



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# **Suicide Prevention Update**

**DHSC**

# Suicide Prevention Plan update

- The Suicide Prevention plan will be long term, cross government and cross sector and will be as ambitious as possible.
- The Call for Evidence, which will inform both the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention plans, is live and closes 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- Within the Suicide Prevention team we are holding separate engagement events with stakeholders, experts and those with lived experience. For example The Support After Suicide Partnership, the British Transport Police and the National Suicide Prevention Alliance.
- We recognise the role of local government in preventing suicide and are keen to engage appropriately as we develop the Plan.
- The Plan will cover areas that were not included in the 2012 strategy, for example, domestic abuse and gambling, and will have a greater emphasis on areas like social media and the internet in comparison to the last strategy.



# Update on content for the Suicide Prevention Plan

## Already announced

- Suicide Prevention Awareness Training
- Bereavement support following a suicide
- Access to mental health support
- Guidance on Safety Plans
- Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance

## Other likely areas of focus:

- Economic disruption
- Primary care
- Tackling emerging methods of suicide
- Data and research
- Children and young people
- At risk groups



## **Other key workstreams**

# Online safety

- Improving online safety will be a key element of the new Suicide Prevention Plan.
- Online Safety Bill – the committee stage of the Bill’s passage through Parliament has now concluded, with the next stage- the report stage- beginning on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- We are also exploring what more can be done outside of legislation to improve the safety of individuals online. Including, driving engagement with online platforms, and exploring how emerging technology can be used to support platforms in the detection and removal of potentially harmful content.
- SofS will be convening a roundtable with social media platforms and search engines to encourage them to take more urgent action.
- The Government has committed to legislate to outlaw encouraging or assisting a person to self-harm. We are continuing to work with MoJ colleagues who are considering the Law Commission recommendations on the form of such an offence, which, if enacted will apply to both the online and offline world.



# Tackling emerging methods

- We are taking action across government to identify emerging methods of suicide and reduce access to these methods.
- The Emerging Methods of Suicide working group, which includes representatives from across government, as well as arms length bodies, such as the police, is convened following identification of an emerging method that requires action, or following emergence of an issue that requires targeted national interventions.
- The group decides how action can be taken to reduce access, awareness and use of new methods. For example by working with manufacturers and online platforms to limit access to known methods of suicide.
- Early identification, of new methods, from VCSE organisations, from regional leads and local government and from the police, is critical. Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data also plays a crucial role here.
- The new Suicide Prevention Plan will include a focus on emerging methods of suicide and will consider what else can be done to reduce access and accessibility to these methods.

