasonable doubt' to 'on the balance of probabilities) and this may impact on the underlying suicide prevalence rate.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [HMP 23.10.18]**

17. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 made local authorities responsible for the provision of a range of public health services including improving the health of their populations with local delivery of these services overseen by Public Health England. The local authority is also responsible for statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards which oversee local commissioning and the co-ordination of health and social care services. Local responsibility for coordinating and implementing work on suicide prevention became an integral part of local authorities' responsibilities for leading on local public health and health improvement and includes developing local suicide action plans through their work with Health and Wellbeing Boards.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [HR 29/10/18]**

18. Doncaster Council has been awarded £84,764 from NHS England via Sheffield CCG, the funding will be managed by Public Health and is to be spent according to the approved South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System Suicide Prevention Plan.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [BT .23/10/2018.]**

19. There are no apparent HR implications associated with this particular Cabinet Report. HR is aware however of the Council's Public Health Staffing Establishment which is involved in the delivery of the Local Plan.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW 23/10/18 ]**

20. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [HC 23/10/18]**

21. Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be advised that the approach adopted to suicide prevention should improve and protect health and reduce inequalities. The numbers of suicides occurring, and the underlying causes will continue to be monitored by Public Health in order to improve prevention responses going forward.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HC 23/10/18]**

22. A local suicide audit 2015-2017 shows that suicides in Doncaster have tended to occur in urban centres and areas of high indices of multiple deprivation.
23. The local suicide prevention plan includes targeted responses to groups which are disproportionately affected by suicide and self-harm issues, such as middle aged men and LGBT young people.

## **CONSULTATION**

24. The local suicide prevention plan was developed following a conference of approximately 100 stakeholders in January 2017 and there will be a further local conference in 2019 to refresh the next iteration of the local plan.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

25. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Report 2017) - <https://doncaster.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=2690>

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

Helen Conroy  
Public Health Theme Lead (Vulnerable people)  
☎ 01302 734571 ✉ [helen.conroy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:helen.conroy@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Rupert Suckling**  
**Director of Public Health**