



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November,  
2019

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

**REPORT TITLE Suicide Prevention Update November 2019**

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

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A presentation has been prepared for the Panel, which gives an update on the latest local data release for suicides, and an overview of how non-recurrent funds from South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (SYB ICS) are being spent.
2. The content of the presentation is summarised below:
3. The 2016-18 Public Health England data release does show an increase in suicides, but suicide rates tend to fluctuate on a year to year basis. It is therefore too early to say whether the latest increase represents a change in the recent trend. The factors behind any increase in suicide rates are complex. However a change in the standard of proof used by coroners may have affected the latest figures, where the standard of proof has changed from beyond a reasonable doubt to more likely than not.
4. There were 33 suicides in Doncaster in 2017 and 35 in 2018.
5. In terms of operational delivery of non- recurrent SYB ICS funds, there have been allocations of £84 and £89 K approximately in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

6. A range of initiatives are underway or planned:

#anotherway campaign

[HTTPS://WWW.YOURLIFEDONCASTER.CO.UK/S4S/WHEREILIVE/COU  
NCIL?PAGEID=4701&LOCKLA=TRUE](https://www.yourlifedoncaster.co.uk/s4s/whereilive/council?PAGEID=4701&LOCKLA=TRUE)

7. Self harm and suicide awareness training, April –December 2019: if the training evaluates well and there is demand, more sessions will be commissioned.
8. LGBTQ young people's (Stonewall) training: a train the trainer approach for schools, addressing the wellbeing of LGBTQ young people.
9. Primary care campaign: coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2019, achieved coverage of all GP practices across the Doncaster area, using the #anotherway campaign and provision of a resource pack to use with patient participation groups.
10. RDASH training for physical health staff: being commissioned, using a tiered approach to suicide awareness training for RDASH physical health staff in Doncaster.
11. Promotion of Zero Suicide Alliance training: an effective resource suitable for all to use:  
  
[WWW.ZEROSUICIDEALLIANCE.COM](http://www.zerosuicidealliance.com)
12. South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Coroner's audit: a deep dive, looking at patterns, trends and learning across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, currently underway.
13. Early Alert System (one South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw post, hosted by South Yorkshire Police), now operational, notifying local areas of suicides on a real time basis. Plans to develop the system in future to include attempts/near misses.
14. Bereavement support service: now operational, commissioned from Amparo, to provide support to families of those bereaved by suicide, from the time of death until the inquest. Service will be reviewed in December 2019 with a view to continuation of the service.
15. Further development of #anotherway campaign: in co-operation with DMBC Communities Teams for World Mental Health day 10 October 2019, links also with national 'Every Mind Matters' campaign.
16. Local small grants scheme: under development, to support prevention and early intervention.
17. Follow up after suicide attempts: under development.

## EXEMPT REPORT

18. No.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The health and social care Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the recent data release for Doncaster and also note the suicide prevention initiatives that have been enabled by deployment of SYB ICS funds.

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

20. There are a range of initiatives in place for Doncaster residents, to improve the mental health of the population, encourage people to seek help and put support in place after a bereavement by suicide.

## BACKGROUND

21. £84K in 2018/19 and £89K in 2019/20 has been deployed, or is fully committed to become operational, for Doncaster residents. There were 33 suicides in Doncaster in 2017 and 35 in 2018 as evidenced by the latest data release. This report and presentation to the overview and scrutiny committee details how the money is being spent.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

22. The range of initiatives to prevent suicides in Doncaster was developed through the Suicide Prevention Group in line with the Doncaster Suicide Prevention Plan.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

23. A Doncaster conference in May 2019 mapped out gaps in pathways and this is reflected in the action plan and allocation of resources.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

24.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<b>Doncaster Working:</b> 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; <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>	none
	<b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a	none

	<p>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><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> 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>	none
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> 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>	Doncaster residents are encouraged to seek mental health help and support is provided for those bereaved by suicide
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></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> </ul>	Efficient and effective deployment of SYB ICS non recurrent funds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	
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## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

- 25.. The SYB ICS funds are non-recurrent. An exit strategy may need to be developed, particularly for the bereavement support service if recurrent funding is not secured. The financial implication of continuing this service recurrently would be in the region of £15 K per annum.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...HMP..... Date... 7.11.19..]**

26. Section 1 Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do.
27. Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012) introduced a new duty on Councils in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in their area, this includes mental health and suicide prevention.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (HR 07/11/19)**

28. Doncaster Council received £84,762 in 18/19 and £89,533 in 19/20, this funding was approved at the SYB ICS Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Executive Steering Group for 2 years and was distributed via Doncaster CCG. There is sufficient funding to cover the work identified above; however, in the event of no further funding being secured, any future costs will need to be met from within the Public Health Grant.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials EL Date 5.11.19]**

29. There are no HR implications.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...PW Date...06/11/19]**

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

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...HC...Date 08/10/19]**

31. 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 Date...08/10/19]**

32. 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.
33. 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**

34. A wide range of partner stakeholders (approximately 100 people) attended the Doncaster May 2019 suicide prevention conference and were consulted on key gaps and challenges in Doncaster care pathways.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

35. None

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

SYB ICS – South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System

LGBTQ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning

RDASH – Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust

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