

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

**Meeting date** **Wednesday, 19 June 2024**

**Members present:** Councillor Samantha Martin (Chair), and Councillors Michelle Beach, June Molyneaux, Dedrah Moss, Kim Snape and Jenny Whiffen

**Members attending virtually:** Councillor Russ Green

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Christine Heydon, Katie Wilkie and Arjun Singh

## **6 Minutes of last meeting**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 May 2024, be approved as a correct record.

## **7 Scoping Document**

The revised scoping document, with amendments received since the last meeting was presented for approval.

**Resolved** – That the revised scoping document be approved.

## **8 Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Background Information and Data**

Liz Jones, Head of Communities and Housing presented a report with additional information to enable them to gain a broader understanding of the issues affecting suicide prevention in Chorley.

The report provided:

- a) Real Time Surveillance Suspected Suicide data – Public Health LCC (May 2024)

- b) Office for Health Improvement and Disparity (OHID) suicide and self-harm data (April 2023).

It was highlighted that on the table of statistics from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparity (OHID) suicide and self-harm data (April 2023) Chorley was the fourth highest in England. The Task Group felt it was important to explore the data further and attempt to identify the reasons for this.

In addition to this data, Liz Jones explained that the Public Health Team at LCC can provide more detailed Real Time Surveillance (RTS) Data which is updated daily. However, the data sets are very small and there is a high risk of cases being identifiable. Therefore, they are happy to attend and share data with members in private session at the next meeting.

**Resolved:**

- i) That the report be noted;
- ii) That a representative from the LCC Public Health Team be invited to the next meeting to receive detailed data in private session.

**9 Exclusion of the public and press**

That the press and public be excluded from the following item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**10 Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Background Information - Appendix**

Additional information was presented including the Suicide Action Plan provided by Rossendale Borough Council.

Chorley Borough Council's Suicide Action Plan compared favourably as many of the actions were already being done.

Bernie Heggarty suggested that it would be useful to extend information and awareness raising to more venues in the town centre.

It was also proposed that Chorley Council:

- Liaise with partners about providing an information more widely e.g. libraries, gyms, local businesses (barbers, hairdressers, nail bars, Cuerden Valley Café, park wardens); and
- Liaise with mental health organisations such as Lancashire MIND or the Samaritans to provide further training to local employers that request it
- Training for taxi drivers – to be raised at Licensing Liaison
- Recommend to the Member Development Working Group that training for councillors be mandatory.

Resolved –

- i) That the information be noted; and
- ii) That the recommendations be incorporated into the final report of the Task Group.

### **Re-admittance of the public and press**

## **11 Next Steps**

Members were informed that Lancashire MIND has agreed to come to the next meeting on Tuesday, 23 July 2024.

The Task Group stressed it was important to keep the review focussed and that it would be impractical to interview all the organisations listed in the scoping document.

**Resolved** – It was agreed that the following organisations be contacted to be invited to assist further in the review:

- Andy's Man Club
- Suicide Bereavement Café (private /informal session)
- Local police

Chair

Date