



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:

Progress with development of a joint suicide prevention strategy between Havering and Barking & Dagenham

Board Lead:

Mark Ansell

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- ☒ Theme 1: Primary prevention to promote and protect the health of the community and reduce health inequalities
- ☒ Theme 2: Working together to identify those at risk and intervene early to improve outcomes and reduce demand on more expensive services later on
- ☒ Theme 3: Provide the right health and social care/advice in the right place at the right time
- ☒ Theme 4: Quality of services and user experience

SUMMARY

More than 6,000 people in the UK took their own lives in 2014 which equates to one suicide related death every two hours. In Barking and Dagenham, and Havering there were 80 lives lost to suicide in 2013-15. Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy and many suicides are preventable. Therefore, local authorities are required to have a local strategy and action plan for suicide prevention by the end of 2017. In Havering, prevention of suicide and self-harm is one of the themes of Havering's Mental Health Partnership Board.

Havering Council's public health service and Barking & Dagenham's public health service are collaborating on leading the development of a joint suicide prevention strategy and action plan.

A steering group was formed in June 2017 which is responsible for developing the draft strategy and action plan. The group is chaired by the LBH Director of Public



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Health, with the BHR CCG mental health lead as Vice Chair. It is attended by partners that include BHRUT, NELFT, Police, drug and alcohol treatment service, adult social care, safeguarding leads, Crossrail, etc.

A workshop for wider engagement is planned for October to further develop the draft strategy and action plan.

It is proposed that the final draft strategy and action plan be presented to the November meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration and comment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked

- to note that there is a joint strategy in development
- to receive and comment on the final draft strategy and action plan in November
- that, in order to meet the deadline that plans be produced by end 2017, the Chairman may subsequently take action to approve final versions of the strategy and action plan
- to confirm that, for Havering, the governance of the Suicide Prevention Strategy will be to the Mental Health Partnership Board (the governance of the MHPB is to the HWB)

REPORT DETAIL

No further detail

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

As this is a joint strategy and action plan, there is a risk that B&D HWB and Havering HWB may have differing views about the strategy and thus the strategy may not be agreed within the timescale required (i.e. by end 2017).



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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Health and Wellbeing Board members may wish to consider the document “Suicide Prevention: A guide for local authorities” available at https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/1.37_Suicide%20prevention%20WEB.pdf