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| | <h2>Health and Wellbeing Board</h2> <h3>9th Dec 2021</h3> |
| Title | London Borough of Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025: Children and Young People Action Plan Updates |
| Report of | Director of Public Health and Prevention |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | Yes |
| Enclosures | London Borough of Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025. |
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| <h2>Summary</h2> | |
| <p>This paper presents amendments to the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021-2023 presented to the Board on 15th July 2021. The amendments incorporate additional actions on the planned activities for children and young people and are informed by a recently published National Child Mortality Database review on suicide prevention in children and young people. In addition, the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021-23 also includes more specific timescales for the delivery of actions targeting adults, as far as they have been agreed thus far. This further level of granularity on delivery timescales will be developed for all other action outcome measures in early 2022.</p> <p>The Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 provides an update to the Barnet Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2020. The overall strategic intention is that every year, the number of Barnet residents lost to suicide falls.</p> <p>The strategy was co-produced with the multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership to be appropriate to the national and our local context, to be insight-led, to be informed by evidence of what works, and importantly to be practical, achievable, and effective.</p> <p>The strategy organises our whole-system suicide and self-harm prevention response under three themes: our foundation for action, prevention, and postvention activities. Under these themes, we have identified eight areas within which we can act to improve our prevention efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights from data, research, and people with lived experience • Leadership and collaboration • Awareness | |

- Interventions
- Services & Support
- Wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing
- Bereavement support
- Community response

Within each area, this strategy defines one aim and several objectives that we will strive to achieve over the four-year duration of the strategy.

The strategy includes the first biennial action plan (2021-2023) outlining the priority suicide prevention activities agreed by partners of the Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership. To ensure that over the lifetime of the strategy our actions remain focussed yet responsive to emerging insights, we intend to collectively review our priorities and form a second biennial action plan in 2023.

When the action plan was first presented to the Board, it was agreed that further engagement on preventative actions focused on children and young people would be appropriate to strengthen the plan.

Recommendations

1. That the Board discuss and notes the amendments to the action plan.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Children and young people are significantly affected by suicide from an individual, family and community perspective. The action plan has been amended to ensure that the areas of action under each of the Barnet Suicide Prevention Framework themes (foundations for action, prevention of suicide and self-harm and postvention) have been further developed with a lens on the specific needs of children and young people.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To ensure that the resources available to the multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership have the greatest impact by taking a longer-term strategic approach to suicide prevention activities, that the specific needs of children and young people are recognised and that activities are appropriately tailored to address them.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Public Health and the Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership partners will meet on 14th December to endorse and continue implementing all the actions described in the action plan. The Partnership will meet formally twice-yearly to discuss progress against actions and course corrections. The Partnership will further develop the specific delivery timescales for all action outcome measures.

- 4.2 Regular reports on the Suicide Prevention Strategy's progress will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board; the Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee will also be briefed, as requested. The Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee will also be briefed on specific actions relating to children and young people, with the Children & Family Services Mental Health and Wellbeing Board also providing input into the delivery of these actions.
- 4.3 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership will develop and agree a second biennial action plan for 2023-2025 by 2023.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Barnet Corporate Plan 2021-2025 includes the aim to be the healthiest borough in London by focussing on mental health and wellbeing. This includes a commitment to support the mental health of children and young people and adults, including prevention, early identification of mental health issues, increasing mental health awareness and appropriate access to mental health support across the spectrum from mild need through to crisis.
- 5.1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes focus on improving mental health and wellbeing for all and makes specific reference to this Suicide Prevention strategy.
- 5.1.3 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the suicide rate and rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in Barnet and compares these with the national and London rates.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Suicide prevention is delivered within existing staffing and financial resources in Public Health and partner agencies such as NHS, Local Authority, Police, Voluntary and Community sector organisations who are funded from diverse sources and for a wide range of purposes.
- 5.2.2 North Central London Suicide Prevention activities are funded from awarded NHS England Suicide Prevention Wave 3 funding.

