

Suicide prevention action plan 2025-2031

Timeframes

- Phase 1: November 2025-2028
- Phase 2: 2029-2031
- Ongoing

1. Improving data and evidence

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
Real-time suspected suicide surveillance	Establish real time surveillance to start to identify trends and hotspots, inform public health interventions and facilitate timely bereavement support.	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of RTSSS 	Ongoing
Attempts data	Work with Knowledge and Evidence teams to understand prevalence of non-fatal self-harm and suicide presentations.	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dataset on attempts data 	Phase 1
ICB work	Develop system for understanding local intelligence on the healthcare pathways of people who attempt or die by suicide.	Public health, ICB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation at LFD and policy recommendations 	Phase 1
Impairments data	Ensure that all commissioned services utilize the Office for National Statistics' Impairment Harmonized Standard	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Impairment Harmonized Standard in commissioned services 	Ongoing
Strategy evaluation	Design framework for evaluating and sharing strategy success	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual publication of evaluation 	Ongoing

2. Providing support to people who self-harm

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
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A&E Flagging	Use frequent or recent A&E presentations for self-harm or suicide attempt to red-flag as high risk on systems for X months after incident.	Public Health, UHB, BWC, UCPG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping of policy 	Phase 2
CYP	Deliver roundtable on addressing self-harm in children and young people to help formulate additional actions	Public Health, Education Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of partners in attendance Deliverables/actions 	Phase 1
	Put together self-harm toolkit for schools	Public Health, FTB, BEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of policy Number of schools engaged in promotion activities 	Phase 1
<i>App support</i>	Promotion of 'Stay Alive' and 'Calm Harm' apps	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of comms activities conducted 	Phase 1

3. Tailored, targeted support to priority groups

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
Men	Establishment of James' Place Birmingham Centre	James' Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of Birmingham centre Number of men accessing crisis support 	February 2026
	Establishment Birmingham Andy's Man Club	Andy's Man Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of Birmingham service Number of men attending sessions annually 	Phase 1
	Pilot of brief contact messages for middle-aged men at risk of suicide	Faraz Mughal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PCNs who agree to participate Number of men who receive BCM Number of men who receive help as a result of BCM 	Phase 1

	Training/signposting resources for organisations to help identify and support people at risk during divorce or child custody proceedings	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agencies who receive resources 	Phase 1
Children and young people	Integration of self-harm, suicide prevention and postvention guidance/resources in healthy schools programme	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of attendees at webinars 	Phase 1
	Waiting list intervention for parents/teachers of young people who self-harm	Forward Thinking Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of parents/teachers accessing intervention 	Phase 1
	Introduction of mandatory reporting policy where hospitals must report to schools when a young person has been seen in hospital for suicide or self-harm (similar to Op Encompass)	Public Health, UHB, BWC, School Nursing, Ed Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of policy Number of schools engaged in promotion activities 	Phase 2
	Delivery of resources around results day	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of comms activities conducted 	Ongoing
	Promotion of #MyGPguide - an evidence-based resource which is designed to prepare young people to speak to a GP about suicide and self-harm	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of comms activities conducted Number of partners who agree to share/host resource 	Phase 1
	University serious incident reviews of deaths by suicide. Direct link with FTB - may be worth exploring rapid access to mental health services (for students presenting with high-risk)	Public Health, universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incident reviews 	Ongoing
	Universities to assess strengths and gaps in their suicide prevention plans by completing the self-assessment checklist tool included in the updated "AMOSSHE: Collective Responsibility, Collective Action to Prevent Suicide" guidance"	Birmingham City University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of universities who conduct self-assessment 	Phase 1

<i>People under care of mental health services</i>	Improve pathways around missed contacts or medication non-adherence	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of current policies and appropriate changes made to pathways 	Phase 1
	Delivery of learning sessions around key issues from 'The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety' report (psychosis, bipolar disorder) to encourage trust-wide learning by examining past cases around these issues	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of learning sessions delivered Number of attendees 	Ongoing
	Transition current risk assessments model to care and safety planning form (in connection with Dialogue Plus)	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New safety planning form 	Phase 1
	Re-design suicide prevention clinical risk training learning	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New training package 	Phase 1
	Development of trust-wide suicide prevention strategy and local suicide prevention plans based on learning from deaths	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of new strategy 	Phase 1
	Explore installing safety software (e.g. R;pple) software on hospital, inpatient and outpatient MH centres	Public Health, BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sites that adopt the software 	Phase 1
<i>Areas with high need</i>	Commission local suicide prevention initiatives in areas of high deprivation which experience high suicide rates	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes of numbers suicides in these areas Number of people supported by interventions 	Phase 1
<i>People with experiences of trauma</i>	Host meeting to discuss interventions around care-leavers	Public Health, Birmingham Children's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of partners in attendance Deliverables/actions 	Phase 2
	BCC Implementation of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) Policy in high-risk directorates (e.g. adult social care)	Public Health, Adult social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the policy Number of activations 	Phase 2

	Safety planning training for WMPPS?	Public Health, WMPPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people who undertake training 	Phase 2
	Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Suicide Safeguarding Toolkit (DASST)	WMP, BSMHFT, UoB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of professionals who undertake DASST training Number of victims engaged in conversations using toolkit 	Phase 1
	Delivery of DARDR around suicide	Community safety team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Phase 1

