



## SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD Report

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
<b>Title of report</b>	<b>Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy</b>			
<b>This report is for</b> (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	x	Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	Information only (No recommendations)
<b>Reporting Officer &amp; email</b>	Gordon Kochane <a href="mailto:Gordon.kochane@shropshire.gov.uk">Gordon.kochane@shropshire.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Which Joint Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply</b>	Children & Young People	x	Joined up working	
	Mental Health	x	Improving Population Health	x
			Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)	x
<b>What inequalities does this report address?</b>	People at greater risk of suicide and those who have been impacted or bereaved by suicide			

### Report content

#### 1. Executive Summary

The Board are asked to agree the ambitions and commitments proposed within the new Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy, which covers the 3 year period 2023 to 2026.

The Strategy has been co-produced by the multi-agency Suicide Prevention Action Group.

The priorities which will contribute towards achieving the Strategy vision to significantly reduce the number of people who take their life in Shropshire include;

- Targeted offers for higher risk groups (as identified by national evidence and local need).
- Improve opportunities and accessibility to offers that will address our residents' wellbeing concerns and contribute towards reducing health inequalities in Shropshire
- Enhance research, data collection and monitoring.
- Continue to develop the suicide bereavement service and postvention offers for anyone impacted by a suicide or possible suicide death.
- Increase reach of suicide risk awareness and appropriate skills for intervention.
- Raise awareness of the range of resources, information and support available for anyone impacted by suicide

Although previously a joint Suicide Prevention Strategy was in place across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, following feedback from the most recent stakeholder consultation it has been agreed by the STW Suicide Prevention Network that each Local Authority area will have its own Suicide Prevention Strategy. This is to allow greater flexibility to adapt to local need and demographic. As such the document presented here is specific for the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy ("the Strategy"). As such all references to Shropshire within this summary report and within the Strategy relate to the population and area covered by Shropshire Local Authority rather than the county of Shropshire. It is important to highlight however, that the vision, ambition and priorities remain consistent between both the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy and Telford & Wrekin Strategy documents.

#### 2. Recommendations

That the Board:

- i. Considers endorsement on the Strategy (attached) prior to going to partner governing bodies and Council Cabinet for approval
- ii. Contribute to the development of the Action Plan required to underpin delivery of the Strategy

### 3. Report

Please see attached Appendix 1: Draft Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy document.

The Suicide Prevention Strategy for Shropshire has been updated and refreshed by the Suicide Prevention Action Group.

Although the suicide rate in Shropshire is not statistically different to the England average, there were still 99 deaths recorded as suicide in the Shropshire local authority area between 2019 and 2021 (the latest reporting period from OHID Fingertips). However, every death by suicide is one too many. As such the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Group subscribe to a zero-suicide philosophy. We believe suicide can be prevented but requires a system commitment to respond, including a suicide aware and trauma informed workforce, the addressing of stigma associated with suicide and need to mobilise resources effectively so the right support can be connected to the right people at the right time.

This Strategy replaces the previous joint Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Suicide Prevention Strategy which launched in 2017 and which focused on improving integrated working between agencies, promoting a universal response to suicide risk and promoting greater awareness of suicide risk and intervention throughout our workforce and communities. This new Strategy builds upon these foundations with greater focus on targeted and tailored approaches for higher risk cohorts.

This includes (but not limited to) men, people who self-harm, CYP and young adults, people already in contact with services where suicide risk is identified, people living and working in rural areas or farming communities, military veterans, people with protected characteristics and people struggling from wider social risks (including financial insecurity, substance misuse, abuse, housing concerns etc).

In addition to the targeted approach for higher risk groups, the priorities of the new Strategy include;

1. Improve opportunities and accessibility to offers that will address our residents' wellbeing concerns and contribute towards reducing health inequalities in Shropshire, particularly for those impacted by suicide or suicide ideation
2. Enhance research, data collection and monitoring to provide greater understanding of local risk and to use an evidence base to guide appropriate response (such as through the use of real time surveillance and death learning reviews)
3. To continue to enhance the suicide bereavement service and postvention offers for anyone bereaved by a suicide or possible suicide death. This will include exploration of commitment within the ICS to continue funding to provide this offer (currently provided across the STW ICS area by Shropshire MHS and Telford Mind) - the current model has been funded via a NHSE funding bid which expires at the end 2023/24.
4. To increase the reach of suicide risk awareness and appropriate skills for intervention, to promote suicide aware communities and ensuring we have a workforce that has the appropriate confidence to manage conversations around suicide, how to signpost or how to deliver an intervention.
5. To enhance communications and messages to promote the range of resources, information and support available for anyone struggling with or impacted by suicide.

