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# Prompts for local leaders on suicide prevention

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First published September 2012

Published to DH website, in electronic PDF format only.

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# Prompts for local leaders on suicide prevention

These prompts have been prepared to accompany *Preventing suicide in England: A cross-government outcomes strategy for saving lives*, published in September 2012.

A number of organisations will be undertaking activity relevant to suicide prevention at local level. To establish what is happening within the local authority boundary, the following questions may be useful:

- What level of understanding of suicide do local councillors, Directors of Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups have?
- What is the rate of suicide among the general population in the local authority area?
- Is this rate higher or lower than the general population rate for England of 7.9 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008-10? What is the current trend in suicide rates showing?
- Is information available on the rate of suicide among different groups and gender, e.g. middle-aged men?
- What steps have been taken locally to monitor and take action to reduce the rate of suicide within the local authority area? For example, is there a specific and agreed reduction in the rate of suicide that the local authority will aim to achieve?
- Is suicide prevention included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy?
- Is there a local group or network established to oversee suicide prevention activity in the locality? If so:
  - Who leads this group? Is it the Clinical Commissioning Group, local government, public health or joint arrangements?
  - Is there a local councillor with specific responsibility for suicide prevention?
  - What other local agencies and partners are members of this group or network, or are consulted as part of any suicide prevention activity (e.g. police)?
  - Does this involve GPs or other professionals working in primary care settings? If not, how do they input into activities or actions to prevent suicides locally?
  - How do these groups or work link with wider local public health and health improvement activities?

- How do these groups or work link with local safeguarding arrangements?
  - What governance arrangements are in place?
  - Does the group or network undertake a local analysis of suicide data and/or participate in local suicide audits?
  - Does this include the identification of particular high-risk groups?
  - Does the group or network produce an action plan on local suicide prevention activity and is this monitored?
  - Does the action plan include the need to consider developing suicide prevention awareness and skills training for professionals in primary care and local government (housing, environmental health, social care, benefits, etc) and other services that may come into contact with individuals at risk of suicide? If so, what groups of front-line staff have had such training?
  - Does it involve the local community?
- Do Joint Strategic Needs Assessments adequately identify action to support people at risk of suicide or suicidal behaviour within the local population?
  - Has the local authority or other agency identified any specific locations which provide opportunities for suicide and/or where suicides/attempted suicides have occurred (such as a bridge, cliff or rail crossing)?
  - What steps have been considered or taken to reduce the risk of suicide at such locations?
  - What other agencies are involved in supporting this preventative action at high-risk places?
  - Does the local coroners' office support preventative action at local level? If so:
    - Are coroners formal members of any groups or networks that exist?
    - Do they provide access to coroners' records of inquests for local analysis or audit purposes?
    - Do they involve or inform the local authority or Director of Public Health if they identify (at inquest proceedings or earlier) particular areas of concern, e.g. locations used for suicide, possible clusters of suicide, increase in a particular method or new and emerging method of suicide?
  - What support is available within the local authority area for those affected by a suicide? What agencies provide this support?
  - Are any data collected on attempted suicides within the local authority area? If so by whom? Are these data shared with other agencies?