



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 23.01.2023

From: Jane Fowles, Consultant in Public Health

Title: Suicide Prevention Strategy

1 Purpose

To notify the board of the development of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023 - 2030. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that no one in Coventry and Warwickshire ever feels that suicide is their only option. This strategy has been drafted based on Coventry and Warwickshire Mental Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) recommendations as well as reflecting feedback from engagement sessions.

Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council have previously had separate Suicide Prevention Strategy's. The approach was taken to align this strategy to the Mental Health JSNA, creating a system Coventry and Warwickshire system wide strategy.

The strategy will be presented to both Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Boards for endorsement in January 2023.

2 Recommendations

- To endorse the content of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023 – 2030
- To request that Board members consider their organisational contributions to suicide prevention and identify any governance routes for approving and sharing the Strategy
- To support 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
- To request 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. To consider the proposed PNA and provide comments where necessary during the formal consultation period

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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build on the work developed through the NHSE funded programme and bring together the previously separate (and now out of date) suicide prevention strategies for Coventry and Warwickshire into a single system-wide strategy and approach.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The new Strategy promotes taking a zero-suicide approach, with the overall aim **to reduce the rate of suicide across Coventry and Warwickshire**.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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.

- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 The new Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy will contribute directly to the delivery of the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy, both in terms of its long-term ambitions and short-term priority areas.

4 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no capital implications related to the delivery of the Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- 4.2 Warwickshire County Council has committed dedicated resource to the development and implementation of suicide prevention activity across Coventry and Warwickshire. This includes the permanent employment of a Suicide Prevention Manager based in Warwickshire County Council's Public Health Team.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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

4.5 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.

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.

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