

Suicide Prevention: Everybody's Business

Devon Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2024 - 2027

1. Introduction

Suicide can have a devastating impact on families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and whole communities.

The national suicide rate has [not fallen since 2018, and there are still over 5,000 deaths](#) by suicide in England each year. Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy.

Preventing deaths by suicide needs action from national and local Government, from the NHS and other health & care services, from voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, from education and businesses, communities, and individuals.

Preventing deaths by suicide needs action on prevention and early intervention for those experiencing poor mental wellbeing, timely and effective support for those in distress or crisis, and action on the wider factors that impact both positively and negatively on mental wellbeing.

We all have a role to play in challenging stigma, improving understanding about mental health and wellbeing, and developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to have mental wellbeing conversations.

Suicide prevention is everybody's business.

2. Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Implementation Group

Local Government have the responsibility to produce and deliver a strategy and action plan to prevent suicide.

To achieve this, Public Health Devon co-ordinate the Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Implementation Group (SPIG) which brings together different partners across the public, voluntary and community sectors.

The group supports the development of a strategy and action plan for Devon County Council (DCC) that aligns with the priorities set out in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England, with additional focus on locally identified needs.

This collaboration of stakeholders works together to understand local needs and priorities, taking an influencing role as well as leading actions, it reviews progress on delivery of the action plan, and remains responsive to newly emerging themes or needs.

3. The national context

The [Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy](#) was published in autumn 2023 and sets out the national direction and ambition for suicide prevention from 2023 to 2028.

The strategy has three key aims, and eight priority areas for action

Aims

1. Reduce the suicide rate within 5 years (with initial reductions in 2.5 years)
2. Continue to improve support for people who self-harm
3. Continue to improve support for people who have been bereaved by suicide

8 priority areas

1. Improving data and evidence
2. Tailored, targeted support for priority groups (7 groups stated)
3. Addressing common population level risk factors (6 stated)
4. Promoting online safety and responsible media content
5. Providing effective crisis support
6. Reducing access to means and methods of suicide
7. Providing effective bereavement support (“postvention”)
8. **Making suicide prevention everybody’s business**

Alongside the strategy an action plan was produced which summarises over 100 actions, and details which government department or organisation will deliver each action, and by when.

Both the national strategy and its’ supporting action plan have been used to benchmark the local position against those national priority areas and actions, to inform the development of this Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2027 (see page 6 below for table outlining findings).

In addition, the recommendations from both the [National suicide prevention planning guidance](#) developed by the Suicide Prevention Strategic Advisory Group (SPSAG), and the [Samaritans and University of Exeter independent progress report](#) on local suicide prevention planning in England, are guiding principles used in local strategy and action planning.

4. The local context

4.1 One Devon: Integrated Care Board - Joint Forward Plan

[One Devon](#) is a collaboration of the NHS and local councils, as well as a wide range of other organisations including the voluntary sector, who are working together to improve the lives of people in Devon.

The One Devon [5 Year Joint Forward Plan](#) includes a strategic vision for suicide prevention:

“Our vision in Devon is for all suicides to be considered preventable and that suicide prevention is everyone’s business. The ambition for suicide prevention is to deliver a consistent downward trajectory in the suicide rate for all areas of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay so that they are in line with or below the England average.”

To deliver this strategic vision, there are five objectives relating to:

- publishing local strategies & action plans
- publishing of local suicide rates
- presenting local strategies & action plans to the Devon ICS wide Suicide Prevention Oversight Group
- the provision of suicide prevention training
- the provision of a suicide bereavement service

These objectives, along with the national strategy, help to inform the work of the Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Implementation Group.

4.2 Collaboration with Public Health Teams across Devon

Devon collaborates closely with colleagues in Plymouth & Torbay on system wide and population level suicide prevention programmes and initiatives. This enables the maximisation of the resources available to deliver these programmes and reduces duplication.