It is noted, that the draft version of this document that was shared for stakeholder consultation was also intended to be a joint Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin document, however, following feedback from the consultation it was decided for each Local Authority area to have their own Suicide Prevention Strategy which can then be utilised alongside the Action Plan (being developed by each of the Suicide Prevention Action Groups) to better reflect local demography and need. The core ambition and objectives remain the same across both documents however, how these will be delivered will differ. We will continue to have one STW Suicide Prevention Network and still seek opportunities for both areas to work together on shared projects covering the county of Shropshire (such as suicide bereavement and real time surveillance).

The Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy shares many of the strategic priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and through delivery is anticipated to positively contribute towards achievement of the Shropshire Plan strategic objectives. The success of the ambitions presented within this Strategy also correlate with progress of wider system programmes including the population health, inequalities and health and care priorities presented within the Integrated Care Strategy and commitments from the Joint Forward Plan for the STW Integrated Care System. This Strategy also sits alongside other strategies that focus on wider social determinants that can be linked to suicide risk including substance misuse and domestic abuse.

The Strategy covers the period 2023 to 2026. This 3 year period has been agreed due to the national suicide prevention strategy not yet being available and uncertainty from NHSE as to plans around future funding for suicide prevention for local areas.

Workstream subgroups of the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Group are being established to focus on each of the Strategy priorities. These invite members of the Action Group and other stakeholders with an active interest to;

1. Define specific actions for the achieving the priority and to contribute towards the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Plan
2. Identify opportunities for shared resources with other work programmes that may be supporting similar cohorts or similar ambitions
3. Share local knowledge and insight about emerging themes or risk to be escalated to the main Action Group to agree response (including possible task and finish projects)

If anyone would be interested in supporting the work of the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Group or to contribute towards the more focused workstream priority groups, please contact [Gordon.kochane@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.kochane@shropshire.gov.uk) to discuss further.

**Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal**

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

There is opportunity in mitigating suicide risk and tackling inequalities which can be associated following bereavement by suicide, to enable anyone in Shropshire impacted by suicide to ensure their needs are met.

Opportunities to;

- Reduce the number of suicide deaths in Shropshire with a particular focus on cohorts where national evidence identifies higher associated risk
- Recognise and take action on the specific health inequalities that affect those with suicide ideation of have been bereaved by suicide or suspected suicide
- Recognise and take action to address barriers and promote easier access for people impacted by suicide from accessing earlier, appropriate and meaningful person-centred support
- Ensure a suicide aware and trauma informed workforce that has the skills, confidence and compassion to appropriately respond to concerns of suicide

<p><b>Financial implications</b> (Any financial implications of note)</p>	<p>There will be financial considerations of agreement to progress this work as a whole system is agreed. Current monies from a NHSE funding grant have been in place from 2020 but will only take us up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>This grant money has enabled projects to progress focused on providing subsidised (or free to access in some cases) suicide prevention and interventions training across our workforces and communities, investment in real time surveillance and development of resources to mitigate suicide risk/raise awareness. This grant has been used along with some additional financial support provided by the NHS Midlands Partnership University NHS FT in 2023/24 to fund our voluntary sector led suicide bereavement service and to grow the suicide postvention offers.</p> <p>Consideration of future funding to achieve the ambitions within the Strategy will need to be discussed and agreed by the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board and ICS. Of particular note, is the requirement for all ICS areas to provide a suicide postvention offer (interventions which support anyone impacted or bereaved by a suicide or suspected suicide death).</p> <p>It is however, noted that the Shropshire Council Director of Public Health is committed to continue supporting the suicide prevention agenda and Public Health resources have been made available to fund a Public Mental Health post to work with partners on the delivery of this Strategy beyond March 2024.</p> <p>It is noted, greater clarity over access to future central government funds (if any) should be presented following the publication of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (to be launched before the end of 2023).</p>	
<p><b>Climate Change Appraisal as applicable</b></p>	<p>This report has no direct effect on energy and fuel consumption, renewable energy generation, carbon offsetting or mitigation or climate change adaptation.</p> <p>It is however, recognised that access to high quality and safe environments that are conducive to promoting opportunities for communities to positively connect and interact, to have well maintained green space to promote mental wellbeing and wider determinant considerations such as addressing fuel poverty whilst being environmentally aware will all contribute towards achieving the ambitions of this strategy.</p>	
<p><b>Where else has the paper been presented?</b></p>	<p>System Partnership Boards</p>	
	<p>Voluntary Sector</p>	
	<p>Other</p>	
<p><b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b></p>		

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)** Portfolio holders can be found [here](#) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead

Cllr Cecilia Motley – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Communities

Rachel Robinson – Executive Director, Health, Wellbeing and Prevention

**Appendices**

Appendix A: Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy