



Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19th October 2022

Title	Suicide Prevention Annual Report
Report of	Director of Public Health and Prevention
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Suicide Prevention Annual Report
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Summary

The Barnet Suicide Prevention strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2021. The Barnet Suicide Prevention Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022 provides an update on the actions for the first year of the 2021-25 strategy. The report has three sections:

1. Suicide and self-harm statistics
2. Suicide Prevention Programme Update
3. Future plans

Officers Recommendations

1. That the committee note the key achievements in suicide prevention during 2021/22.
2. That the committee recognise the trends in data related to suicide and self-harm in the last year.
3. That the committee continues to receive an annual update on suicide prevention.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This is the first Annual Report since the approval of the Suicide Prevention Strategy. The report provides an overview of the progress on the actions of the Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, statistics on suicide and self-harm and the future plans of the Barnet Suicide Prevention partnership to achieve the strategy actions.
- 1.2 The annual report gives an overview of updates from each key theme of the strategy. The action monitoring log can be found in the appendix of the report. This gives an update on each of the actions of the strategy. The future plans of the suicide prevention strategy details the areas in which we will be focusing for the next year.
- 1.3 2021-2022 has been a successful year for the Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership. Significant progress has been made on the agreed actions across all 8 areas of the strategy, with many completed actions despite working through the second year of the COVID pandemic and challenges posed by cost of living.
- 1.4 Of particular note, the partnership ran a particularly strong suicide prevention campaign, led by public health, which focussed on reducing lives lost to suicide in working-age men. For the three months of the campaign, no suspected suicides were recorded in the Real Time Surveillance System (RTSS), with only a slow increase in numbers since. The campaign is being evaluated with the full report due to be published shortly ready to be published. This work is getting attention across North Central London and in the region.
- 1.5 The report is provided for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the committee members are sighted on partnership efforts to reduce the lives lost to suicide in the Borough.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are asked to note the successes of the Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership, trends in lives lost to suicide and commit to receiving future reports.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the new national Suicide Prevention Strategy is underway. Public Health will facilitate a series of workshops to agree the action plan for the next two years of strategy by June 2023 to align with the national strategy as well the changing local priorities.

- 4.2 For the duration of this strategy, annual reports will continue to be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These updates will give the Committee oversight progress towards achieving the strategy.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.2 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.2.1 The previous Corporate Plan includes a commitment to ensure that people with mental health issues receive support in the community to help them stay well.
- 5.2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes focus on improving mental health and wellbeing for all and makes specific reference to the suicide prevention action plan.

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

- 5.3.1 The suicide prevention action plan is delivered within existing staffing and financial resources in Public Health and its partner agencies.
- 5.3.2 It is not possible to isolate expenditure specifically for suicide prevention because a range of NHS, Local Authority, Police, Voluntary and Community sector organisations contribute to the agenda funded from diverse sources and for a wide range of purposes.
- 5.3.3 Specific funding spent on the 2022/3 Suicide Prevention Campaign is included in the evaluation of that campaign.

5.4 Social Value

- 5.4.1 The stated aim of the Suicide Prevention Strategy is to reduce year on year the number of Barnet residents lost to suicide. The cross-cutting strategic actions fall within the prevention and healthy themes of the social value framework.

5.5 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.5.1 Section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218; Part 4 Health Scrutiny by Local Authorities - provides for the establishment of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees by local authorities.
- 5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Article 7) sets out the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as having the following responsibilities: "To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS) and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas."

5.6 Risk Management

- 5.6.1 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.

5.6.2 The following controls and mitigations are in place:

- 5.6.2.1 The multi-agency Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership was consulted throughout initial strategy development and co-owns the strategy and action plans. Plans have been adapted in response to feedback.
- 5.6.2.2 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership meets regularly to re-engage partners, align activities, and implement changes based on new insights.
- 5.6.2.3 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.
- 5.6.2.4 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy is 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 to the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee as requested.
- 5.6.2.5 Barnet's Council's Suicide Prevention activities are supported by the North Central London Suicide Prevention Strategy Group and its activities.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.7.1 A whole systems approach to suicide prevention has been taken. Particular vulnerable groups have been identified through national evidence and local insight. Actions have been put in place to focus on certain communities and individuals with protected characteristics or who may be at a higher risk of suicide.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

- 5.8.1 The Barnet Suicide Prevention Strategy is an all-age strategy which now includes close collaboration with range of partners with both adult and child focus. Investigations are currently underway to see whether approaches suicide prevention for care leavers piloted in other parts of NCL in response to a Camden Coroners report in 2019 can be extended to Barnet using time-limited funding from the Wave 3 Suicide Prevention Funding.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 Voluntary sector representatives sit on the suicide prevention partnership to ensure that their views, those of mental health service users and the broader community are represented. A small but very committed group of people who are Experts by Experience are members of the partnership and have a very strong voice in shaping the forward plan.

5.10 Insight

5.10.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the suicide rate in Barnet and compares this with the national rate.

5.10.2 The new Thrive London's Real Time Surveillance System data enable to compare number of suspected suicides in Barnet against London.

5.10.3 Further information on suicide is provided in the attached annual report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

The full strategy was presented to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information in July 2021. [Report on the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2025.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)



Appendix - Annual
Report Suicide Prever