



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Health & Wellbeing Board

Thursday 28 September 2023

Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kelly Middleton - Cabinet Member: Healthy, Safer & Stronger Communities & Partnerships
Lead Director:	Liz Noakes - Director: Health & Wellbeing
Service Area:	Health & Wellbeing
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not-Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Health and Wellbeing Board – 28 September 2023

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- 1.1 approve the refreshed Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Strategy for 2023/24 – 2027/28.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report introduces our refreshed suicide prevention strategy, which reframes our approach to partnership work to reduce and prevent suicide and the impact it has on our residents.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy, which leaves devastating impacts on family, friends and communities. There are sadly on average 17 cases of suicide in

Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Strategy

Telford & Wrekin each year and these tragic cases have a significant impact on individuals, families and communities. National research highlights that:

- Suicide is now the main cause of death among young people aged 20 to 34 years in the UK.
- Men are at a significantly higher risk, with 3 out of 4 suicides being completed by men, and suicide is the leading cause of premature mortality in men under 50.
- Autistic adults are nine times more likely to die by suicide than the general population and suicide is the second leading cause of death for autistic people.
- 1 in 8 LGBTQ+ people aged 18 to 24 years have attempted to take their own life and almost half of all trans people have thought about taking their life.
- People bereaved by suicide are at three times the risk of making a suicide attempt themselves.
- Suicide remains the leading cause of direct maternal death in the first postnatal year.
- It is estimated that for every person who dies as a result of suicide at least 115 people are affected.

3.2 People's occupations are known to impact on their suicide risk and those seen at the greatest risk are:

- Doctors, dentists, nurses, vets and agricultural workers such as farmers
- Males in the lowest skilled occupations, labourers and construction roles
- Males in skilled trades, including building finishing trades, plasterers, painters and decorators
- People working in culture, media and sport occupations, artistic, literary and media occupations
- Females working in a health professional role, particularly female nurses
- Carers

3.3 There are other factors which affect people's lives which put them at greater risk of suicide, these include those individuals:

- with a history of mental health problems and contact with mental health services within the past 12 months
- affected by domestic abuse and alcohol and drug use
- impacted by economic adversity, serious financial problems, workplace problems or homelessness

3.4 Local collaborative action is critical to preventing suicide, and strong multiagency and partnership working and excellent local leadership are required to develop and deliver robust suicide prevention plans which are specific and tailored for our population. This refreshed strategy builds upon the foundations laid in our first strategy launched in 2017, which has been led by a multi-agency network of people with lived experience, carers, volunteers and professionals. The strong

ethos of the local suicide prevention network is a zero suicide mindset and vision that we can prevent the preventable.

- 3.5 Our plan has been refreshed in line with what we expect to be included in the updated national suicide prevention strategy, which is scheduled for publication by the end of 2023.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

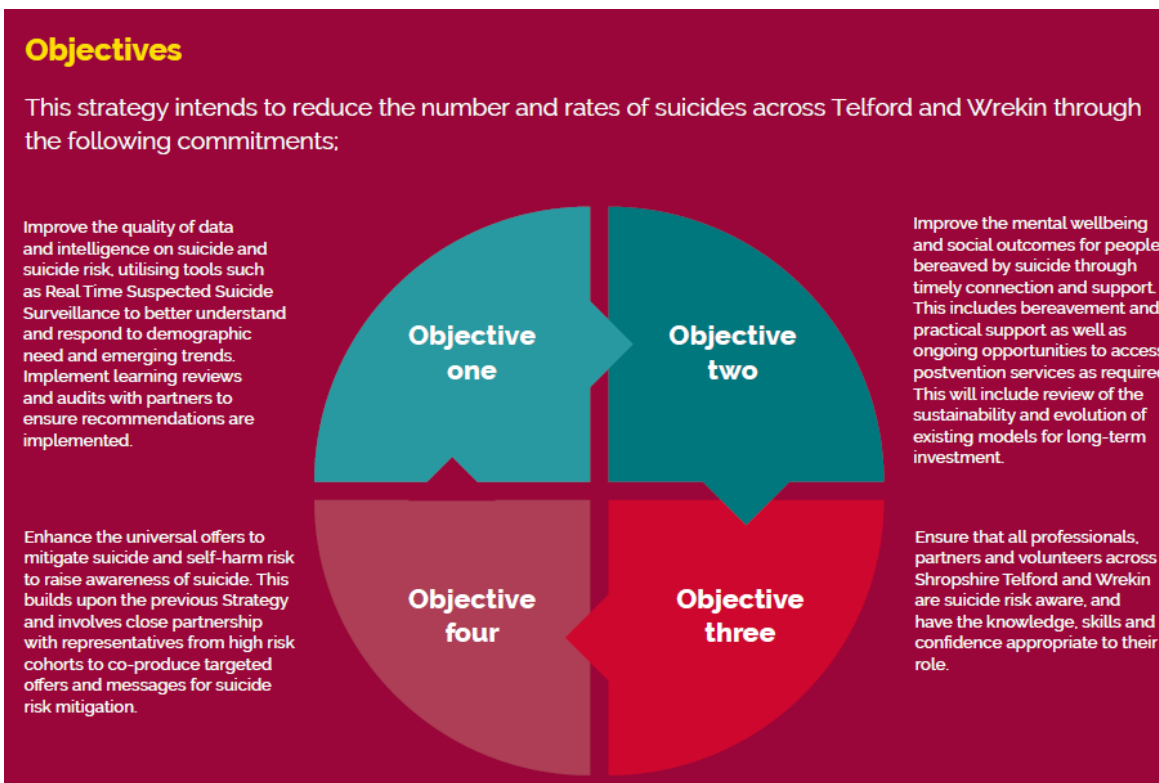
- 4.1 Much progress has been made since 2017 on this agenda under the previous strategy, including the following:

- Launch of the new Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Suicide and Unexpected Death Bereavement Service in January 2021, delivered with support by the voluntary sector
- Investment in and roll out of dedicated training on suicide risk and interventions to increase the confidence, knowledge and skills for the workforce and community who are most likely to connect with higher risk groups as part of their usual job or role.
- The promotion of the Zero Suicide Alliance free online training offer which is now built into mandatory training for many health and social care staff.
- Investment in the Real Time Suicide Surveillance system to identify suspected suicides, to promote a quicker response, assist in learning for planning interventions.
- Ongoing awareness events and campaigns to promote support available for suicide risk and to tackle stigma, for example the successful events held in Southwater for World Suicide Prevention Day – most recent 9th September 2023.
- Prior to the pandemic, strong engagement for the annual Suicide Prevention Conference, including thematic workshops around risk with children and young people, connecting with high risk groups and service mapping offers that can support mitigation of suicide risk.

- 4.2 The core principles from our previous Strategy have been retained, and these focus on:

- addressing the myths and stigma of suicide, as well as raising awareness of suicide risk across our communities
- improving access to timely and appropriate support for anyone affected or bereaved by suicide
- ensuring those most likely to connect with higher risk and vulnerable groups of suicide, have the right skills and confidence to appropriately intervene or signpost to early support in a compassionate manner.

- 4.3 The vision shared across the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Network is that we will significantly reduce the number of people who take their own life.



The priorities of the Strategy are:

- Targeted offers for higher risk groups (as identified by national evidence).
- Improve opportunities and accessibility to address wellbeing concerns and avoidable health inequalities across the whole population.
- Enhance research, data collection and monitoring.
- Continue to develop the suicide bereavement service and postvention offers for anyone impacted by a suicide or possible suicide death.
- Increase reach of suicide risk awareness and appropriate skills for intervention.

4.4 In terms of the wider strategic context, suicide prevention is identified in the Telford & Wrekin Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2023 – 2027, under the mental health and wellbeing priority. There continues to be close partnership working on the agenda between Shropshire Council and local NHS partners, alongside wider network partners. Suicide prevention is a priority for the NHS and it is referenced in the Shropshire Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System Joint Forward Plan.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The Council could decide not to refresh its strategy, however for the reasons set out in this report, it would appear sensible to do so.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 The ongoing impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis significantly affecting mental health health in our communities, highlighting the importance of partnership working to strengthen activities to prevent suicide.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The proposals in this report support and further the following Council objectives:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community focused innovative council providing effective, efficient and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Currently Government funding to local areas for suicide prevention is allocated by NHS England to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). The Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB suicide prevention budget has been devolved to Telford & Wrekin Council.

8.2. Funding to support the Suicide Prevention strategy has been received from NHS over the last 4 years, the latest amount being £25,000 in 2023/24. There is sufficient funding available to deliver the proposals of this report to March 2025. No substantive funding to support this strategy has currently been confirmed by NHS England beyond 31st March 2024.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 There are no direct legal or HR implications arising from this report. Legal advice will be provided on an ongoing basis as and when required.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 All Wards affected

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 Around 5,200 lives lost to suicide every year in England and every one of these deaths leaves behind family, friends, colleagues and communities shattered by the loss. Each suicide is estimated to cost £1.7million with much of this cost relating to the emotional impact on families and on society. Nationally the cost of suicide is almost £10 billion a year. The annual average financial cost of suicide for Telford and Wrekin local authority is estimated to be £30.0 million per year.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 The groups of people at higher risk of suicide are highlighted in the Strategy. This includes people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, for example: people who have been pregnant and people who are LGBTQ+. One of the priorities of the strategy is to develop targeted offers for higher risk groups.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 No direct implications

14.0 Background Papers

None

15.0 Appendices

A Preventing the Preventable - Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28 Draft

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	08/09/2023	13/09/2023	LN
Legal	08/09/2023	19/09/2023	RP
Finance	08/09/2023	19/09/2023	TS