

***Integration Joint Board***

**Date of Meeting: 31 March 2021**

**Title of Report: Suicide Prevention Action Plan**

**Presented by: Joanna Macdonald**

**The Board is asked to:**

- Consider the issues raised in the action plan and impacts on Argyll & Bute Communities
- Endorse the Action Plan and provide the accountability for delivery

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This paper presents the Argyll & Bute Suicide Prevention Action Plan on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Group. The plan seeks to address Suicide and the impact of Suicide within communities in Argyll & Bute enabling a Suicide Safer Community reducing stigma and developing support.
- 1.2 It also seeks to maximise resource and approach between agencies and disciplines all working towards a common goal of Suicide Prevention.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

The Scottish Governments vision is for a Scotland where suicide is preventable and help and support is available to those contemplating suicide and those who have lost a loved one. Suicide prevention is everyone's business and this plan seeks to localise the approach in Argyll & Bute and make it a Suicide Safer Community.

The plan extends the work undertaken nationally and enables Argyll & Bute to localise its approach to Suicide Prevention.

**3. DETAIL OF REPORT**

- 3.1 During the pandemic response the Suicide Prevention Group was unable to fully complete the scoping required for a robust action plan. After reconvening in autumn 2020 as part of the remobilisation the group has reconsidered membership, established themed sub groups and progressed the action plan to its current stage.

The Chief Officer of the HSCP has chaired the group to ensure progress within timescale and address a serious issue affecting our communities

in Scotland. Suicide is never alone leaving a significant impact on families and loved ones. The plan will in line with strategic priorities consider a trauma informed approach to planned interventions.

The action plan is presented a living document with a view to extending the reach of the plan into all areas of the community.

Since the autumn we have reviewed and established data in Argyll and Bute, benchmarked against other areas on how to work across multiple agencies after a suicide and tasked the sub groups to deliver key actions. We are reviewing the use of technology and how this can potentially tie in with information provision other areas of service delivery such as alcohol and substance misuse.

The group have considered training and education including young people.

#### **4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS**

Data on reported suicides, accidental death related to drugs and alcohol.

#### **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Supports the promotion of health and wellbeing across all communities and age groups.

#### **6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **6.1 Financial Impact**

None at present

##### **6.2 Staff Governance**

None at present

##### **6.3 Clinical Governance**

Supporting the development of a suicide safer community permeates across service provision and community support and is not only pertinent in mental health services.

#### **7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY**

The suicide prevention group is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group looking at the support needs of children and adults who are or may be impacted by suicide.

#### **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

Suicide does not discriminate and the action plan would seek to reach all members of Argyll & Bute communities. Equality and Diversity will be a key driving theme of any activity.

#### **9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE**

Compliant

#### **10. RISK ASSESSMENT**

Communities and individuals have lived under restrictions for a year often having to deal with loss, illness and strain isolated from wider friends and family. Additional pressures can impact on our mental health and as such we are prepared for a higher presentation of individuals experiencing distress. This action plan is timely in bringing a range of agencies together who are frontline and can bring their experience and intelligence from their communities to inform the requirements.

### 11. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Suicide Safer Communities will involve all aspects of the community and a plan will be produced by the communications sub group. We will seek the lived experience of those who have contemplated and attempted suicide and those who have been affected by suicide.

### 12. CONCLUSIONS

The suicide prevention group would welcome the endorsement of the Suicide Prevention Plan and will report on progress.

### 13. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	<b>Directions to:</b>	tick
	No Directions required	x
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

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