



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:

Suicide prevention strategy for Havering

Board Lead:

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities• Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do.• Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The prevention of obesity• Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups• Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them• Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Older people and frailty and end of life• Long term conditions• Children and young people• Mental health• Planned Care <p>Cancer Primary Care Accident and Emergency Delivery Board Transforming Care Programme Board</p>

SUMMARY

An updated suicide prevention strategy for Havering is currently in development. The approach and content has been informed by national strategy, national and local evidence, and through engagement with partners who have participated in a series of workshops and discussions. All Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations have been represented at those discussions.

It is planned to finalise content during the summer months, and to launch a public consultation on the draft strategy on 10 September 2024, which is World Suicide Prevention Day.

While the strategy has been in development, local partners have continued to work to the previous three borough strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to

- (a) note that a strategy is in development
- (b) note the actions that have been taken on suicide prevention through ongoing implementation of the previous (3 borough) strategy
- (c) endorse the governance arrangements
- (d) endorse the proposed approach to consultation
- (e) respond formally to the public consultation in September

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background

Every suicide represents the painful and tragic loss of a family member, a colleague, or a neighbour.

While public health measures to reduce access to means of suicide and improve care for those at risk have contributed to a reduction in the national suicide rate since the 1980s and a notable reduction in rates of suicide across London as a whole, Havering rates have remained largely unaltered in recent years. Havering's suicide rates are now worse than London as a whole. A one page summary of the proposed strategy currently in development is included in Appendix 1.

2. The Havering Strategy

Development of the Havering Strategy is being led by the Council and NHS, with input from a wide range of stakeholders. It is informed by national strategy and evidence, and by local need, and builds on the previous strategy for Havering,



which was a joint approach between Havering, Barking and Dagenham, and Redbridge, and reflects system changes that have taken place in recent years.

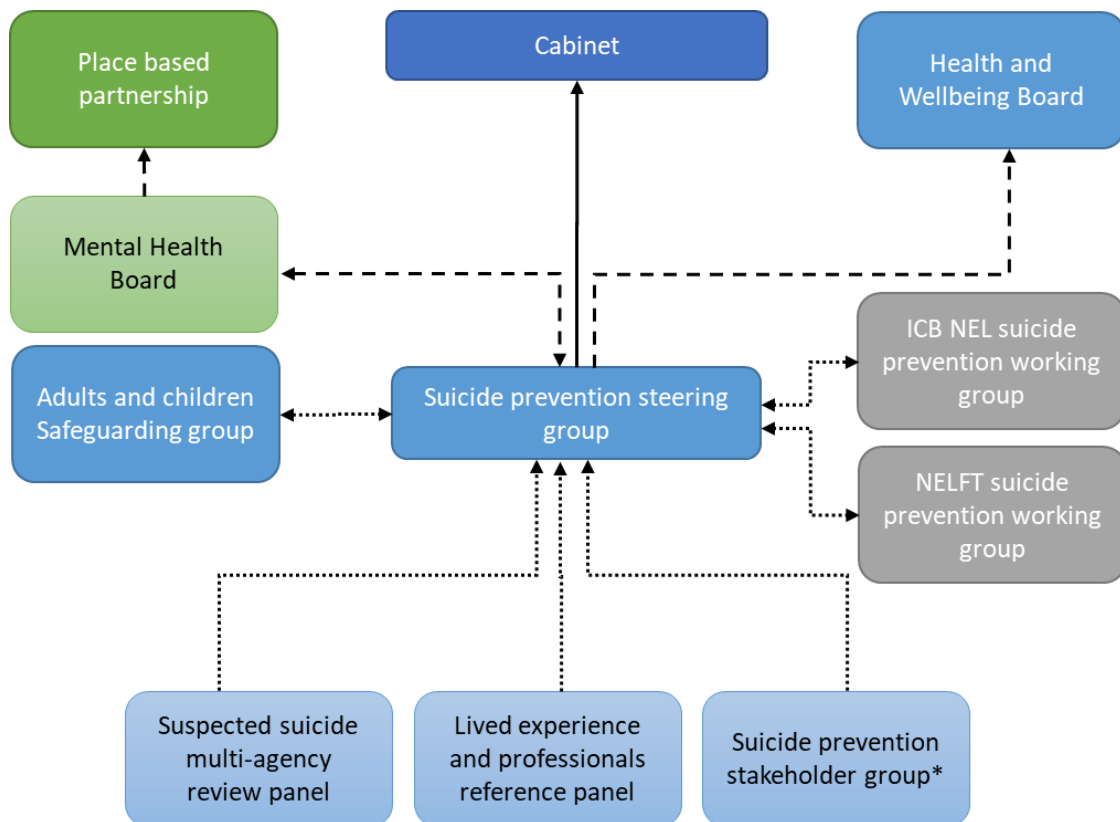
The draft strategy for Havering will set out an overall aim to reduce rates of suicide in the borough, and proposes a three themed approach to achieve this:

- ongoing identification of contributory factors to suicide and turning new knowledge into action
- continuing action on prevention, with a particular focus on reviewing policy and strategy so that suicide prevention is embedded in every relevant aspect of service delivery
- ensuring the right support for those who need it

3. Governance

It is proposed that the Suicide prevention steering group be responsible to the Havering Place Based Partnership and the Havering Health and Wellbeing Board, and accountable to Council Cabinet (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proposed governance arrangements



Key: Solid arrows indicate accountability, dashed arrows indicate responsibility and dotted arrows indicate sharing of information between groups.



The Suicide prevention steering group will comprise representatives of Council services, NHS, Safeguarding, and mental health charities.