Current Devon ICS-wide priorities

1. Supporting the Real Time (suspected) Suicide Surveillance System
2. Delivering Suicide Prevention training for:

Communities: available to all particularly public facing workforces, including VCSE, supporting those experiencing or at risk of poor mental wellbeing

Primary care: GP practice clinical staff
3. Suicide Prevention Community Grant Funding
4. Devon-wide Self Harm Health Needs Assessment – work primarily led by Torbay on behalf of the system
5. Communications and media reporting

Devon is also a member of regional and national networks - maintaining connections with a wide range of colleagues, to benefit from shared learning relating to good practice and challenges in delivering suicide prevention activities.

4.3 Collaboration with Devon Partnership NHS Trust

As well as working with partners in Public Health, close work continues with the local Mental Health Trust who take the lead on suicide prevention in community and acute mental health services.

This is particularly important in relation to the "Providing effective crisis support" priority of the national suicide prevention strategy.

While recognising that Devon Partnership NHS Trust (DPT) would take the lead locally for this priority area, the DCC SPIG has a clear role in collaborating with colleagues at the Trust.

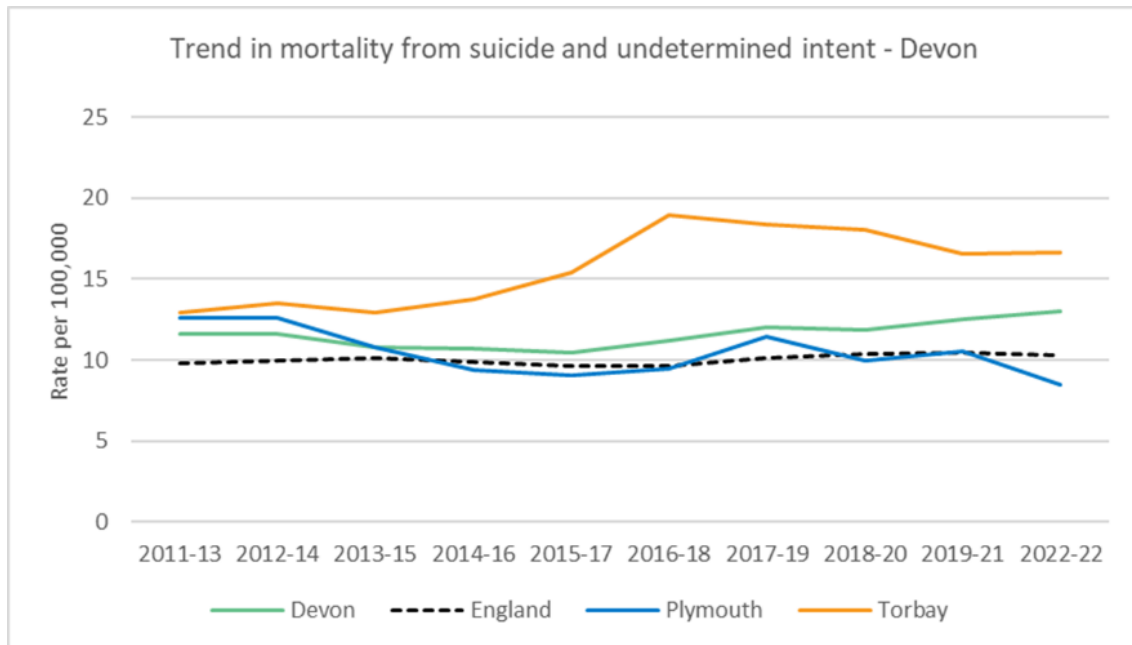
Collaboration includes providing signposting and raising awareness of crisis support and services, ensuring connections with those services, and delivering prevention activities in partnership.

The Devon Partnership NHS Trust Safe from Suicide Team and other colleagues at the Trust are working on a range of programmes to improve patient safety and reduce suicide through embedding the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health ([NCISH](#)) [Ten Ways to Improve Safety](#) into policy and practice.



4.4 Understanding local trends: key data

In 2020-22 the suicide rate in Devon rose to 13.0 per 100,000 from 12.5 per 100,000 in 2019-21. The rate for Devon is statistically significantly higher than the rate for England.



