

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

24 April 2025

Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise the work being done to reduce suicide and self-harm through proactively improving population mental health and wellbeing in Nottingham, and by responding to the known risks.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) to make any comments or recommendations in response to the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Health's report on the work being done to prevent suicide and self-harm in Nottingham; and
- 2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Suicide Prevention was carried out in 2023, following the conclusion of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy for 2019-23 – the implementation of which had been considered by the Committee in April 2021. The JSNA established the data, services, assets and unmet need in relation to self-harm and suicide, informing the local focus on preventing suicide and on improving support for people who have self-harmed or those bereaved by suicide.
- 3.2 Currently, of the 17 people who die by suicide in the UK every day, 5 would previously have been in contact with mental health services. As a result, the national Suicide Prevention Strategy emphasises the importance of population-wide approaches that address common risk factors linked to suicide, and provide consistent and timely person-centred support for people who are at risk of or affected by suicide and self-harm, including targeted and tailored support to the most vulnerable groups.
- 3.3 As a result, a new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Strategy has been developed, accompanied by a Suicide Prevention Charter. The voices and perspectives of people with personal experience or bereavement in relation to self-harm and suicide have been central to the development process, particularly as part of the Charter Co-Development

Group and Strategic Steering Group. Engagement with local people through the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Network has enabled wider reach and ongoing engagement with Nottingham people.

- 3.4 The vision and ambitions of the new Strategy and Charter are based on a population-wide approach, where everyone – not only those who work in mental health or suicide prevention services – can make an important contribution to preventing self-harm and suicide. The shared strategic vision is that “Suicide prevention is everyone’s business. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire will be a place where organisations and people understand what they can do to promote wellbeing and reduce suicide and self-harm. Everyone affected by suicidality, suicide bereavement and self-harm will be treated with respect and have access to resources to support them and opportunities to build hope.” The Strategy has four major ambitions, which are to:
- promote a safe and stigma-free environment;
 - promote wellbeing and reduce risk in at-risk groups;
 - ensure people get the right support at the right time and in the right place; and
 - ensure local data and lived experience informs and drives self-harm and suicide prevention.

- 3.5 Alongside the Strategy, the associated Charter includes eight statements on how local people want organisations to work in delivering the ambitions. A key aim within the implementation plans for the Strategy and Charter is to create a system for local organisations to make a commitment to action to prevent self-harm and suicide. The Strategy has provision for organisations of all types and sizes across the local health and care system to make a pledge to deliver on the ambitions and principles of the Strategy and Charter, and to share their pledge with the Strategic Steering Group. These pledges provide a way to recognise and celebrate good practice and to share ideas, action and innovation across the system, and to turn the idea of self-harm and suicide prevention being everyone’s business into visible action.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report: Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention - Partnership Working in Nottingham

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Reports to, and Minutes of, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meetings held on [15 April 2021](#) (Implementation of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-23)
- 6.2 [Suicide Prevention Strategy for England 2023-28](#) (September 2023)

6.3 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Suicide Prevention](#) (December 2023)

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Adrian Mann, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer
adrian.mann@nottinghamcity.gov.uk