

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Suicide Bereavement and Prevention

Wednesday, 19th June 2024, 6.30 pm

Council chamber, Town Hall, Chorley

Agenda

Apologies

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Minutes of last meeting

Draft minutes of the last meeting held on 22 May 2024 for approval. | (Pages 3 - 6) |
| 2 | Scoping Document

Latest version attached, as agreed at the last meeting and via email responses. | (Pages 7 - 10) |
| 3 | Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Task group - Background Information and Data

Report of the Head of Communities and Housing attached. | (Pages 11 - 20) |
| 4 | Next Steps

To consider which organisations to invite to future meetings / go on site visits. | |

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Suicide Bereavement and Prevention

If you need this information in a different format, such as larger print or translation, please get in touch on 515151 or chorley.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



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

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline

Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline

Review Topic:

Suicide Prevention and Bereavement

Objectives:

- Better understanding of the scale in Chorley
- Clear idea of the suicide rates and statistics – call out to LCC to provide latest information
- Lessons from neighbourhood authorities, police, PCSOs, family liaison officers
- Terminology – better understanding of terms used / language (e.g “commit” or “take” their life)
- No moral judgment about suicide – seek to identify various reasons e.g. debt, cost of living, addiction
- Reduction in suicide rate (aspirational)
- To look at other social prescribing models
- To consider Council’s bereavement policy / leave regarding suicide
- To communicate the importance of continual support – not just accepting first response the person may give – open questions
- **To identify and improve support groups at particular risk e.g. LGBTQ+, neurodiverse people**
- **To identify potential funding streams (LCC, Police and Crime Commissioner)**

Desired Outcomes:

- To formulate a directory of services and contacts
- To offer orange button training to councillors
- Ensure that that councillors who may have mental health issues know where to seek support
- Raise awareness of support services in public places (similar to “Ask Angela” posters in pub toilets / taxis (e.g. Samaritans posters)
- Council webpage / signposting (mental health triage)
- Explore possibility of a dedicated council officer as point of contact for bereaved residents i.e. regarding the process, liaise with police, offer bereavement support
- Discuss/explore access to service provision without need for referral
- National Hub of Hope database – if possible obtain QR code for app
- For information / awareness - A and E Crisis team – source of referral 0800 number IRS
- Chelsea Fisher (Social Prescribing Team Leader) – link to Annual Event in Chorley to coincide with national / world events

Terms of Reference:

1. Identify the relevant background information – statistics, suicide rate, other local areas, what the Council and other organisations already do. **How different areas collect statistics (like for like) and the reasons why other some area rates have dramatically dropped.**

1. Seek better understanding of the issues and identify the reasons behind them
2. Seek to improve what the Council provides and we can work better with partners, such as signposting, raising awareness
3. Share best practice with other organisations

Equality and diversity implications:

To ensure that accessibility to services is offered to residents of all communities and is non discriminatory

To identify and improve support groups at particular risk e.g. LGBTQ+, neurodiverse people (see objectives)

Risks:

Review remit being too wide, lack of focus, taking too long to complete.

Need for awareness of members, interviewees, officers experiencing triggers when at meetings – meetings to be adjourned if necessary.

Venue(s):

Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley.

Chair: Councillor Samantha Martin

Timescale:

Start: May 2024

Planned Finish: September 2024

Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence:

Identify the relevant background information – statistics, suicide rate, other local areas, what the Council and other organisations already do.

Council's Suicide Action Plan

Council's Bereavement policy / leave regarding suicide

Witnesses:

Bernie Heggarty and Chelsea Fisher – Social Prescribing Team
 INSPIRE youth zone
 Lancashire MIND
 Chorley Buddies

Samaritans – Local Group Coordinator
Youth Zone
Runshaw College
CRUSE Bereavement – Preston
Local Police – Designated Officer who deals with Suicide Prevention Team

LGBTQ+ support group

Individuals who have had personal / lived experience – perhaps via the Bereavement Group – informal meeting in members room

Street pastors

Site Visits:

A small group of members to visit local support groups e.g.

Andy’s Man Club - Chorley
St Lawrence’s Church Café
Bereavement Support Group

Officer Support:

Lead Officer: Liz Jones – Head of Communities

Democratic and Member Services Officer: Clare Gornall

Likely Budget Requirements:

<u>Purpose</u>	£
Total	To _____ be determined by Cabinet at relevant stage

**Explore funding streams e.g.
 Police and Crime Commissioner funding
 Lancashire County Council funding**

Target Body¹ for Findings/Recommendations

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Executive Cabinet

(Eg Executive Cabinet, Council, partner)

¹ All project outcomes require the approval of Overview and Scrutiny Committee before progressing



This page is intentionally left blank



Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Communities and Housing	Overview and Scrutiny – Suicide Prevention & Bereavement Task Group	Wednesday 19 th June 2024

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

Is this decision key?	N/A
-----------------------	-----

Report to the Suicide Prevention & Bereavement Task Group

Purpose of the Report

1. The Task Group discussed the provision of additional information to enable them to gain a broader understanding of the issues affecting suicide prevention in Chorley.

