

**Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
15 December 2021**

Report Topic:	Consultation on Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan 2022 - 2025
Contact Officer:	Dr Lina Martino, Consultant in Public Health lina_martino@sandwell.gov.uk
Link to board priorities	<p align="center">1. We will help keep people healthier for longer</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 & 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">2. We will work together to join up services</p> <p>The Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & 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 & 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, residents are always able to access the help they need.</p> <p align="center">3. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services</p> <p>The recommendations on which the updated Strategy & 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</p>

	<p>worked with local service providers and voluntary & community organisations to develop the current draft, which will go out for wider stakeholder and public consultation to shape the final version.</p>
<p>Purpose of Report:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Health & Wellbeing Board on progress against the draft Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan since September Board; • Outline our intentions to go out for consultation (60-day statutory period) on the draft Strategy & Action Plan, and obtain approval from the Board for these plans; • Secure the strategic engagement of the Board in ensuring that the consultation is inclusive and representative of all our residents and stakeholders.
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Health & Wellbeing Board to endorse the consultation draft of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan, and the consultation plans set out below; • For Board members to advise of any additional measures that could be taken to ensure inclusion and representation in the consultation process.
<p>Key Discussion points:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 situation and current programmes of work in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings and recommendations were endorsed by Health & Wellbeing Board in September 2021. • The local Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan have been updated through the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership, and links to the Black Country-wide Suicide Prevention Plan being developed by the Black Country Suicide Prevention Group, which identifies common priority areas to be addressed through NHSE/I Suicide Prevention funding. • 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. • Subject to approval by the Board, the draft will go out for consultation w/c 20 Dec for the statutory 60-day period and

	<p>will then go to Cabinet for final approval in May. Communications will align to messages around wellbeing and emotional support over the festive period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation will include key partners and stakeholders, including Sandwell residents, and will seek to obtain views on the relative importance of recommendations/areas for action; what works well; and what they see as current challenges. • An easy-read summary and video are being produced to support online promotion of the consultation. We are also working with the Sandwell SP Partnership and Public Health Communications Team to develop targeted approaches to engagement so that all of our diverse communities are included and represented in the consultation. • Following the consultation, the findings will be used to develop the final draft, which will be discussed with HWBB in April. Feedback from the Board will be incorporated into the final draft, which will go to Cabinet in May.
<p>Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Care Act (2014) set out a statutory duty for Local Authorities to promote wellbeing, including mental and emotional wellbeing. • Preventing Suicide in England: A Cross-government Strategy to Save Lives (2012) was updated in 2017 to clarify the role of local authorities in suicide prevention, including an expectation that every local authority would have its own multi-agency suicide prevention plan. 	
<p>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated draft Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan were informed by engagement with local service providers and people with lived experience. We have worked with local service providers and voluntary & community organisations to develop the current draft. • A 60-day consultation period will begin on 20 December 2021 to gather feedback on the draft from wider stakeholders and the public to shape the final version.