

Health and Wellbeing Board

09 November 2016

Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-20

Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Notes the contents of, and encourages the adoption of the Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-20 by partner agencies.
2. Recommends to partner agencies that they approve adoption of a 'zero suicide' approach across Warwickshire.
3. Recommends that partner agencies support the formation of a multi-agency Suicide Prevention Partnership to implement the Strategy.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 In Warwickshire, 105 people died by suicide in 2013 and 2014. This compares to 51 people who were killed in road accidents in Warwickshire during the same time period.
- 1.2 In 2014, suicide (including injury / poisoning of undetermined intent) was the leading cause of death for young and middle aged males, in three age groups: 5-19, 20-34 and 35-49 in England and Wales.
- 1.3 A detailed audit of the Coroners' records for each of the deaths by suicide in Warwickshire during 2013 and 2014 was undertaken, led by Dr Charlotte Gath, Consultant in Public Health. This audit demonstrated that there was potential for each of these deaths to have been prevented.
- 1.4 Of the 105 people who died, around 1/3rd were in contact with secondary mental health services, a further 1/3rd had a mental health diagnosis (usually depression) in primary care, and a further 1/3rd had no identified mental health issues.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 The Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy outlines 7 key priority areas for implementation:

Priority 1	Reducing the risk of suicide in key high risk groups
Priority 2	Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
Priority 3	Reduce access to the means of suicide
Priority 4	Reducing the impact of suicide
Priority 5	Supporting the media in delivery sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.
Priority 6	Improving data and evidence
Priority 7	Working together

- 2.2 The development of the Warwickshire Strategy and action plan is based upon the National Suicide Prevention Alliance's key areas for action, and is aligned to the UK Governments published "Preventing suicide in England: A cross government outcomes strategy to save lives (2012), and Public Health England's "Guidance for developing a local suicide prevention action plan" (2014). The priorities in the Warwickshire strategy reflect the need to focus interventions to prevent suicide in:
- Secondary care – through collaborative working with Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust;
 - Primary Care – through working with Clinical Commissioning Groups;
 - and, through a multi-agency community based approach involving the voluntary sector and people whose lives have been affected by suicide.
- 2.3 The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health (Mental Health Taskforce) Report of February 2016 set a target to reduce suicide by 10% by 2020/21. This would mean at least 5 fewer deaths in Warwickshire, per year, by 2020.
- 2.4 However, the West Midlands Mental Health Commission is currently considering adopting a "zero suicide" approach across the West Midlands, as pioneered successfully in Merseyside. This would mean adopting the ambition to reduce suicides as far as possible towards zero, by not accepting the principle that many suicides are inevitable, or unavoidable. It is this approach which is recommended to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval, and the Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy outlines an action plan to work towards this.
- 2.5 Key to the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan is the formation of a multi-agency partnership, and the Health and Wellbeing Board is further requested to endorse the formation of this.

3.0 Timescales and next steps

- 3.1 As a first step, by the end of 2016, a countywide suicide prevention event will be held to launch the strategy and start the process of developing the multi-agency partnership. Part of this process will include dissemination of the strategy to partners, asking for their agreement and support through their respective governing bodies. This will include Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet and Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Bodies for example.

- 3.2 Progress against the action plan will be monitored after one year of beginning implementation, and at that time an update report will be produced for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background papers

1. Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-20,
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