(OHID, Fingertips, sourced from ONS data; Devon Public Health Intelligence Team)

In Devon, the male and female suicide rates are 19.8 and 6.7 respectively (2020-22). Devon's female rate is now statistically significantly higher than England, in 2019-21 it was similar.

2020-22	Count	Rate per 100,000	England
Persons	277	13.0	● higher 10.3
Male	204	19.8	● higher 15.8
Female	73	6.7	● higher 5.2

(OHID Fingertips, sourced from ONS data; Devon Public Health Intelligence Team)

A DCC Suicide Prevention Dashboard is being developed, bringing together data & intelligence to inform and target suicide prevention work. The dashboard will evolve and develop in response to local needs to progress work against the priority areas, groups and risk factors of local strategy (see item 1b on action plan)

5. Looking Ahead: The Priorities for Devon 2024 - 2027

5.1 Benchmarking DCC SPIG priorities from previous strategies and actions plans

The outcome of benchmarking the local position against the National Suicide Prevention Strategy priority areas, groups and risk factors was positive - the majority were already embedded in local suicide prevention strategy & action plans.

KEY TO COLOUR CODES	Included in DCC strategy	Not included	Included - mainly led by others
National Strategy – Priority Areas	DCC strategy 2021 - 22	DCC strategy 2022 - 23	DCC strategy 2023 - 24
Improving data & evidence			
Promoting online safety and responsible media content			
Providing effective crisis support	DPT led	DPT led	DPT led
Reducing access to means and methods of suicide			
Provide effective bereavement support – ‘postvention’	Commissioned by ICS	Commissioned by ICS	Commissioned by ICS
Suicide Prevention is everyone’s business			
National Strategy – Priority Groups	DCC strategy 2021 - 22	DCC strategy 2022 - 23	DCC strategy 2023 - 24
Children and young people			
Middle aged men			
People who have self-harmed			
People in contact with mental health services	DPT led	DPT led	DPT led
People in contact with the justice system			
Autistic people			
Pregnant women and new mothers			
DCC priority groups (identified in previous local strategies)	DCC strategy 2021 - 22	DCC strategy 2022 - 23	DCC strategy 2023 - 24
People who are unemployed			
Inclusion health groups			
National strategy - common population level risk factors	DCC strategy 2021 - 22	DCC strategy 2022 - 23	DCC strategy 2023 - 24
Physical illness			
Financial difficulty and economic adversity			
Harmful gambling			
Substance misuse			
Domestic abuse			
Social isolation and loneliness			

5.2 Devon County Council Priority Areas 2024 – 2027

As a result of the benchmarking process and discussions held by DCC SPIG, the 2024 – 2027 DCC Suicide Prevention Strategy will incorporate these priority areas from the National Strategy as ongoing 'business as usual' local priorities:

- Improving data & intelligence
- Promoting online safety and responsible media content
- Reducing access to means and methods of suicide
- Provide effective bereavement support – 'postvention'
- Promoting a Suicide Prevention is everyone's business approach
- Providing effective crisis support

5.3 Devon County Council Priority Groups & Risk Factors 2024 – 2027

The National Strategy provides significant direction for local strategies, but it remains important to consider what is known about local populations and needs to understand the groups and risk factors that may have greater importance locally, in addition to those identified nationally.

As a result of the benchmarking process and discussions held by DCC SPIG, including reflecting on data & intelligence, it was agreed to incorporate the National Strategy priority groups and risk factors into local strategy and action plans.

There are an additional two priority groups and two risk factors identified from local data and intelligence that will also feature in 2024 – 2027 strategy and action plan:

Priority groups:

- People who are unemployed
- [Inclusion Health Groups](#) (particularly those who are homeless, and vulnerably housed) (particularly those who are homeless, and vulnerably housed)

Priority risk factors

- Bereavement
- Relationship breakdown

5.4 Making it happen

As part of continuous and ongoing engagement, the DCC SPIG will ensure involvement of the appropriate and necessary system stakeholders and partners. This is essential to facilitate collaborative action against all the priorities, groups & risk factors.

