

Minutes of **Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Suicide Bereavement and Prevention**

Meeting date **Wednesday, 22 May 2024**

Members present: Councillor Samantha Martin (Chair), Councillor Arjun Singh (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Michelle Beach, Christine Heydon, Dedrah Moss, Jenny Whiffen and Neville Whitham

Officers: Liz Jones, Head of Communities and Housing, Chelsea Fisher, Social Prescribing Team Leader, Bernie Heggarty, Neighbourhood Priorities Officer, and Clare Gornall, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies: Councillors June Molyneaux and Kim Snape

1 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

It was proposed by Councillor Michelle Beach, seconded by Councillor Dedrah Moss and

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Samantha Martin be appointed Chair of this Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.

It was then proposed by Councillor Michelle Beach, seconded by Councillor Dedrah Moss and

Resolved (unanimously) - That Councillor Arjun Singh be appointed Vice-Chair of this Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Scoping the Review

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group discussed the scope for the review, including the objectives, desired outcomes, and terms of reference.

They also had regard to the notes of the informal “brainstorming” meeting held on 28 March 2024 which identified a number of organisations that may be useful to speak to as part of the review.

Resolved – That the draft scoping document be approved and the final version circulated by email to members of the Task Group.

4 Presentation - Council Services in relation to Suicide Prevention and Bereavement

Chelsea Fisher, Social Prescribing Team Leader and Bernie Heggarty, Neighbourhood Priorities Officer gave a presentation outlining the Council’s Social Prescribing Service. He explained that most of its clients were people with moderate mental health issues accompanied with, or related to, difficulties in circumstances e.g. social isolation, housing, or financial problems.

The social prescribing service also provided signposting for people in crisis or with severe mental health issues.

They also presented the Council’s Suicide Prevention and Reduction Strategy Action Plan 2022-2025.

It outlined the actions which had the Council had already completed including:

- Amparo - Share information with Chorley Central Primary Care Network Multi-Disciplinary Meeting to enable Amparo support to be offered to more residents.
- Chorley Council website - Provide residents with up-to-date Mental Health/Suicide information and support details.
- World Suicide Prevention Day 2023 - Increased awareness to residents of mental health support in Chorley.

It also included some forthcoming events:

- World Suicide Prevention Event – September 2024
- World Mental Health Day – October 2023

It also referred to the Chorley Suicide Working Group – which included a range of partner organisations including Chorley Women’s Centre, St Laurence’s Church, Lancashire Mind, Chorley Council Social Prescribing, Chorley Council Public Protection, Bereavement Team (LTHTR), United Reformed Church, All About People, Chorley Buddies, Citizen’s Advice, Amparo, Mindsmatter, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Library House Surgery, Cllr Samantha Martin, Cllr Aaron Beaver, and CAMHS.

The Chair thanked Chelsea and Bernie for their attendance.

Resolved – That the information be noted and included as part of the final Task Group report.

5 Dates for meetings

Resolved – That the Task Group schedule of meetings be as follows:

- Wednesday, 19th June 6.30pm.
- Thursday, 23 July 6.30pm.
- Tuesday, 20 August 6.30pm
- Tuesday, 25 September 6.30pm.

Chair

Date