

Health and Wellbeing Board

11 January 2023

Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023 - 2030

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Endorses the content of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023 – 2030;
2. Consider their organisational contributions to suicide prevention and identify any governance routes for approving and sharing the Strategy;
3. Supports the delivery of the strategic ambitions and local priorities as set out in strategy and delivery plan through collaboration with the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Partnership; and
4. Requests a formal presentation of the Strategy and Delivery Plan at the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum at its meeting in March 2023.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following completion of the NHS England (NHSE) funded national suicide prevention programme in Coventry and Warwickshire (2018 – 2021) work has been underway to develop a new partnership work programme that sets out a vision for suicide prevention in Coventry and Warwickshire until 2030.
- 1.2 Early engagement on this process identified that the new work programme should build on the work developed through the NHSE funded programme and bring together the previously separate (and now out of date) suicide prevention strategies for Coventry and Warwickshire into a single system-wide strategy and approach.
- 1.3 A significant amount of engagement has been undertaken to test the draft vision, strategic ambitions and local priorities and help shape the content of the strategy.
- 1.4 In addition, there has been a refresh of the existing partnership arrangements for delivering the suicide prevention work programme and a review of the

governance structures that are needed to embed suicide prevention at an organisational and system level.

- 1.5 As a system-wide strategy, the delivery of the associated work programme will be undertaken as part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System, with partners involved in developing, implementing, and where appropriate resourcing the actions that will help achieve the vision, ambitions and priorities of the strategy.
- 1.6 The new Strategy promotes taking a zero-suicide approach, with the overall aim **to reduce the rate of suicide across Coventry and Warwickshire**.
- 1.7 A new and evolving Suicide Prevention Delivery Plan will set out the actions and activity required to achieve the strategy's ambitions. This will also aim to:
 - Show activity required or delivered at a system, place and local level
 - Outline delivery mechanisms across the whole system
 - Demonstrate alignment and association to related activity or programmes of work
 - Show lines of accountability and responsible delivery partners.
- 1.8 Both the Health and Wellbeing Boards in Coventry and Warwickshire will monitor the Suicide Prevention Delivery Plan, with progress and impact reported on an annual basis.
- 1.9 Highlight reports will also be presented to other appropriate local strategic boards to ensure the suicide prevention programme is reflected in and aligned to other work stream areas. This includes the Boards overseeing Safeguarding, Community Safety, Wider Determinants (eg. Housing, Education, Financial Inclusion), Equalities (eg. Armed Forces) and the Place Partnerships.
- 1.10 The Strategy and ongoing delivery of the work programme is led and overseen by the Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council Public Health Teams on behalf of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Partnership.
- 1.11 The Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Partnership is the multi-agency mechanism for working together towards the vision that no-one in Coventry and Warwickshire ever feels that suicide is their only option.
- 1.12 The Partnership is made up of organisations, groups, communities and individuals from across Coventry and Warwickshire, who collectively deliver three distinct functions, each with their own area of responsibility:
 - **Network:** enables joint working, information sharing and networking amongst all members to contribute to the vision and ambitions of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy

- **Steering Group:** provides leadership, expertise and accountability for the wider partnership
- **Learning Panel:** considers the local data on deaths by suicide and suspected suicide as captured through the real time surveillance system to identify learning points to inform local suicide prevention activity. Monthly insight meetings are also scheduled in response to specific groups, patterns, or trends of deaths by suicide.

- 1.13 The Partnership aims to take a holistic approach to suicide prevention, starting with the individual and building to an environment that supports a suicide aware society.
- 1.14 There are ongoing conversations regarding the links between suicide and related risk factors, including substance misuse, domestic abuse and self-harm. Further work is planned to identify specific actions that could be explored in relation to this. The Strategy itself also identifies these links and the need for a collective response.
- 1.15 The final draft of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy and outline Delivery Plan is being presented to both the local Health and Wellbeing Boards in Coventry and Warwickshire for endorsement as the bodies responsible for encouraging integrated working such as the development of a system-wide partnership strategy for suicide prevention.
- 1.16 The new Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy will contribute directly to the delivery of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, both in terms of its long-term ambitions and short-term priority areas.

| WARWICKSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY | | |
|--|---|---|
| Healthy People | Strong Communities | Effective Services |
| Help our children and young people have the best start in life | Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities | Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health |

COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY
No-one in Coventry and Warwickshire should ever feel like suicide is their only option.

