

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018-2023, and to consult the wellbeing board and sign off the draft strategy.

Recommendations

The HWBB is to note and sign off the draft Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018-2023.

Introduction

The Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 supersedes the 2013 -2016 Walsall Suicide Prevention Strategy refresh. This strategy has been produced by the joint efforts of a wide range of partners who either contributed to the writing and design or provided data and information.

A multiagency consultation workshop was held involving a wide range of stakeholders in January 2018. Further consultation has been ongoing, with multiagency partners contributing throughout the strategy development.

The strategy

Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy takes a broad approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living in the borough. It seeks to raise awareness of suicide, encourage help-seeking behaviour amongst high-risk groups and to tackle the social, health and economic factors that increase suicide risk. Our vision is that:

We individually and collectively aspire to prevent all deaths by suicide in Walsall; offering hope, support and recovery to those experiencing mental distress

The vision will be achieved when:

- We see a continuing decrease in the number of suicides in Walsall
- Every person in Walsall understands how to protect their own mental health
- Every individual sees suicide prevention as their business and are skilled to respond appropriately
- Information and data are time relevant and sufficiently detailed to inform prevention
- Those affected by suicide have access to timely and appropriate local information and support
- The means of suicide are dramatically reduced
- Those supporting the bereaved are equipped to provide preventative suicide support
- The local media delivers messages sensitively

Partnership A multiagency

Members of the partnership are from a range of diverse statutory, non-profit and private bodies. This group is to be further expanded to facilitate coordination of effective partnerships in suicide prevention across sectors, including statutory, third sector and for-profit organisations. These will include any local organisation whose remit includes activity relevant to suicide prevention or with information pertinent to local deaths by suicide.

Summary

Suicide prevention is most effective when it comprises part of wider work addressing the social and other determinants of poor health, wellbeing or illness. We believe that our strategy does this by seeking to tackle and address the 'risk factors' for suicide and encourage and support the 'protective factors'.

Aligning this strategy with the broader mental health agenda, mental health commissioning vision and financial plans is a real challenge. The success of this strategy is reliant on the prioritisation of financial investment into it.

Next steps

Transition of working group to strategic, monitoring and implementation group

Appendix

Draft Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018-2023

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