Recommendations

2. To note and discuss the report.

Reasons for recommendations

3. The report is for information only.

Corporate priorities

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Information provided

5. The following information has been reviewed and is provided for elected members to consider:
 - 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)

These documents are appended to this report.

Climate change and air quality

- 6. There are no climate change implications arising from this report, which is for information.

Equality and diversity

- 7. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the report which is just for information.

Risk

- 8. There are no risk implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

- 9. The report is for information only.








Comments of the Monitoring Officer

- 10. The report is for information only.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Liz Jones (Head of Communities and Housing)	liz.jones@chorley.gov.uk		June 2024

Suicide and Self Harm data from Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

From April 2023

Area ▲▼	Recent Trend	Count ▲▼	Value ▲▼		95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI
England	–	15,415	10.3		10.2	10.5
North West region (statistical)	–	2,289	11.8		11.3	12.2
Preston	–	66	16.9		13.0	21.6
Blackpool	–	61	16.4		12.5	21.1
St. Helens	–	73	15.2		11.9	19.1
Chorley	–	45	14.8		10.8	19.9
Lancaster	–	51	14.2		10.6	18.8

[Your indicator lists - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

In addition to this data, 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. For this reason, the data can only be shared at a closed meeting with clear confidentiality agreements in place.

This page is intentionally left blank



Healthier Lancashire & South Cumbria

Lancashire – RTS Suspected Suicide Data – Simplified Overview

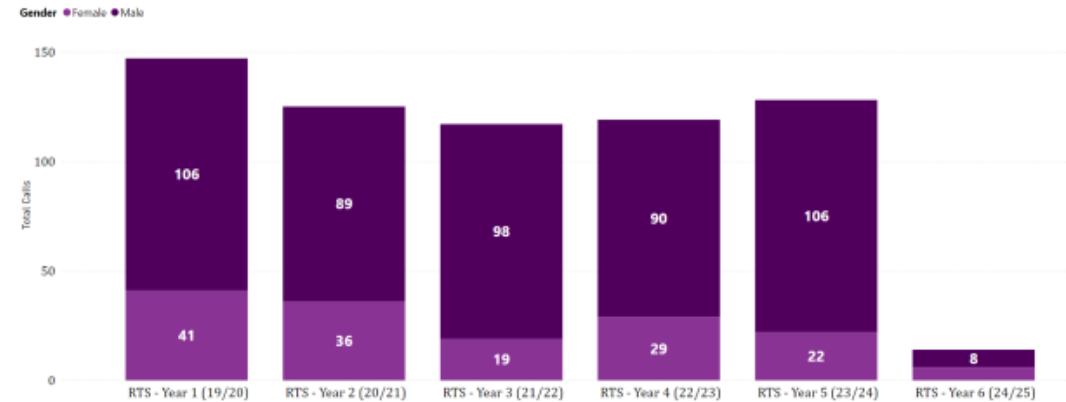
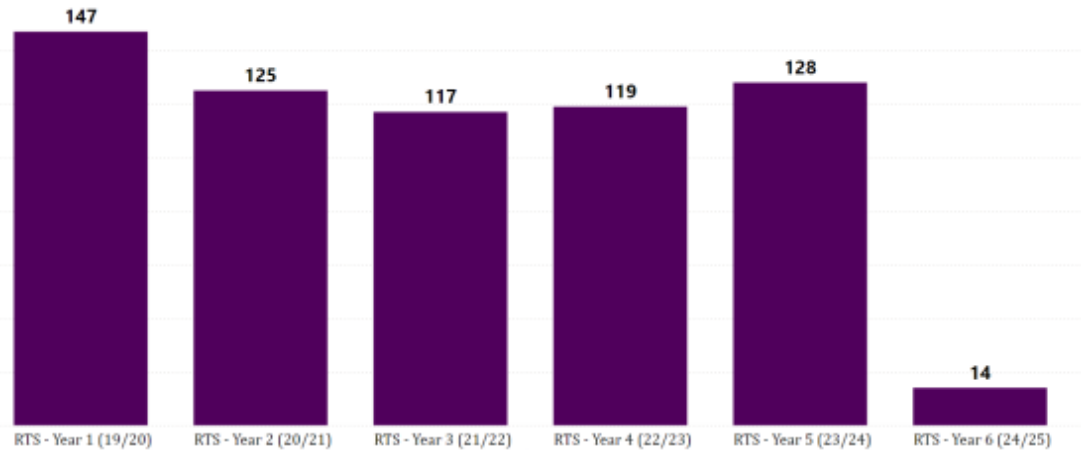
RTS YEAR 6 (01/04/2019 - 02/05/24)

