

28 March 2024 – meeting for initial discussions on the Scrutiny Review – Suicide Prevention and Bereavement

Notes of meeting

Cllr Martin talked about prevention of suicide and about the support provided to those bereaved by suicide, that this was a huge point of prevention, to prevent multiple suicides as people who are bereaved by suicide are at a higher risk of themselves committing suicide.

Discussion took place around the following:

- What is already underway/undertaken by the Council
- Talk to different organisations about what support they feels is needed. Find the gap
- What can we do to better support bereaved – volunteer, support group, activity.
- What is the link re Chorley and high risk of suicide - is it just that we are not doing enough.
- Need to fill the gap in between statutory services and what we have got to fill the gap.
- LCC had recently had a strategy out for consultation. The consultation had closed but some Members may still respond.
- Suggest Brainstorming session with other agencies – Could formulate a directory.
- More facilities were needed to host meetings such as Andys Man Club.
- Support needed for rural areas.
- Different activity groups in particular for bereaved
- Visits to support groups
- Contact highway agencies to request higher barriers on bridges
- Suicide Awareness and what to do.
- Requirement for dedicated officer for Bereavement Support
- Huge amount of people looking for help – How can we help them?
- Offer of interim support instead of going round in circles of services
- Should be clear where someone can get help
- Looking out for friends and colleagues
- Provision mapping

It was decided to delay setting objectives until the task group meeting.

Members requested that the following people/organisations be invited to a meeting:

- Chelsea Fisher (Social Prescribing)
- Bernie Heggarty
- Lancashire MIND
- Bereavement Support Group –
- Andy Man's Club – Chorley
- Chorley Buddies
- Rep from St Laurence Church Bereavement Café
- Samaritans – Local Group Coordinator

- Youth Zone
- Runshaw College
- CRUSE Bereavement – probably Preston
- Local Police – Designated Officer who deals with Suicide Prevention Team

Note after the meeting: The Director of Public Health was mentioned re the LCC consultation of Suicide Strategy

Useful links

[Woman whose daughter and husband took their lives starts suicide support charity - BBC News](#)

[Lancashire voluntary groups in crisis due to people referred by NHS | Lancashire Telegraph](#)