

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### Suicide Prevention (Young People)

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

This report provides an update to members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the action undertaken by Lancashire County Council (LCC) to address teenage suicide.

The overall approach taken by LCC and wider Integrated Care System (ICS) colleagues to suicide prevention is all age in focus, with certain aspects of work detailed here specifically relating to young people.

#### Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note and comment on the report.
- ii. Discuss and formulate any further recommendations from the information provided.

#### Background and Advice

The work outlined in this report is intended to contribute towards the wider Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System aim of a 10% reduction in suicide.

#### The Data (2008 to 2017 in Lancashire (12 districts)):

- Deaths from suicides and injury of undetermined intent formed 19% of all deaths in teenagers; the second highest cause of teenage deaths after accidents. In the UK, suicide is the leading cause of death in young people, accounting for 14% of deaths in 10-19 year olds and 21% of deaths in 20-34 year olds.
- There were 248 teenage (13-19 year olds) deaths from all causes, 46 of which were from suicide and injury of undetermined intent, with 10 (22%) females and 36 (78%) males.

- Based on aggregated 2008-2017 figures in Lancashire the rate (per 100,000) of deaths by suicide and injury of undetermined intent:
  - In 10-14 year olds (0.3) is similar to the England rate (0.2)
  - In 15-19 year olds (6.1) is higher than the England rate (3.7) (although not a statistically significant difference)
- One child in five has had a serious mental health problem at least once by age 11; with boys twice as likely as girls to experience this.
- 13% of all teenage deaths amongst residents of deprivation quintile 1 (20% most deprived, nationally) are due to suicide and injury of undetermined intent (10 out of total of 75).
- 31% of all teenage deaths amongst residents of deprivation quintile 5 (20% least deprived, nationally) are due to suicide and injury of undetermined intent (10 out of total of 32).

### **Current Activity:**

- LCC has adopted the Integrated Care System (ICS) suicide prevention action plan (Logic Model) as detailed in Appendix 'A'.
- LCC has developed and hosts the Lancashire Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Partnership, a multi-agency group that has come together to help deliver the Lancashire suicide prevention action plan.
- Work is ongoing with the national Time to Change team to train staff of local service providers (LCC commissioned and NHS colleagues) and Lancashire schools.
- LCC has commissioned Lancaster University to provide an Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service. This service provides training and assessment skills to staff working in educational establishments in Lancashire to enable them to better identify and support young people with emerging mental health issues, better navigate and understand relevant services and to support their own wellbeing. The service now covers from year 6 upwards to include the transition periods: primary to secondary, secondary to college and college to university.
- LCC has commissioned Positive Action in the Community (PAC) to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid training.
- LCC has commissioned Young Addaction to provide support and treatment to young people and families around substance misuse issues, which often includes wider vulnerabilities such as Child Sexual Exploitation, as traumas that may give rise to suicidal ideation.
- LCC is currently hosting a Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government funded 'Trailblazer' pilot programme '[Breathing Space Lancashire](#)' supporting young people at risk of homelessness across East Lancashire.
- The ICS multi agency Children and Young Peoples Wellbeing work is adopting the THRIVE (see <https://www.thriveapproach.com/the-thrive-approach/>) approach. LCC officers are involved in this and are connecting to our commissioned services to ensure a joined up approach.
- LCC is working with ICS colleagues to develop a Contagion Protocol to support young people in the event of a young person's suicide.

## **Proposed Activity:**

- Finalising and implementing the Contagion Protocol.
- Continuing to strengthen links with Children's Social Care.
- Develop specific website space for suicide prevention.
- Deliver the 'Prevention' work stream of the Lancashire Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Partnership action plan , including:
  - Building understanding and reducing stigma utilising the experience of those affected.
  - Expanding and rolling out projects that have worked in other parts of the county e.g. the Orange badge scheme in Lancaster (a simple training and identification project enabling individuals to approach trained people for support).
  - The re-establishment of the school theatre project where schools are invited to put a short performance together exploring key themes.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

This report has no significant risk implications.

## **Financial**

The work that is outlined above is funded from within the existing county council revenue budget.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
NA		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
NA