

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

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

**Target Body<sup>1</sup> for Findings/Recommendations**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Executive Cabinet**

(Eg Executive Cabinet, Council, partner)

<sup>1</sup> All project outcomes require the approval of Overview and Scrutiny Committee before progressing