

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>Monday 8 October 2018</p>	
<p>Report of: Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Action Plan 1st Year Update</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Chris Lovitt, Associate Director of Public Health</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Executive Summary

This report update on progress on implementing the Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Plan adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the 20th December 2017.

A multi-agency partnership suicide prevention steering group was set up to develop the original strategy and has continued to meet throughout 2018 in order to progress actions at a borough sub regional, regional and national level. The report details actions taken against the following areas from the original strategy:-

- Early intervention and prevention
- Improving help for those in crisis
- Identifying the needs of vulnerable people
- Addressing training needs
- Communications and awareness

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note progress made on the original themes.
2. Comment on any areas which are felt to need additional actions or a different approach.
3. Agree to recommendations for metrics to be developed to enable progress to be tracked in the second year.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required to have Suicide Prevention Plans. The Tower Hamlets plan was developed by a multi- agency steering group and formally adopted by the HWB in December 2017.
- 1.2 The Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Plan has been well received both locally and in other areas and used as a model of good practice. All East London boroughs now have similar strategies.
- 1.3 Since developing the Tower Hamlets Strategy the East London and Health and Care Partnership Mental Health Workstream and also the Mayor of London's Thrive Programme have both identified areas of work that would be best taken forward at a sub-regional or regional level. These have included the near real time reporting and sharing of information on location and means of suicide attempts to enable actions to be taken to reduce means and improve crisis information. As such it is proposed that these aims of the local strategy would be best met by the work being undertaken at sub regional and regional level.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not accept the progress update.
- 2.2 Request amendments to the report.
- 2.3 Require corrections or amendments to the report.
- 2.4 Request or direct the Suicide Prevention Steering Group to take a different approach.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Working together across the Partnership significant progress has been made in implementing actions of the Suicide Prevention Plan agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board at the end of 2017.
- 3.2 A multi-agency steering group has met three times since with a huge amount of work having taken place among partners, to reduce the risk of and increase access to services for persons at risk or in crisis, of all ages. This is alongside changes to both national and regional policy that will see more people receiving and accessing perinatal and child and adolescent mental health services when they may most need it.
- 3.3 Locally a wide range of services have made improvements to better support people in crisis and reduce suicides these include:- a) The Accident and Emergency Department at the Royal London Hospital, where most people in crisis will present, have made multiple improvements to the patient environment and to the provision of appropriate support for young people requiring a psychological intervention and b) The Homeless housing service

and the Jobcentre who have started to improve staff knowledge and understanding and to develop processes that will identify and direct persons at risk to appropriate support. In the next few months residents attending the Idea Store, will be supported to identify services tailored to their individual needs, reducing barriers to access.

- 3.4 Although we have made good progress there is still more we plan to do for 2019/20 especially for Children and Young People (CYP). We are planning to provide increased support in schools and the youth services, with agencies working collaboratively to ensure that provision is targeted, universal and appropriate to need.
- 3.5 The suicide prevention steering group will be working to learn lessons both from serious case reviews and also information and intelligence from the blue light services on areas where suicides are most likely to take place. Data sharing between blue light services and local public health teams remains challenging. However, by working closely with key partners such as Thrive LDN, on pan London suicide prevention approaches work is taking place on putting places protocols to enable data sharing at a sub-regional and regional level.
- 3.6 Training is an important part of the action plan and over 460 people working and living in the borough, are now trained in suicide prevention and so building a network of individuals that can potentially prevent suicide and who feel more confident to take appropriate action.
- 3.7 In 2019/20 further training is planned and this will increase the number of people trained by a further 250 people with further training planned. Ensuring the training is reaching those who need it most on the frontline, such as in housing and/or primary care, will require some further thought, planning and targeted action.
- 3.8 More work needs to be undertaken across the broad partnership to increase the reach and capacity of national campaigns on suicide prevention, and publicise local opportunities for training on suicide prevention. In the next year to the Suicide Prevention Plan and Action Plan will be reviewed to ensure they continue to focus on local priorities whilst making the best use of regional and national opportunities.
- 3.9 Further work will be undertaken on developing metrics to monitor progress against objectives so that in future, tangible results can be presented to the Board, to aid understanding and provide a benchmark for improvement.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is national evidence that some people from groups with protected characteristics may have higher rates of suicide. Reducing suicide rates and addressing risk factors will help meet the objectives of One Tower Hamlets and reduce health inequalities.

4.2 Data on suicides has been analysed in terms of the nine protected characteristics where possible.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A number of safeguarding reports have identified recommendations in relation to suicide prevention. These are in the process of being reviewed and lessons learned will inform the work of the suicide prevention action plan.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any service expenditure incurred to deliver the Suicide Prevention Plan will be funded through existing resources including the Public Health grant.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 This is an update on progress against the Suicide Prevention Strategy adopted by the HWB in December 2017, which reflects the priorities and matters identified within the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The work being undertaken by Thrive London to put in place data sharing procedures will need to be reviewed locally to ensure it is compliant with GDPR Regulations. There are no other legal implications associated with this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Strategy
<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Public-Health/THsuicidePreventionStrategy2018.pdf>
- Public Health England: Suicide prevention: resources and guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/suicide-prevention-resources-and-guidance>
- Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG105>

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Strategy: Action Plan update 2017/8

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- NONE

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