People have access to the information, support and services they need

People are confident to talk about suicide

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Target our approach for those groups and communities at a higher risk of suicide | Increase awareness to help change public attitudes about suicide | Promote suicide prevention as a priority within the wider health and wellbeing activity of system partners (public, private, VCSE sectors) | Sharing learning and data to ensure that prevention activity is targeted in response to locally identified priorities | Facilitate coproduction, collaboration and coordination to maximise the impact of suicide prevention activity across C&W |
|--|--|--|---|--|

1.17 A content only version of the final draft Strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**.

1.18 An outline Delivery Plan for the early phase implementation of the Strategy will be presented at the meeting. It is intended that the Delivery Plan will evolve over time to reflect the organisational and sectoral contributions of system partners.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no capital implications related to the delivery of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy.

2.2 Warwickshire County Council has committed dedicated resource to the development and implementation of suicide prevention activity across Warwickshire. This includes the permanent employment of a Suicide Prevention and Partnership Manager (commenced September 2021).

2.3 A small project budget was also initially made available (by Warwickshire County Council) for the first 2 years to support the implementation and embedding of the new Suicide Prevention Strategy. This includes a dedicated allocation for suicide prevention activity across Coventry and Warwickshire for 2023-24.

2.4 There will be further resource implications across all partners to support ongoing suicide prevention activity where this cannot be absorbed into existing budgets or as part of ongoing activity. For example:

- Suicide awareness and prevention training
- Awareness campaigns and resources
- Service redesign or transformation
- Sustainability of Real Time Surveillance system
- Exploration of a local Suicide Review process

2.5 There are also opportunities to explore alternative funding streams to meet some of these costs, including: social value commitments, joint prevention

programmes (particularly around risk or causal factors) and external or national funding programme.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The most recent suicide data shows that the suicide rates in Warwickshire are currently 11.2 per 100,000 (2019-21). This represents a slight increase from the previous figures (9.2 per 100,000 for 2018-2020) The comparative figures for Coventry are 9.3 per 100,000 (2019-2021). For the same time frame, the West Midlands region and England as a whole, the figures are 10.7 and 10.4 respectively.

4.2 Whilst there is some variation in these rates between the district/boroughs within Warwickshire, the overall picture shows an increase in the suicide rate – which is higher than both the regional and national average.

4.3 Positively, this national data shows a decline in the overall suicide rate in Warwickshire since a peak in 2014-16 (12.2 per 100,00). It is however important to note that national figures are up to 2 years behind real time data at the point at which the data is reported.

4.4 To address this, it is critical that we can identify real time figures across Coventry and Warwickshire in order that we can respond to emerging trends or areas of concern in a timely manner.

4.5 A local Real Time Surveillance (RTS) system (for suspected suicides) was developed and as part of the NHSE funded suicide prevention programme, and the data collected through this process ensures we have access to weekly figures which are used to provide quarterly updates to system partners. Importantly this information also enables us to activate an immediate response if a potential cluster is identified.

4.6 In the current climate of financial uncertainty and societal challenges and the increased anxiety that this can cause, it is increasingly important that we are able to monitor any changes in suicide trends. This would include new or emerging trends in the demographic profile, location or method used and background circumstances of people who die by suicide.

4.7 Discussions are currently underway to identify long term funding to secure the future of this as an essential and ongoing part of the suicide prevention programme.

4.8 The existing National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England ('Preventing suicide in England: A cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives'): identifies seven key areas for action. These are:

- Reducing the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
- Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
- Reduce access to the means of suicide
- Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
- Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
- Support research, data collection and monitoring
- Reducing rates of self-harm as an indicator for suicide risk

4.9 A new National Plan for Suicide Prevention is currently in development and will outline the new national priorities. Coventry and Warwickshire are committed to supporting with the delivery of the new national strategy and will align to the national priorities within the local delivery plan, at the same time reflecting local needs across the area.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Once endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Boards, a final designed version of the Strategy will be presented to the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum for information.
- 5.2 This will include a request to partners to consider their organisational contributions to suicide prevention and identify any governance routes for approving and sharing the Strategy.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Partnership hosts a multi-agency Suicide Prevention Conference in spring 2023. This will help shape the delivery plan and gain partnership support for the ongoing delivery and embedding of suicide prevention activity across Coventry and Warwickshire.
- 5.4 The Suicide Prevention Delivery Plan will be reviewed and refreshed every two years to reflect local circumstances and changes within the national guidance.
- 5.5 There are ongoing discussions to ensure that the Strategy is presented and available in a variety of formats to ensure it is accessible to the widest audience.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2030

Background Papers

1. Equality Impact Assessment

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Cllr Jo Barker