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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board



Meeting Date	12th December 2019	Agenda Item	2.4
Report Title	Update on Swansea Bay Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Multi-Agency Group		
Report Author	Jennifer Davies, Consultant in Public Health		
Report Sponsor	Keith Reid, Interim Director of Public Health		
Presented by	Keith Reid, Interim Director of Public Health		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	To update the Committee on the current activity of the Multi Agency Group on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention		
Key Issues	<p>Suicide Rates are high in the Swansea Bay area</p> <p>The Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Multi Agency Group is engaged in a range of activities designed to reduce rates in our communities</p> <p>Action is aimed at providing staff likely to encounter those at risk of suicide or self-harm with training in effective interventions</p> <p>A wider piece of work about understanding risk factors in our communities to facilitate targeted interventions and will shortly be launched</p>		
Specific Action Required <i>(please ✓ one only)</i>	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	✓		
Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report 		

Swansea Bay Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Multi-Agency Group: Update on Current Activity

1. INTRODUCTION

Rates of suicide are high in the Swansea Bay area and tackling these is a priority. In the 5 years from 2013 to 2017 there were 99 deaths by suicide in Neath Port Talbot and 126 in Swansea. Neath Port Talbot has the highest rate of death by suicide of any local authority area in Wales for that period (15.8 deaths per 100,000 population). Actions to prevent suicide and self-harm require involvement from a variety of agencies across sectors. This report gives an update on current suicide and self-harm prevention activities in Swansea Bay.

2. BACKGROUND

A Multi-Agency Action Group (MAG) is currently co-ordinating the approach to suicide prevention in Swansea Bay. This group is chaired by Jennifer Davies a Consultant in Public Health from the Swansea Bay Local Public Health Team. Membership is drawn from Health (Public Health; SBU HB Primary Care and Community Services and Mental Health and Learning Disability; School Nursing), Local Authorities, the third sector and Police. Membership is reviewed annually to ensure that relevant stakeholders are represented.

Mapping of the different groups/forums who are involved in the suicide prevention space is underway to ensure appropriate communication with different groups and meetings and to avoid duplication or gaps in representation. Jennifer Davies, Swansea Bay Local Public Health Team and Chair of the Multi-Agency Group and Rhonwen Parry from MH & LD Delivery Unit are to represent Swansea on the Regional Forum for Suicide and Self-Harm.

3. UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITY

Proposed Actions on Suicide Prevention

A proposal for funding from the Regional Suicide & Self Harm prevention monies has been made to support local suicide prevention action. The actions proposed include:

1. Developing a training plan and service directory jointly with local agencies. Training workshop(s) and production of resources for local use will be delivered with the aim of better equipping the local workforce to deliver suicide and self-harm prevention interventions.
2. Developing a train the trainer approach to provide a sustainable resource to equip local services with appropriate skills in suicide prevention.
3. Working with targeted groups to obtain insight on risk to inform engagement. Initially, the targets are working age men associated with rugby clubs and 1 other key area which will probably be those in a defined employment sector eg construction, Tata Steel. This type of 'research' with high risk groups aims to understand protective factors contributing to wellbeing as well as those which lead to mental distress and how local people respond when in crisis.
4. Delivering a large scale event in partnership with Ospreys Rugby aimed at tackling stigma around mental health and raising awareness of local support for those in mental distress.

Regional Co-ordinator Roles

We are awaiting an update on progress with the recruitment process which has been undertaken on an all-Wales basis. There is an expectation that the Co-ordinator will be in post by the end of 2019.

Local Intelligence on Suicides

The group has been receiving regular updates from South Wales Police around suicides locally. This information is an early indication of likely suicides and not official data from the Coroner. The aim of this intelligence is to provide information in a timely way that can inform local action, particularly in the provision of postvention interventions, and to identify any common factors that might be amenable to intervention. This intelligence has stimulated action to undertake:

- An extended review of the data over a longer time period;
- A review of local responses when notified of any unusual/significant change in suicide rates; and
- A piece of work to look at our rapid response to the notification of a death. Led by Damian Rees (Children's safeguarding lead for Swansea Council this is initially focussed on children but will then be broadened out to include adults.

Suicide Review and Audit to Inform Local Action

An approach has been made to the Coroner's Office seeking support for a review of local suicides in preparation for a formal audit. A response is awaited.

Allied to this work is a programme to develop local intelligence-led action. While the suicide review and audit will increase local understanding of the causes and drivers of our high suicide rates it is important that this information then directs action and interventions. The sharing of data across agencies remains a problem (which has been flagged at a national level). A comprehensive review of the local multi-agency response in the event of a suicide is also planned, to identify learning & any postvention action required, including bereavement support.

Development of a local logic model is underway to structure our action plan with a view to focussing on our at-risk population with the most appropriate actions to address those factors which are increasing suicide risk in our population. While this is likely to focus on middle aged men. However, recent information has highlighted two other population groups at high risk: students/young people and those in later years (65+). The aim is to produce a draft plan for the joint PSB in January 2020.

An event is planned for March 2020 that will be a recognition of the progress made locally in the past 12 months and an invitation to stakeholders to further develop an action plan as part of a co-production approach.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

Reporting of the Suicide and Self-Harm MAG is via the PSBs. No specific governance or risk issues are highlighted in this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATION

The Quality and Safety committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

Governance and Assurance										
Link to corporate objectives (please ✓)	Promoting and enabling healthier communities		Delivering excellent patient outcomes, experience and access		Demonstrating value and sustainability		Securing a fully engaged skilled workforce		Embedding effective governance and partnerships	
	✓						✓		✓	
Link to Health and Care Standards (please ✓)	Staying Healthy	Safe Care	Effective Care	Dignified Care	Timely Care	Individual Care	Staff and Resources			
	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience										
The Suicide and Self Harm MAG considers reports on and is working with those at risk to develop responsive and appropriate services.										
Financial Implications										
There are none discussed in the report.										
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)										
There are none discussed in the report.										
Staffing Implications										
None discussed in the report.										
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/)										
This report includes accounts of work which is aimed at supporting a healthier, more equal Wales and which supports community cohesion. The approaches adopted by the MAG are aimed at prevention and exemplify an integrated and collaborative approach between agencies. The MAG aims to engage with people at risk of suicide and self-harm in order that they can be involved in developing appropriate responses at a community level.										
Report History		N/A								
Appendices		None								