It is recognised that there is a need to reach out to stakeholders, including people with lived experience, that can help develop knowledge about the groups and risk factors newly identified for 2024 – 2027. This will enable improved understanding of and response to local needs, to inform, prioritise and review actions over the course of the local strategy.

In addition, it should be acknowledged that some aspects of strategy and action plan may be led by others outside of the DCC SPIG e.g. Government departments, or particular settings. In these cases, the local group would connect to or raise awareness of that work, rather than lead it.

There is specific national and local funding for some aspects of the work contained in the action plan, however funding is often non-recurrent and allocations beyond 2024-25 have not been confirmed. This presents a challenge in achieving the ambitions of the strategy and action plan.

6. Next steps

An initial action plan has been set out to describe actions required for each priority area. This action plan will be further developed and held as a 'live' and evolving document by Public Health Devon - additional actions will be agreed as work progresses, and the action plan will be reviewed and refreshed annually as a minimum through 2024 – 2027.

The action plan will be monitored, reviewed and updated through the DCC Suicide Prevention Implementation Group (SPIG), other relevant partnerships & forums, and task and finish groups as required.

The strategy and action plan will be presented to the DCC Health and Wellbeing Board, and the ICS wide Suicide Prevention Oversight Group.

Public Health Devon – Suicide Prevention Leads June 2024

For queries please contact: publichealth-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Devon County Council Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2024-2027

This action plan will be monitored, reviewed and updated through the DCC Suicide Prevention Strategic Implementation Group (SPIG), other relevant partnerships & forums, and task and finish groups as required.

1. Improving data & intelligence				
Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
1a. Support continuous development of the Devon ICS Real Time (suspected) Suicide Surveillance system	Data & intelligence is used to inform local work programmes	March 2027 - ongoing	RTSS Public Health Devon	
1b. Develop a DCC Suicide Prevention Dashboard to bring together data & intelligence to inform and target work.	Data & intelligence is available and used to inform local programmes	Autumn 2024 for first iteration then ongoing	Public Health Devon	Dashboard to evolve and develop in response to local data & intelligence needs to progress work against the priority areas, groups and risk factors
1c. Develop a DCC 'suicide topic overview' that will provide public data on suicide in Devon	Topic Overview complete and available to use	Autumn 2024 for first iteration then ongoing	Public Health Devon	Dashboard to evolve and develop in response to local data & intelligence needs to progress work against the priority areas, groups and risk factors
1d. National Near Real Time Surveillance System (NNRTSS) – link to the newly developed NNRTSS to utilise data & intelligence as appropriate	Access to NNRTSS Dashboard for key local personnel Utilise data to inform local programmes	Autumn 2024 for first iteration then ongoing	RTSS Public Health Devon	

2. Reducing access to means and methods of suicide

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
2a. Contribute to any response activity as a result of high frequency locations (HFLs) identified via Real Time Suicide Surveillance (RTSS)	Attend meetings – take action as required	Ongoing work: responsive to any identified HFLs	Public Health Devon RTSS partners As identified	Core business for Public Health Devon, and RTSS partners Response will be initiated as required.
2b. Contribute to any response activity as a result of novel methods, and/or potential clusters identified via Real Time Suicide Surveillance (RTSS)	Attend meetings – take action as required	Ongoing work: responsive in relation to identified needs	Public Health Devon RTSS partners As identified	Core business for Public Health Devon, and RTSS partners Response will be initiated as required.
2c. Continue to scope potential to use 'concern for welfare' data to develop mapping of locations that people in distress attend – to inform and target prevention and early intervention programmes	Data shared by key partners Mapping directly informs activity	March 2025	Public Health Blue light services Network Rail / BTP	To continue to identify other partners e.g. RNLI, Coastguard, Highways
2d. Continue to engage in local system response work relating to railways	Include Network Rail colleagues in SPIG Support local & system work and actions	Ongoing	Public Health Devon RTSS Network Rail	Network Rail included in SPIG membership from June 2023
2e. Explore potential for 'Designing Out' – influence local planning guidance and decision-making	Good practice guidance shared with local Planning colleagues Guidance informing local decisions	March 2026	Public Health Devon DCC/District Planning Teams	To explore links with Devon & Cornwall Police Designing Out Crime teams as well.
2f. Attend 'Coastsafe' meetings relating to deaths in the sea/other waters in and around the force area and identify preventative measures. Continue to be the conduit between these and other RTSS/Suicide operational and strategic meetings.	Meetings attended and data/intelligence shared as appropriate. Actions taken in response to concerns.	March 2025	Devon & Cornwall Police	Meetings attended by Suicide Prevention Strategic Co-ordinator for Devon & Cornwall Police

