

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 October 2019</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Elizabeth Griffiths, Acting Assistant Director of Public Health</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information report</b>
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### **1. Purpose:**

- 1.1 The attached report (**Appendix 1**) follows an agreement at Full Council on the 06/11/2018 that a suicide prevention strategy would be developed.
- 1.2 The strategy sets out the priorities for action and a shared ambition for the city to reduce deaths from suicide, as part of the wider ambition to become a mentally healthy city.

### **2. Recommendation**

The Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the update on the implementation of the Birmingham multi-agency Suicide Prevention Strategy, the contents of the Strategy (Appendix 1) and the draft action plan (Appendix 2).

### **3. Report Body**

#### **3.1 Context**

Suicide is preventable.

The latest figures indicate suicide rates in Birmingham are significantly lower than the England average and are the lowest of all the core cities. Birmingham's ambition is to maintain the lowest and reduce the number of suicides in the City.

The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health set the ambition that by 2020/21 the number of people taking their own lives will be reduced by 10% nationally compared to 2016/17 levels. This included the development and delivery of local multi-agency suicide prevention and action plans. The NHS Long Term plan also contains suicide prevention and reduction ambitions, including bereavement support for families and staff bereaved by suicide and a new longer-term management of self-harm.

Birmingham City Council has a partnership approach to suicide prevention and has worked with NHS England / Public Health England to develop this strategy. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken – the strategy considers all the protected characteristics.

### **3.2 Current Circumstance**

The draft Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy has been through internal council approval process and was agreed and supported by the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 24 September 2019; the Strategy is due to be presented to Full Council.

The multi-agency suicide prevention partnership, chaired by Justin Varney the Director of Public Health, will support the implementation of the Action Plan.

### **3.3 Next Steps / Delivery**

The Birmingham Suicide Prevention Working Party will be the driving partnership group that will enable and oversee delivery of the action plan that underpins these priorities and report to the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board's Creating a Mentally Healthy City Sub-Forum.

Significant ongoing work continues to take place ensuring the Action Plan is robust and timely. It will require long term support and commitment from many partners to achieve its ambition for a zero suicide. Much effort is being taken to enable meaningful data is captured from real time surveillance, data sharing agreements and close partnership working with the Birmingham Coroner, NHS England, Public Health England and WM Police.

The Creating a Health Mentally Healthy City Forum will be responsible for oversight of the Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan (draft action plan available in Appendix 2).

The Creating a Mentally Healthy City Forum will provide a link between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the NHS Mental Health Pathways Programme Board and the NHS Mental Health Partnership Stakeholder Board.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy  
Appendix 2: Draft Action Plan