

**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**  
(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

**Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Subject: Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Plan (DRAFT)**

**Date of meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**Report by: Director of Public Health**

**Wards affected: Relevant to all wards**

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**1. Requested by:** Jason Horsley, Director of Public Health

**2. Purpose:**

- To update the HWB on the development of a Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Plan (currently in draft).
- To seek HWB support for a Suicide Prevention Plan, and specifically commitment from members that their respective organisations/teams will *own* actions – as appropriate - within the Plan.
- To gain any initial feedback, and to ask that further comments are sent to Amy McCullough, Consultant in Public Health ([Amy.McCullough@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.McCullough@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)).

**3. Information Requested**

Please refer to the enclosed DRAFT Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Plan.

Background information:

Suicide is often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events. Suicide affects children, young people and adults – whether by taking their own life or as a person bereaved by suicide. Whilst death by suicide is highest in middle-aged men (i.e. 40-44 years), suicide is also a leading cause of death (nationally) for young people aged 15-24 years. In Portsmouth around 24 people, about 78% males, take their own lives by suicide each year. This is higher as a rate than the England average.

Suicides are not inevitable. There are many ways in which services, communities, individuals and society as a whole can help to prevent suicides. In Portsmouth, we **aim to reduce the number of suicides in the city by at least 10% over the next three years.** This 10% reduction is in line with the 5 Year Forward View for Mental Health (Independent Mental Health Taskforce for NHS England, 2016), which also recommends every local area having a multi-agency suicide prevention plan in place.

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By combining the national and local evidence base, seven key areas for action have been identified to support delivery of our aim:

1. Achieve city wide leadership for suicide prevention
2. Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
3. Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
4. Reduce access to the means of suicide
5. Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
6. Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
7. Support research and data collection

As well as suicide being preventable, key messages learned from practice and research are that suicide is everyone's business, and that collaborative working is key to successful suicide prevention. In Portsmouth a multi-agency partnership group (*Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Partnership*) has been set up to oversee the development and implementation of the Suicide Prevention Plan. The Partnership includes representatives from Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, the voluntary sector, community and acute health providers, emergency services, and other partners (see **Appendix 1** of the Suicide Prevention Plan for further detail).

Having all partners committed to contributing time to supporting action, and identifying any supporting resource, is all the more important given that there is no new financial resource to support this Plan.

Why we are tabling the draft Suicide Prevention Plan

Tabling the Suicide Prevention Plan while it is a draft enables the HWB to feedback and inform the final Plan, both in terms of the content and the process for developing the Plan (i.e. stakeholder engagement). It also provides an opportunity for Public Health to gain the commitment of HWB members to supporting the delivery of the Plan, which will inform further more detailed discussions with stakeholders on which actions are appropriate for different organisations/teams to own. It is envisaged that the final Plan will be submitted to the HWB for sign-off in February 2018.

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Signed by (Director)

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**Portsmouth**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Appendices:** Please refer to the enclosed DRAFT Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Plan.

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
Portsmouth Suicide Prevention Plan (DRAFT)	See attached paper.