3. Tailored, targeted support for priority groups:

Children and young people (CYP)	People in contact with the justice system	People who have self-harmed
Inclusion Health groups	Middle aged men/all age men	Pregnant women and new mothers
People who are unemployed	People in contact with mental health services	Autistic people

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
3a. Workforce training – promote and target suicide prevention training for workforces supporting priority groups	Training activity – by target workforce	March 2027 With regular review	Public Health Devon SPIG members Relevant stakeholders	Suicide prevention & emotional resilience currently funded across 3 x LA areas Funding position of all training from 2025-26 to be confirmed.
3b. Ensure resources relevant to identified priority groups are signposted to from suicide prevention pages	Links are available within DCC suicide prevention webpages	March 2027	Public Health Devon	Key suicide prevention web page is in place for DCC, work will begin and continue to further develop these
3c. Ongoing contribution to the Devon Schools Wellbeing Partnership – website resource for schools to access information, good practice and signposting on range of health and wellbeing topics	Content developed and online for key topics i.e. suicide, 5 ways to wellbeing	Ongoing – to update and develop as needed	Public Health Devon	Part of ongoing wider Devon Schools Wellbeing Steering Group work
3d. Participating in the national 4S Professionals Stakeholder Study Group led by Bristol, Newcastle and Exeter University to look at self-harm and suicide in children and young people in education and looking at interventions for prevention.	Outcomes shared and acted on where applicable	March 2025	Devon & Cornwall Police	Meetings attended by Suicide Prevention Strategic Co-ordinator for Devon & Cornwall Police
3e. Ensure links to DCC suicide prevention web pages to and from websites relevant to children, young people and family	DCC web pages in place Links established with key partner websites	December 2024	Public Health Devon	

3. Tailored, targeted support for priority groups - continued:

Children and young people (CYP)	People in contact with the justice system	People who have self-harmed
Inclusion Health groups	Middle aged men/all age men	Pregnant women and new mothers
People who are unemployed	People in contact with mental health services	Autistic people

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
3f. Maintain focus on ‘men at risk – all ages’ – utilise risk factor data to inform prevention activity e.g. training offers, targeted communications	Training activity for workforces supporting men	Ongoing	Public Health Devon Relevant partners inc VCSE groups	Ensure contact with VCSE e.g. Ask for Jake, Alright Mate?
3g. Continue to support system wide Men’s Mental Health work in partnership with Plymouth & Torbay	Specific work programmes & activities identified and implemented for 2024-25	Ongoing - March 2025	Public Health – Devon, Plymouth & Torbay	ICS wide. Ongoing work programme in collaboration with Public Health colleagues. Funding due to end March 2025
3h. Identify opportunities for suicide prevention work based on identified needs/challenges for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed	Improved understanding of suicide prevention for Inclusion Health groups. Specific work programmes & activities identified and implemented as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon RTSS Devon Drug & Alcohol Strategic Partnership System Change Action Alliance	
3i. Unemployment – learn from pilot work beginning in Plymouth to provide mental health support in Job Centres.	Use outcomes of pilot to inform action in Devon	March 2025	Public Health teams DWP/JCP	ICS wide. ‘watching brief’ at present re Plymouth pilot, to review as needed
3j. Continued work within prison settings to identify at risk groups, share information via multi-agency meetings and continue to upskill staff on understanding and identifying risk	Training and meetings taking place	March 2027 – ongoing core business	HM Prison & Probation Service	ICS wide. Local lead - Head of Safety Devon and North Dorset (DND) Prison Group/Region

