

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st March 2019

SUICIDE PREVENTION – PROPOSED TASK GROUP

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Gareth Prosser, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
Relevant Director	Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected	All wards.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides Members with an opportunity to consider a proposal that has been received for Members to undertake a Short Sharp review of suicide prevention.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to approve **one** of the following options:

- 1) Subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Short Sharp Review of suicide prevention be launched.**
- 2) Members receive a presentation on the subject of suicide prevention at a forthcoming meeting (or meetings) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3) No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.**
- 4) Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, be taken in relation to this matter.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 The suggestion of setting up a Short Sharp Review to look at suicide prevention in Redditch has been put forward by Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice Chair). A copy of the proposal form is attached at Appendix 1. Councillor Chance believes this is an important topic to be investigated in light of the public health statistics from 2015 to 2017, which show that Redditch has the second highest suicide rate in Worcestershire. The death of a loved one by suicide can have a devastating impact on relatives, friends and colleagues and all communities can be affected. Suicide is preventable and research has shown that having a prevention strategy can be effective in reducing suicides.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

21st March 2019

- 3.2 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 county Health and Well Being Board, and in February 2018 the Board adopted the 2018 to 2021 Suicide Prevention Plan.
- 3.3 The overall aim of the 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.
- 3.4 Members are referred to the Key Objectives for the proposed Short Sharp Review as set out on the proposal form. The suggestion is that this topic could best be investigated as a Short, Sharp Review and it is estimated that there would be four to five meetings required over approximately three to four months.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There are no direct legal implications for the Council.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 At present there are no scrutiny Task Groups or Short, Sharp Reviews taking place in Redditch. There is therefore capacity amongst both Members and the Democratic Services team to support this review.
- 3.8 As there is an overlap on this topic with the County Council scrutiny function and the work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), officers have checked that this proposal would not interfere with any work planned by that committee. Colleagues from the County Council have confirmed that there are currently no plans for this topic to be scrutinised at a county level. However, Officers would suggest that, should the review be approved, the Council’s representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) should be appointed to the group so that s/he can report back to HOSC as the review progresses.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 None identified.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

21st March 2019

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Suicide Prevention Task Group – Scoping Document.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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