4. Consultation

The draft strategy has been developed in consultation with key partners and stakeholders. It is planned to finalise content during the summer months, and to launch formal consultation on 10 September 2024, which is World Suicide Prevention Day.

An online consultation will be published on Citizen Space, and residents and stakeholders will be invited to have their say about the strategy by completing a quantitative style survey. At several points in the process, residents and stakeholders will be signposted to sources of support, further information, and training opportunities. The consultation will be promoted via the Council's newsletter (Living), partners' social media, and through frontline services, and will run for one calendar month. In addition to the online consultation, further consultation using qualitative methods, will take place with key stakeholders, including people with lived experience, representatives of mental health charities and groups/organisations that can represent the views of at-risk groups, particularly those whose voices might not otherwise be heard.

In order to ensure alignment with other strategies and plans across the system, the Havering draft strategy will be discussed with the following groups that are shown in the proposed Governance chart above: ICB NEL suicide prevention working group, the NELFT suicide prevention group, and the Adults and children safeguarding group.

At the conclusion of the consultation, the strategy will be revised to take into account feedback, and a final draft version produced for approval by Council Cabinet. At the same time, a detailed action plan will be finalised.

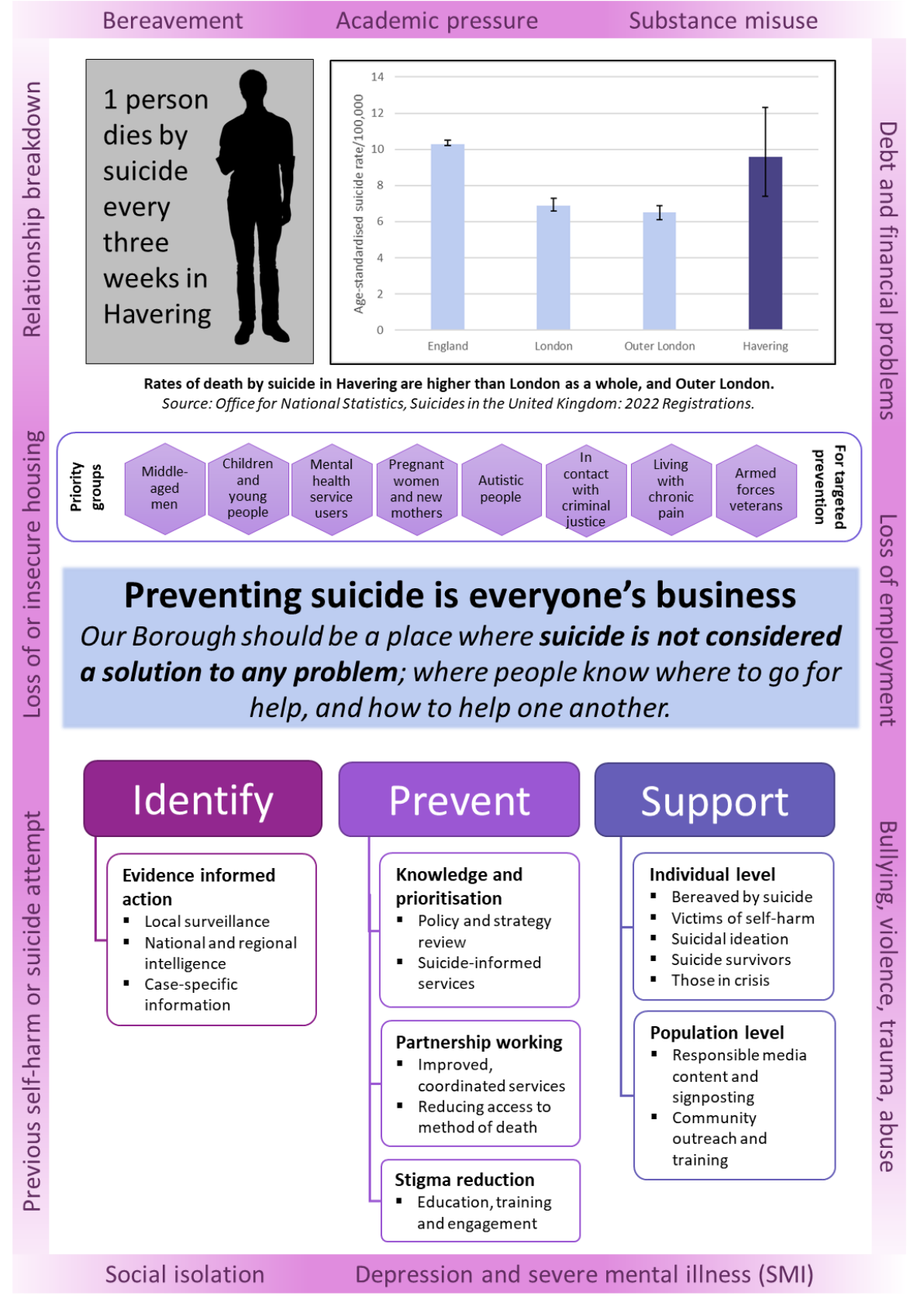
4. Current actions on suicide prevention

Throughout the time that a new strategy has been in development, partners have continued to work together on suicide prevention. Key work areas include:

- London wide Thrive-led Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance system
- Progressing development of a local review process (to understand the factors contributing to a suspected suicide and identify actions required to prevent a future suicide under similar circumstances)
- Promoting suicide prevention training and awareness
- Offering support to people bereaved by suicide
- Delivering training to target groups
- Promoting awareness of suicide risk factors to frontline workforces



Appendix 1: On a page: the proposed approach for new suicide prevention strategy (in development).





IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS
<p>There are no implications or risks associated at this stage in the development of the Havering Suicide Prevention Strategy.</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS
<p>None</p>