3. Tailored, targeted support for priority groups - continued:

Children and young people (CYP)	People in contact with the justice system	People who have self-harmed
Inclusion Health groups	Middle aged men/all age men	Pregnant women and new mothers
People who are unemployed	People in contact with mental health services	Autistic people

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
3k. Pregnant women/new mothers - to explore local needs/insights to understand opportunities for suicide prevention	Improved understanding of suicide prevention & collaboration opportunities. Specific work programmes & activities identified and implemented as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon Other relevant stakeholders	New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in 2024-25
3l. Autistic and neurodiverse people - to explore local needs/insights to understand opportunities for suicide prevention	Improved understanding of suicide prevention & collaboration opportunities. Specific work programmes & activities identified and implemented as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon Other relevant stakeholders	New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in 2024-25
3m. Develop understanding of local system and support for people who self-harm – utilising outcome of self-harm needs assessment, explore local needs/insights to understand opportunities for suicide prevention, gaps & opportunities	Improved understanding of suicide prevention & collaboration opportunities. Specific work programmes & activities identified to implement as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon Devon Partnership NHS Trust Other relevant stakeholders	ICS wide. New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in 2024-25
3n. Recognition of police officers/staff as at risk group – to ensure signposting & support	Provision of signposting to information and support	March 2025	Devon & Cornwall Police	ICS wide. Lead - Suicide Prevention Strategic Co-ordinator for Devon & Cornwall Police

3. Tailored, targeted support for priority groups - continued:

Children and young people (CYP)	People in contact with the justice system	People who have self-harmed
Inclusion Health groups	Middle aged men/all age men	Pregnant women and new mothers
People who are unemployed	People in contact with mental health services	Autistic people

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
3o. Recognition of specific cohorts of offenders as an emerging 'at risk' group – to explore support options	Outcomes and learning result in actions/activities	March 2025	Devon & Cornwall Police	ICS wide. Lead - Suicide Prevention Strategic Co-ordinator for Devon & Cornwall Police
3p. Respond to requests for support in relation to other groups who may be identified as at risk through the period of this strategy & action plan e.g. LGBTQ+	Improved understanding of suicide prevention opportunities for particular groups. Specific work programmes & activities identified and implemented as appropriate	March 2027	SPIG members and other stakeholders as appropriate	New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in response to emerging trends and concerns
3q. Supporting staff in mental health services who are feeling suicidal - guidance has been created to support and guide managers	Guidance in place and used	March 2025	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	Lead – Safe from Suicide Team

4. Addressing common population level risk factors:		
Physical illness	Financial difficulty and economic adversity	Harmful gambling
Substance misuse	Domestic abuse	Social isolation and loneliness
Bereavement	Relationship breakdown	

	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
4a. Workforce training – promote and target suicide prevention training for workforces supporting those at risk of/experiencing the target risk factors	Training activity – by target workforce	March 2027 With regular review	Public Health Devon SPIG members Relevant stakeholders	ICS wide. Suicide prevention & emotional resilience currently funded across 3 x LA areas Funding position of all training from 2025-26 to be confirmed.
4b. Ensure resources relevant to identified risk factors are signposted to from suicide prevention pages	Links are available within DCC suicide prevention webpages	March 2027	Public Health Devon	Key suicide prevention web page is in place for DCC, work will begin and continue to further develop these
4c. Plan & host a targeted engagement and learning event – to bring together partners from suicide prevention, Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSVA) settings and other key partners, to explore opportunities for intervention and action re links between DSVA and suicide	Event planned & takes place Event outcomes captured & reviewed	Autumn 2024	Public Health DSVA services	ICS wide. This will be a system wide piece of work across all 3 Public Health teams and domestic abuse services. Learning from the event will inform further suicide prevention actions
4d. Local domestic abuse services provide bespoke suicide safety plan for those expressing suicidal ideation. Also provide suicide awareness training for staff at induction	Safety plans developed and used Training delivered.	Ongoing	FearFree	
4e. Specialist Mental Health Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's) who are embedded within Devon Partnership NHS Trust, who deliver training to all staff around the work of an IDVA	Training delivered	Ongoing	FearFree Devon Partnership NHS Trust	

