

## Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

**Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.**

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Debbie Chance	Date of referral	March 2019
Proposed topic title	Suicide Prevention Short, Sharp Review		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	<p>This links to the RBC Strategic Purpose of "Help me to live my life independently (including health and activity).</p> <p>Also links to the following strategies adopted by the Worcestershire Health and Well-Being Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide Prevention Plan 2018 -2021 (adopted in 2018)</li> <li>• Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-21.</li> </ul>		
Background to the issue	<p>My attention was drawn to the suicide rate in Redditch as a result of information circulated when the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was considering sexual health issues in Redditch. I was disheartened and concerned to see that Redditch had one of the highest suicide rates in the County of Worcestershire; I had not been aware previously that this was the case.</p> <p>Mental health problems, including depression, seem to be increasing and in my work as a nursing assistant I come across people looking for help, including sometimes people who are in crisis. As premature death by suicide is preventable I am really interested to find out more about the situation as it affects the residents of Redditch and what could be done to try to improve the situation and reduce the suicide rate.</p> <p><u>Policy background</u></p> <p>In 2012 the need to establish local suicide prevention plans was set out in national strategy in the government publication "Preventing Suicide in England: a cross government outcome strategy to save lives in 2012" and is incorporated in the NHS "Five year forward view for mental health". In Worcestershire the issue falls under the remit of the Worcestershire County Council Health and Well Being Board, and in February 2018 the Board adopted the 2018 to 2021 Suicide Prevention Plan.</p> <p>Research has shown that having a prevention strategy can be effective in reducing suicides. The overall aim of the</p>		

	<p>Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan is to reduce the number of suicides and to provide better support for those bereaved by suicide. Some specific sectors of the community who are at higher risk have been identified as priority groups including young and middle aged men and people in the care of the mental health services.</p>
<p><b>Key Objectives</b> Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To analyse the current levels of premature death by suicide in Redditch and clarify the factors that have resulted in Redditch having a higher rate of suicide.</li> <li>2. To assess the existing support services available for people experiencing depression and other mental health problems, and in particular the availability and accessibility of services for people in crisis.</li> <li>3. To investigate the aims and objectives of the Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan, and the practical steps that are being taken to achieve the “action plan priorities”.</li> <li>4. To research steps taken by other councils to address suicide prevention.</li> <li>5. To review what steps could be taken to raise awareness of sources of support around suicide prevention</li> <li>6. To consider what practical steps can be implemented around reducing access to means of suicide and tackling high risk locations.</li> <li>7. To identify any additional action that the Council could take to help with the reduction of premature death by suicide in the Borough.</li> </ol>
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>Estimated time for this task group is 4 to 5 meetings over a 3 month period starting from the end of May / early June 2019.</p>

**Please return this form to: Jess Bayley, Louise Morris, Farzana Mughal or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**

**Email: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

**[louise.morris@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:louise.morris@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

**[farzana.mughal@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:farzana.mughal@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

**[a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**