

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p>30 April 2019</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Action Plan</b></p>	

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

### Executive Summary

This report updates on the progress in implementing the Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Plan adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017. A subsequent report on progress was presented and approved by the HWB on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

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. This report details actions taken over the last 18 months against the following areas from the original strategy and outlines actions planned for 2019/20:-

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

### Recommendations:

Health Overview and Scrutiny 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.

## **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 requesting an annual update on progress.
- 1.2 The first annual update on progress was presented to the HWB on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- 1.3 The Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Plan (SPP) has been well received and used as a model of good practice by other areas. All East London boroughs now have similar strategies.
- 1.4 The East London and Health and Care Partnership and the Mayor of London have both identified areas of work on suicide prevention that would be best taken forward at a sub-regional or regional level. These have included facilitating the near real time reporting and sharing of information on location and means of suspected suicide to enable statutory agencies to take actions to reduce risks and improve crisis information.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Not accept the progress update.
- 2.2 Request amendments to the report.
- 2.3 Request a different approach is taken.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Working together across the Partnership significant progress has been made in implementing identified 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 eight times with a significant amount of work having taken place among partners to increase access to services for persons at risk or in crisis. 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 need it most.
- 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

b) The Homeless Housing Service and the Jobcentre have improved staff understanding of people at risk of suicide and where to signpost people to who are in crisis.

- 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 Tower Hamlets was awarded the trailblazer bid to implement the proposals set out in the Green Paper 'Transforming children and young people's mental health provision'. £1.5 million will be invested over two years to establish two Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools and also to pilot a system to achieve an average waiting time of 4 weeks to enter Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) treatment.
- 3.6 The MHSTs will be able to support an additional 1,000 children and young people per year increasing access for vulnerable children, particularly with primary schools. The teams will be led by CAMHS and cover a mixed group of schools. This will build on the support already offered in schools and colleges, working with CYP with mild to moderate mental health issues and linking to specialist NHS services when needed.
- 3.7 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, a pan London suicide approach to sharing data is being developed.
- 3.8 Training is an important part of the action plan and over 597 people working and living in the borough are now trained in suicide prevention. This will build a network of individuals that can potentially help prevent suicide and who feel more confident in taking appropriate action.
- 3.9 In 2019/20 further training of an additional 250 people is planned. Ensuring the training is reaching those who need it most on the frontline, such as in housing and/or primary care, will continue to be monitored.
- 3.10 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 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.
- 3.11 Further work will be undertaken on developing metrics to monitor progress against objectives so that in future, tangible results can be presented to the HWB 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 have been reviewed and lessons learned have informed the work of the suicide prevention action plan.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This is an update on progress against The Suicide Prevention Strategy adopted by the HWB in December 2017. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 6.2 This is an update on progress against The Suicide Prevention Strategy adopted by the HWB in December 2017. The work being undertaken by Thrive Ldn 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.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Strategy: Action Plan update 2018/19
- Tower Hamlets Suicide Prevention Strategy  
<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Public-Health/THsuicidePreventionStrategy2018.pdf>
- Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board discussion on the 1<sup>st</sup> year report  
<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/g8994/Printed%20minutes%2008th-Oct-2018%2017.00%20Tower%20Hamlets%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Board.pdf?T=1>

- 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 – Action Plan 2017-19 Spring Update.

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

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

- NONE

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A