

**Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**29 June 2022**

<b>Report Topic:</b>	Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan 2022 - 2025
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Dr Lina Martino, Consultant in Public Health</b> <a href="mailto:lina_martino@sandwell.gov.uk">lina_martino@sandwell.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link to board priorities</b>	<p align="center"><b>1. We will help keep people healthier for longer</b></p> <p>Suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50, and even one death by suicide can have wide-reaching impacts across families and communities. Every suicide prevented can have a positive impact on many more people. The Strategy &amp; Action Plan include a range of measures to prevent deaths by suicide, balancing universal action to improve wellbeing among our residents with more targeted action to ensure that they are supported in their communities to access the help they need.</p> <p align="center"><b>2. We will work together to join up services</b></p> <p>The Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy &amp; Action Plan have been developed through the Sandwell SP Partnership, which includes representation from across services and sectors that contribute to improving population mental wellbeing and preventing suicide. The Strategy &amp; Action Plan have a much wider focus than mental health services, recognising the complex relationship between the various factors associated with risk of suicide. A key focus is on improving partnership working and information sharing so that we can act early to prevent suicide,</p>

	<p>residents are always able to access the help they need.</p> <p><b>3. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services</b></p> <p>The recommendations on which the updated Strategy &amp; Action Plan are based are underpinned by the Sandwell SP Needs Assessment, which was informed by engagement with local service providers and people with lived experience. We have worked with local service providers and voluntary &amp; community organisations to develop the draft Strategy &amp; Action Plan, which has been refined further through wider stakeholder and public consultation.</p>
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the Board on intentions to take the draft Strategy &amp; Action Plan to Cabinet in July 2022.</li> <li>2. Obtain approval from the Board to publish and promote the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, subject to formatting and any revisions required by the Board and Cabinet.</li> </ol>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For Health &amp; Wellbeing Board to endorse and approve the publication and promotion of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy &amp; Action Plan</li> <li>2. To endorse the ongoing work of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership to deliver these actions.</li> </ol>
<b>Key Discussion points:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandwell had a preliminary Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan which were drafted at the start of 2020. A local Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment was carried out to re-assess the local</li> </ul>

	<p>situation and current programmes of work in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings and recommendations were endorsed by Health &amp; Wellbeing Board in September 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local Suicide Prevention Strategy &amp; Action Plan were updated through the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership, and links to the Black Country-wide Suicide Prevention Plan have been developed with the Black Country Suicide Prevention Group, which identifies common priority areas to be addressed through NHSE/I Suicide Prevention funding.</li> <li>• The principal priority is that by 2030, no-one will die of suicide in Sandwell. This ambition is also a key priority for the Sandwell Good Mental Health Strategy, reflecting the importance of good mental health in delivering an effective suicide prevention plan. These form part of a suite of interlinked strategies that also include Autism, Dementia and Child Mental Health.</li> <li>• The draft Strategy &amp; Action Plan were released for public consultation on 20 December 2021 for the statutory 60-day period, supported by a communications plan to ensure maximum reach and representation across our diverse communities. Feedback has been incorporated into the revised draft.</li> <li>• This draft will also go to Cabinet in July 2022 and will be formatted for publication once any final changes have been made.</li> </ul>
<b>Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Care Act (2014) set out a statutory duty for Local Authorities to promote wellbeing, including mental and emotional wellbeing.</li> <li>• Preventing Suicide in England: A Cross-government Strategy to Save Lives (2012) was updated in 2017 to clarify the role of local authorities in</li> </ul>	

suicide prevention, including an expectation that every local authority would have its own multi-agency suicide prevention plan.

**What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?**

- The updated draft Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan were informed by engagement with local service providers and people with lived experience. We worked with local service providers and voluntary & community organisations to develop the consultation draft.
- The draft Strategy & Action Plan were released for public consultation on 20 December 2021 for the statutory 60-day period, supported by a communications plan to ensure maximum reach and representation across our diverse communities. We also worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to engage seldom heard residents and service users.
- Feedback from the consultation suggested that the priority areas identified were generally the right ones, with individuals and organisations ranking them similarly in terms of relative importance. However, different groups placed greater emphasis on some of the areas (e.g. children & young people ranked priorities around information and intelligence more highly). The consultation also highlighted gaps around domestic violence & abuse, and individuals in contact with the criminal justice system.
- The draft was revised to address these gaps, as well as amending timelines where possible to reflect higher priority actions (taking into account that some of the actions are already ongoing/concurrent with one another, and differences between groups in perceived importance of priority areas).