

Health and Wellbeing Board



Date of meeting:	06 March 2025
Title of Report:	Suicide Prevention in Plymouth
Lead Member:	Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)
Lead Strategic Director:	Professor Steve Maddern (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Kamal Patel
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Your Reference:	N/A
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

1. The report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on local suicide data and suicide prevention activity
2. Propose plan for a coordinated suicide prevention strategic action plan across Devon Integrated Care System (ICS).

Please be aware that this report and associated papers discuss suicide, which can be an very emotional topic. Please look after yourself and seek support if you need: [Mental health support | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mental-health-support)

Recommendations and Reasons

1. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to review, feedback and comment on suicide prevention activity undertaken in 2024/25 and the Plymouth Suicide Prevention Strategic Action Plan.**

Reason for recommendation 1:

The reason for this recommendation is to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing board is engaged in the development and delivery of the strategic action plan.

2. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to support the development of an ICS level suicide prevention action plan.**

This plan would maintain local elements key to suicide prevention as well as accountability to each Health and Wellbeing Board and continue annual engagement with the boards.

Reason for recommendation 2:

Currently, each Local Authority in the Devon ICS area has its own suicide prevention action plan. Each plan is based on the strategic approach and priorities of the national [suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023 to 2028](#), so there is significant overlap between the plans.

We recommend moving to a single, ICS wide, action plan with core system partners. This shared action plan would continue to be based on the national strategy and importantly would maintain the focus on

the local elements of each area based on local priorities. The national suicide prevention strategy provides a platform and framework to facilitate a One Devon Suicide Prevention Strategy, with local collaboration across key partner organisations, including NHS, voluntary, community and social sectors (VCSE), employers and individuals.

*The are several **benefits** of a single, ICS-wide, integrated plan, including include:*

- Coordination of interconnected actions through oversight of a single plan (including opportunities for joint work, mutual support and innovation). This will reduce duplication of effort and maximise impact of limited resources.*
- Enhanced collaboration with core system partners (such as, but not limited to: Police, NHS Devon, Livewell Southwest/Devon Partnership Trust, Devon Mental Health Alliance, Network rail, Highways England, Pete's Dragons). Many organisations that are key to suicide prevention work across larger footprints than local authorities. Engaging these organisations once, rather than three times across Devon ICS, would improve engagement.*
- Stronger collective voice in advising and identifying priority action with respect to suicide prevention within the Devon system.*

Mapping of the three existing suicide prevention action plans from Plymouth, Torbay and Devon local authorities has demonstrated the feasibility of a shared plan and highlighted:

- All existing action plans align to the priority areas of the national strategy*
- Some areas of local work are mentioned across all three plans, highlighting existing effective collaboration, but areas of duplicated reporting.*
- Overlap in membership of locality suicide prevention partnerships placing increased demands on some roles and organisations who work across boundaries.*

Local suicide prevention partnerships

Devon, Plymouth and Torbay each have local suicide prevention partnerships, which bring together a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations to understand local challenges and influence suicide prevention activity. These partnerships have strong engagement from across the local system and are crucial to local suicide prevention activity and making suicide prevention everyone's business.

Under this recommendation these local suicide prevention partnership will play a key role in the development of the shared plan, ensuring that local priorities are captured. Furthermore, the local partnerships will continue to provide a forum for delivery of the plan at a local authority level.

Alternative options considered and rejected

For recommendation 2, the alternative is to maintain the current system of maintaining a suicide prevention action plan for Plymouth alone.

The risks of this option are less coordinated suicide prevention action of the NHS Devon area and reduced engagement with key partners who operate over a larger geography and find it challenging to meaningfully engage across three local authorities

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Contributes to overall mission of the Corporate Plan as well as the following priorities:

- Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry
- Keeping children, adults and communities safe

Contribute to policies in the Plymouth Plan:

- HEA1: Addressing health inequalities, improving health literacy
- HEA2: Developing the best outcomes for children, young people and families
- HEA3: Supporting adults with health and social care needs
- HEA5: Delivering strong and safe communities and good quality neighbourhoods

- HEA9: Delivering accessible health services and clinical excellence

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
N/A

Financial Risks
N/A

Legal Implications
(Provided by Insert Name / Initials)
N/A

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:
N/A

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:
** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council’s duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*
N/A

Appendices
**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Plymouth Suicide Prevention briefing							
B	Plymouth Suicide Audit Summary 2021-23							
C	Plymouth Suicide Prevention Strategic Acton Plan 2024-26							
D	Children and Young People Suicide Prevention Action Plan							

Background papers:
**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Kamal Patel, Consultant in Public Health</p> <p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 17/02/2025</p>											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: <i>Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)</i></p> <p><i>Approved by email</i></p> <p>Date approved: 19/02/2025</p>											