

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Health and Wellbeing Board	16 June 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Suicide Prevention Action Plan	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children’s Services City of London Police Commissioner	<b>For Decision</b>
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### Summary

This report introduces the a refreshed version of the City of London Suicide Prevention Action Plan which is a jointly produced document between the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police.

### Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board Members are asked to:

- Approve the Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- Review the progress of the actions within the Suicide Prevention Action Plan annually.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. Following the transfer of public health from the NHS to local government in April 2013, suicide prevention became a local authority led initiative involving close collaboration with the police, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), NHS England, coroners and the voluntary sector.
2. Suicide is one of the top twenty leading causes of death for all ages worldwide. Suicide is a major issue for society and a serious but preventable public health problem. Suicide can have lasting harmful impact economically, psychologically and spiritually on individuals, families, and communities. While its causes are complex and no strategy can be expected to completely prevent suicide, there is much that can be done to ensure that we reduce the likelihood of suicide and to ensure support is available for people at their most vulnerable.
3. The City has three potential population groups who are at risk of committing suicide: residents who live in the City; those who work in the City; and those who travel to the City with the intention of committing suicide from a City site, but have no specific connection to the City.

4. Data from the coroner confirmed that there were 34 completed suicides in the City of London in the five years from 2009 to 2014. Seven of these were residents of the City of London and 27 were non-resident.
5. The most common method is drowning in the Thames (32%), followed by falling from a height (26%). Nationally hanging is the most common method in both men and women. This inconsistency with national data is likely due to the preponderance of structures (tall buildings and bridges crossing the River Thames) in the City providing the means to commit suicide. Drowning as a method of suicide had a particular increase in recent years.

### **Current Position**

6. In January 2016 the Health and Wellbeing Board signed off the City of London's first Suicide Prevention Action Plan. Since then the Suicide Prevention Action Plan Working Group consisting of representative from Public Health, the CCG, City of London Police, the Samaritans, the RNLI and Port Health and Public Protection have completed 24 of 29 actions in the action plan.
7. Following the first annual update of the plan delivered to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2017 and given the progress so far in completing many of the actions the Board agreed the document should be refreshed.
8. The Board agreed the document should be refreshed as a joint strategy between the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police. Much of the frontline response to suicide in the City of London is delivered by the City of London Police. Producing a joint strategy will strengthen our working relationship with the City of London Police and improve our strategic response to suicide prevention in the City.

### **Proposals**

9. The refreshed Action Plan outlines the ways in which the City of London and local partners aim to work towards a reduction in suicides among the resident and worker populations of the City of London as well as those who may travel to the City of London with the intention of committing suicide.
10. The City of London Suicide Prevention Action Plan (attached as Appendix One to this report) outlines actions across six priority areas taken from the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) with accompanying recommendations which have been tailored to address our local needs.
11. Overall objectives of this action plan are to are to:
  - Reduce suicide rates in the at risk populations (residents, workers and those who travel to the City to commit suicide)
  - Provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide
12. The following areas have been identified as priority areas for action in the City of London
  - Reduce the risk of suicide in key high risk groups

- With a focus on young and middle-aged men and women
- Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
  - With a focus on people with untreated depression and children and young people
- Reduce access to the means of suicide
- Provide better information and support to those bereaved of affected by suicide
- Support the media in delivering better approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
- Support research, data collection and monitoring.

13. Some of the main additions to the refreshed joint action plan include the implementation of the street triage pilot, the inclusion of Street Pastors, the rollout of the 'Release The Pressure' campaign, cameras to be added to City of London bridges and an action focussing on migrant mental health.

14. A monitoring template is to be developed by the Public Health Team to track the progress of the implementation of the action plan. A group consisting of those organisations leading on actions from the plan will meet every six months and a lead officer from each organisation will be asked to give an update. An update report on the action plan progress with a review of suicide data in the City of London will be produced for the Health and Wellbeing Board annually.

## **Conclusion**

15. The Suicide Prevention Action Plan has been developed in conjunction with local stakeholders and sets out the City of London's intention to reduce suicides rates in residents, workers and those from outside the Square Mile.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – City of London Suicide Prevention Action Plan

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