Suspected Suicides 2019- 2nd May 2024

Lancashire

There has been a total of 932 Suspected Suicides up to the current Yr 6 across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Lancashire has seen 650 suspected suicides. Yr 5 has ended with an increase of 9 cases, totalling 128. Current Yr 6 has seen 14 cases

**Please note the caveat to this data is that hospital cases are not currently received.



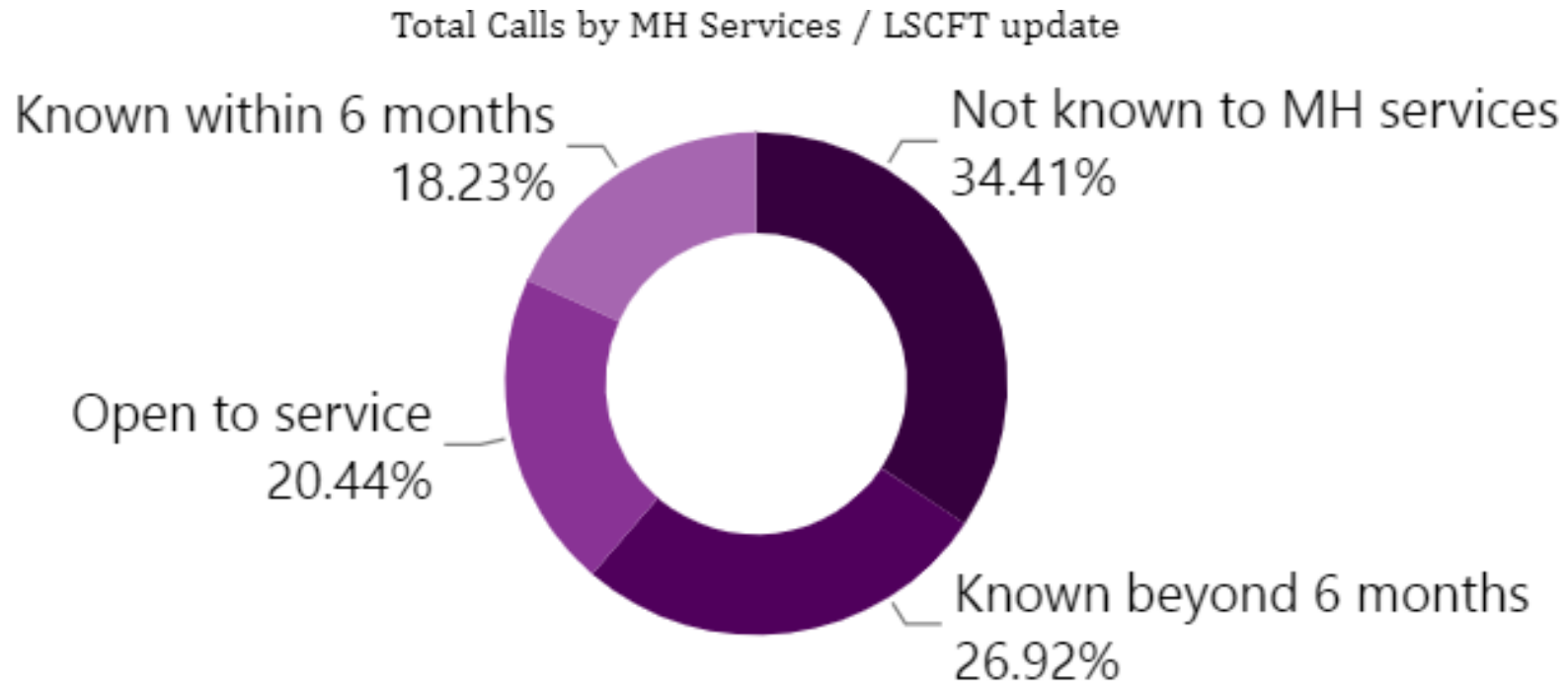
Male cases have a higher prevalence compared to female cases. (76%) male cases and (24%) female cases.

Simplified overview of data

- Hanging is the most common method used, followed by overdose and Jump/fall.
- Age groups 25-59yrs have seen the most cases overall, which is where higher number of male cases also fall. For females the higher number of cases fall between 40-49yrs.
- There appears to have been an increase in retired cases from 9 in Yr 4 to 18 in yr 5 (although need to be mindful of data recording and requires further investigation).

Suspected Suicides known to MH services

66 % of cases were known to MH services to some capacity



Suspected Suicide Rates per 100,000

RTS Yr	Preston	Blackpool	Lancaster	Blackburn	Chorley	Wyre	Hyndburn	Rosendale	Burnley
RTS Yr1	15	20	12	12	13	13	9	22	18
RTS Yr2	17	11	10	7	12	5	16	7	12
RTS Yr3	22	14	10	9	5	13	6	7	8
RTS Yr4	11	13	9	9	12	5	12	8	17
RTS Yr5	8	19	12	7	15	5	10	3	13

Rates per 100,000 by RTS Yr

