

## **REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 31 JANUARY 2024**

### **DRAFT ABERDEENSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2024**

#### **1 Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):**

- 1.1** Consider and comment on the Aberdeenshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2023 – 2024
- 1.2** Approve the Aberdeenshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2023 – 2024

#### **2 Directions**

- 2.1** No direction requires to be issued to Aberdeenshire Council or NHS Grampian as a result of this report.

#### **3 Risk**

- 3.1** IJB Risk 6/ID 2389 – IJB (Responsible Group) - Non-Clinical (Sub-group) Service/business alignment with current and future needs.

#### **4 Background**

- 4.1** Scottish Government and COSLA have come together and created the Suicide Prevention Strategy ‘Creating Hope Together’ which was published in September 2022. This strategy is a whole life strategy and therefore we are working closely with our Children, Young People and Education Colleagues to establish a shared delivery plan.
- 4.2** Our Aberdeenshire delivery plan focuses on outcomes 2 and 3 laid out in the National Strategy.
  - Outcome 2: Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk factors and its prevention – so that people and organisations are more able to respond in helpful and informed ways when they, or others, need support.
  - Outcome 3: Everyone affected by suicide can access high quality, compassionate, appropriate and timely support – which promotes wellbeing and recovery. This applies to all children, young people and adults who experience suicidal thoughts and behaviour, anyone who cares for them, and anyone affected by suicide in other ways.

- 4.3** We have established our Aberdeenshire Delivery Group which includes partners from Police Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council Education & Children's Services, SAMH, Fire and Rescue Services, Public Health Scotland, Public Health and several others.
- 4.4** The age-specific rate of suicides in Scotland is highest at age 25-44 and age 45-64. The rate at age 25-44 is at a lower level now than at its peak in 2011. The rate for age 45-64 has been consistent over time. In comparison, the age-specific rate of suicides in age 65-74 has increased in each of the last five years.
- 4.5** In May 2023 we commissioned SAMH to provide suicide prevention support across Grampian including City and Moray, this contract is funded for two years, we have developed our action plan in Year 1 in consultation with SAMH, other partners and stakeholders. We are cautious around engagement on such a topic as this can cause additional trauma, we were happy that all partners around the table were able to support direction of this plan.
- 4.6** SAMH are establishing various subgroups, including a lived experience and bereavement group. Our intention is to ask these groups to support the development of a year 2 action plan along with other partners and stakeholders.

## **5 Summary**

- 5.1** Aberdeenshire Suicide Prevention Delivery Group was set up and began in 2021. This group's purpose is to have strategic oversight and delivery of the national Suicide Prevention work. This included the creation of a local Aberdeenshire Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan (appendix 1), which has been built around the following key themes:
- Building Community Capacity
  - Children and Young People
  - Increase Training across Services in Aberdeenshire
  - Development of Future Delivery Plan
- 5.2** From the data shared by Police Scotland, we have noted that there are certain key groups that we have seen an increase in the number of people sadly completing suicide, therefore within this Action Plan we made the decision to put an action plan in place to identify and undertake training and information provision to support groups who may have contact with these individuals.
- 5.3** In implementing this action plan we will seek to establish and monitor key performance measures, as outlined in the attached Action Plan, to help us

understand the impact of initiatives and actions undertaken, including evidence of outcomes from all tests of change.

- 5.4** It is acknowledged that lived experience consultation has been limited in the completion of this action plan. We are keen to get the support of groups involved in the Year 1 action plan to support the development of Year 2. SAMH are also establishing a Lived Experience group as part of their wider Grampian work and we would hope to link in with them to consult on Year 2.
- 5.5** As this is a joint Action Plan with Aberdeenshire Council's Education and Children's Services (ECS), our Draft Action Plan will also be shared and monitored within the relevant governance structures within ECS.
- 5.6** The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officers within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

## **6 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are financial implications in the delivery of this Action Plan. SAMH were commissioned in May 2023 for two years, by all three local Health and Social Care Partnerships (Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray)
- 6.2** An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 2 and no impact has been identified.

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5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Aberdeenshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2023-2024  
Appendix 2: IIA Suicide Prevention Action Plan