

Subject:	Task and Finish Group Report: Rossendale Suicide and Drug Related Deaths Logic Model Action Plan	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Overview & Scrutiny	Date:	20 th January 2020
Report of:	Committee & Member Services Officer	Portfolio Holder:	Corporate Services and Communities and Customers
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the work carried out by the Task and Finish Group.
1.2	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note that the Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group in full which are as follows:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council signs up to a 'Time to Change' and promotes the '6507' project. 2. Offer and encourage the appropriate training through Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria (HLSC) and LCC and other suitable providers to all staff and partners in line with the developing training matrix. 3. That the Public Protection Unit adds suicide awareness training to it's training for taxi drivers and how this can be promoted in licensed premises and work with landlords. 4. That the Council's Health Champion liaises with the Samaritans. 5. The Council's facilities are made available to partners and organisations to host training and awareness events. 6. The Zero Suicide Alliance training will be raised with business leaders. 7. The Samaritans' 116 123 number will be promoted. 8. The appropriate use of language around suicide will be promoted. 9. The issue will be raised on agendas at Community partnership meetings. 10. That a member of Council staff continues to attend the Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Reduction Strategy Group. 11. That awareness raising through digital means and social media is undertaken. 12. That the Council feeds back actions taken to the LCC Public Health so that these actions may be measured.
1.3	That officers provide an update on the recommendations, progress and work carried out at a future meeting.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform members of the work carried out by the Rossendale Suicide and Drug Related Deaths Logic Model Action Plan Task and Finish Group. The Task and Finish Group report is attached at Appendix 1.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- There is a risk that suicide rates may continue to rise if the Council does not act.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 A Task and Finish Group was established to scrutinise the rise in suicide rates in Rossendale as noted in the 2019 data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). A Chair's scoping meeting was held on 17th October 2019, followed by the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 7th November 2019. The 'Scrutiny in a Day' method was chosen and the Scrutiny Event took place on 25th November 2019.

5.2 The Scrutiny Event was well attended by a cross-section of authorities and community groups and a list of attendees is contained within the Task and Finish Group report.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 All legal implications are covered within the body of the report and supporting documentation.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 Work is ongoing to implement the appropriate training as noted in the recommendations in line with the council's training and development policies.

8.2 The final report was sent to all Task and Finish Group members for comment and also to the LCC Public Health representative as a courtesy. The report was sent to Corporate Management Team on 10th December 2019, where the recommendations were noted and supported. The final stage of the report was to obtain the Cabinet's official response and this is noted at section 9 below.

9. CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Customers, on behalf of the Cabinet is below:-

9.2 The Cabinet is really pleased with the recommendations that have come from the Task & Finish Group on this very sensitive topic. The recommendations will help ensure the council is as supportive as possible to organisations that provide valuable support to families dealing with someone who is lost to suicide and directly to the families themselves.

9.3 We recognise that as a Council, we have the ability to influence stakeholders across Rossendale; as such, we will also look to explore how we can ensure the package of support to businesses also includes support on how they can support their employees.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The work of the Task and Finish Group is now concluded, however officers will continue to implement the recommendations and update the committee at a future meeting.

10.2 A 'Suicide Awareness' member training session has been arranged for 11th February 2020 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber. This training will run with a minimum of 10 attendees and a maximum of 20. Members are encouraged to attend.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Task and Finish Group Report	Appendix 1