5.3 Social Value

Not applicable

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Barnet Council Constitution, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Board responsibilities:

“(2) To agree a Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for Barnet taking into account the findings of the JSNA and strategically oversee its implementation to ensure that improved population outcomes are being delivered.”

(3) To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the health and social care needs of the whole population of Barnet, by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move

as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing”

(5) Specific responsibilities for overseeing public health and promoting prevention agenda across the partnership”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 requires collective effort across the multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership (BSPP) to reduce the number of lives lost to suicide in Barnet. If the council or partners do not engage with the strategy and progress their actions, it may lead to poor overall delivery of the 2021-23 Action Plan. Poor engagement may also lead to failure to agree a 2023-2025 Action Plan. This could have a detrimental impact on local suicide and self-harm prevention.

5.5.2 The following controls and mitigations are in place:

5.5.2.1 The multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership was consulted throughout initial strategy development and co-owns the strategy and action plans.

5.5.2.2 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership meets twice-yearly to re-engage partners, align activities, and implement changes based on new insights. They are next meeting on 14th December.

5.5.2.3 The strategy includes by design a requirement for all partners to re-engage in 2023 to assess progress, re-prioritise and agree the Action Plan for 2023-2025.

5.5.2.4 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy is being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and included in Barnet's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Partners' progress against the action plan is reported annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee as requested.

5.5.2.5 Barnet Council's Suicide Prevention activities are supported by the North Central London Suicide Prevention Strategy Group and its activities.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Nationally, there are variations in suicide rates by age, gender, disability, maternity status, and sexual orientation. This strategy is cognisant of the disparity in the risk of suicide across different groups with protected characteristics and aims to address this disproportionate risk through targeted actions for high-risk groups.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 It is intended that the suicide prevention actions in this strategy improve the mental wellbeing and reduce the risk of self-harm and suicide for children and young people including children in care, care leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People (UASC). The amendments to the 2021-23 Action Plan include activities to strengthen the existing tailored support arrangements that are in place. For example, this involves incorporating the learning from the Camden Serious Case Review of UASC into relevant clinical protocols within the Barnet Integrated Clinical Service and into the Public Health Needs Assessment on Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 The original strategy was co-produced with the Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership through a series of workshops and written consultation.
- 5.8.2 The group comprises a broad range of local partners including representatives from the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, Police, NHS Health Trusts, Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEHMHT), Children's and Adult Social Care, Voluntary and Community Sector, and people with lived experience of suicide.
- 5.8.3 The amendments to the action plan were developed in consultation with partners from Children and Family Services (Early Help & Children's Social Care Services, Barnet Education and Learning Service, and Barnet Integrated Clinical Services), Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group. The amendments have also been shared with Designated Safeguarding Leads from Barnet primary and secondary schools, with their feedback being incorporated on an ongoing basis as delivery plans are further developed.

5.9 Insight

- 5.9.1 Our strategy, prevention framework, aims, objectives and actions are built upon the national evidence of the risk factors for suicide and self-harm, 'what works' for prevention, and insights from local and national data such as suicide rates, rates of emergency admissions for self-harm, and indicators of the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing. The insights, evidence, and policy context which informed this strategy are described in the report Appendix.
- 5.9.2 Our amendments to the action plan are also informed by the National Child Mortality Database Programme Thematic Review, published in October 2021 based on data from April 2019 to March 2020.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Suicide Prevention Plan Update, Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee, 5th October 2020.
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=179&MID=10208>
- 6.2 Original London Borough of Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-25, presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15th July 2021.
https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s65855/Barnet%20Suicide%20Prevention%20Strategy%202021%20-%202025%20_cleared.pdf
- 6.3 National Child Mortality Database Programme Thematic Review, published in October 2021.
<https://nspa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NCMD-Suicide-in-Children-and-Young-People-Report.pdf>