4. Increasing training and skills

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
Orange button scheme	Delivery of orange button suicide alertness training; targeted cohorts (e.g. primary care reception staff)	Public Health (BCC/SM BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new trainees Bi-annual survey measuring confidence and use of skills 	Phase 1
Council Customer Service	Upskill customer service staff to engage in conversations around mental health with customers in distress and signpost them to appropriate support	Public Health, BCC Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new trainees 	Phase 2
Community training	Delivery of SCHEMA and WISESTEPS training	Forward for Life, Common Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new trainees Survey capturing impact 	Ongoing
Primary care training	Commissioning evidence-based training for primary care clinicians on suicide prevention in general practice	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PCNs engaged with Number of new trainees survey measuring confidence and use of skills 	Phase 1
Neurodiversity	Scope suicide prevention and autism training	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing paper on existing autism and suicide training opportunities 	

5. Providing effective crisis support

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
The Waiting Room	Host crisis directory	Forward for Life, Common Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of clicks on suicide prevention 	Ongoing
Non-clinical presentations	Trial and promote alternative provision for people who present with self-harm or suicide attempt who are not deemed to have a clinical diagnosis for referral for secondary mental health services but could benefit from alternative support. This could be support developing a safety plan, recommendations for support from secondary services (e.g. debt/financial management, relationship counselling), and a follow-up call within 48 hours to check in and see if they need support to access this, as well as storing their details in a database within MH trust so that if the situation escalates and they do need MH input, their previous SH/suicide risk is recognised as early as possible.	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping of project 	Phase 2
East Birmingham 24/7 hub	Establish and influence delivery of 24/7 hub in East Birmingham.	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of service-users 	Phase 1
Cultural competency	BSMHFT to engage with cultural humility and safety training and cultural intelligence framework to improve cultural competence	BSMHFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of staff members trained 	Phase 1

6. Reducing access to methods and means of suicide

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
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<i>Transport</i>	Identification and reduction of High Frequency Locations on the rail network. Samaritans and Network Rail to continue to collate real-time data on rail incidents in the region and feed into the group. Appropriate preventative and reactive measures to be taken by Network Rail, train operators and Samaritans, based on the specifics of individual incidents and their locations. Wider group to support Network Rail / Samaritans in actions where appropriate, particularly where community engagement would be beneficial.	Samaritans, Network Rail, Public Health	• Number of incidents identified	Ongoing
	Delivery of response car to respond to suicides on railways	Public Health, Highways	• Number of interventions with people in crisis on railway network	Phase 1
<i>Pharmacy</i>	Signage in pharmacies to reducing stockpiling and actively encouraging return of unwanted medicines to the pharmacy	Public Health	• Number of pharmacies displaying posters	Phase 2
	Community of practice on safer prescribing for pharmacists	Public Health	• Number of attendees	Phase 2
<i>Planning and building design</i>	Contribute to Health Impact Assessments Toolkit to include suicide prevention measures when reviewing planning applications	Public Health, BCC Planning	• Inclusion of suicide prevention in HIA toolkit	Phase 1
	Review planning applications where there is an increased risk of suicide	Public Health	• Number of applications reviewed	Ongoing
<i>Online safety</i>	Promotion of R;pple software to schools, parents, universities	Public Health,	• Number of outreach activities	Phase 1
	Install R;pple software (IT software which recognises searches about suicide or self-harm and signposts the searcher to support) on all Local Authority networks, including council offices, libraries, leisure centres, etc	Public Health, BCC Corporate	• Number of agencies who integrate R;pple	Phase 2
	Promotion of Samaritans safer media guidance to local media agencies	Public Health	• Number of media agencies guidance shared with	Ongoing
	Media monitoring for early detection of content about suicides in Birmingham to ensure that reporting is align with Samaritans media guidance and where	Public Health	• Number of cases detected through media monitoring	Ongoing

	irresponsible reporting is identified, appropriate action can be taken to edit or remove the information, or mitigate harm with additional content			
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7. Providing effective bereavement support

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
<i>Help is at Hand</i>	Promotion of 'Help is at Hand' document	Public Health, UCPG, Bereavement Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agencies who agree to distribute Help is at Hand 	Phase 1
<i>Video on suicide bereavement</i>	Produce video with Older Adults Team on supporting people bereaved by suicide	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of video 	Phase 1
<i>Commissioned support</i>	Increased referrals of specialist bereavement support to those bereaved by suicide through assumed consent policy	Public Health (BCC/SM BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of referrals to bereavement support 	Phase 1
	Delivery of specialist bereavement support	Cruse Bereavement Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people supported by specialist service 	Phase 1
	Promotion of commissioned support to registry offices, funeral services and safeguarding leads.	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agencies engaged with 	Phase 1
<i>Postvention</i>	Development of schools postvention guidance	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of postvention guidance Number of schools who attend promotion webinars 	Phase 1
	Development of Community Suicide Response Plan	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of plan Number of partners engaged 	Phase 1

	Delivery of incident response when changes are identified (e.g., higher rate in area, workplace or school, family etc)	Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incident responses 	Ongoing
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8. Making suicide everybody's business

Area	Action	Lead	Measurement of success	Timeframe
<i>Public campaigns</i>	Delivery of Birmingham Suicide Prevention Week	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of hits on website Number of attendees at events 	Phase 1
	Mapping of content calendar year to ensure consistent suicide prevention messaging	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of social media posts focussing on suicide prevention 	Ongoing
	Display of posters in key strategic locations (all GPs, A&Es, pharmacies)	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sites now displaying posters 	Phase 1
<i>Employers</i>	Promotion of written guidance and resources to support public, private and third sector organisations to address suicide within their own plans and service delivery	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations engaged with 	Phase 1
	Training for Bolder Healthier Workplace Champions	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of champions who engage with suicide prevention training 	Phase 1
	Communities of practice on being a suicide-safe organisation	Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of attendees Number of businesses engaged 	Phase 2