4. Addressing common population level risk factors - continued:				
Physical illness		Financial difficulty and economic adversity	Harmful gambling	
Substance misuse		Domestic abuse	Social isolation and loneliness	
Bereavement		Relationship breakdown		
	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
4f. Explore opportunities to collaborate to source data regarding hospital admissions for 18-25 age group re self-harm, suicide and drugs & alcohol to identify opportunities for early intervention and support/response	Data sourced & collated for analysis Data analysis informing work programmes and activities	March 2025	Public Health Devon – suicide prevention & substance misuse. Data/Intelligence NHS Trusts	Continuing collaboration across Suicide Prevention, and Devon Drug & Alcohol Strategic Partnership work programmes through Avoidable Deaths group
4g. Support an Avoidable Deaths approach – collaborating to share intelligence and learning relating to suicide, drug & alcohol related deaths, domestic homicide reviews, safeguarding adults reviews, and child death reviews	Improved data & information sharing between agencies/forums. Learning shared and acted on - specific work programmes & activities identified to implement as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health leads - suicide and substance misuse Domestic homicide, safeguarding adults and child death review leads	Continuing collaboration across Suicide Prevention, and Devon Drug & Alcohol Strategic Partnership work programmes through Avoidable Deaths group, and other system forums.
4h. Bereavement - to explore local needs/insights to understand opportunities for suicide prevention for people who have been bereaved Also link broader work around bereavement as a risk factor to Suicide Postvention and Suicide Bereavement support.	Improved understanding of suicide prevention opportunities. Specific work programmes & activities identified to implement as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon Other relevant stakeholders	New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in 2024-25
4i. Relationship breakdown - need to explore local needs/insights to understand opportunities for suicide prevention	Improved understanding of suicide prevention opportunities. Specific work programmes & activities implemented as appropriate	March 2025	Public Health Devon Other relevant stakeholders	New actions and activities to be identified in future refreshed action plan based on needs identified in 2024-25

5. Providing effective crisis support

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
<p>5a. Devon Partnership NHS Trust (DPT) would take the lead locally for this priority area - DCC SPIG to collaborate with and support colleagues at the Trust as required in relation to specific pieces of work.</p> <p>Collaboration to include, but not limited to: providing signposting and raising awareness of crisis support and services, ensuring connections with those services, and delivering prevention activities in partnership.</p>	<p>Joint work on specific activities as needed</p> <p>Signposting to mental health services and crisis support on DCC Suicide Prevention web pages</p>	<p>March 2027 – ongoing as needed</p> <p>Autumn 2024</p>	<p>Devon Partnership NHS Trust</p> <p>Public Health Devon</p>	<p>See 'Collaboration with Devon Partnership NHS Trust' section of DCC Suicide Prevention Strategy</p>
<p>5b. Support any responsive and targeted work as needed in relation to specific deaths, suspected clusters, and for settings affected by suicide</p>	<p>Response activity delivered in response to identified need – specific to circumstances and settings as appropriate</p>	<p>March 2027 – ongoing as needed</p>	<p>RTSS Public Health Devon Pete's Dragons Other stakeholders as appropriate</p>	
<p>5c. Suicide Bereavement Support – ensuring signposting and support offered to those bereaved by suicide (see Postvention actions below)</p>	<p>Signposting to Pete's Dragons on DCC Suicide Prevention web pages</p> <p>Signposting to Pete's Dragons undertaken by all relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public Health Devon</p> <p>stakeholders as appropriate</p>	

6. Provide effective bereavement support – ‘postvention’

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
<p>6a. Pete’s Dragons is the suicide bereavement service commissioned by NHS Devon (ICS). Ensure relationship and engagement from DCC SPIG with Pete’s Dragons maintained and working well.</p>	<p>Engagement of service in DCC SPIG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public Health Devon Pete’s Dragons</p>	
<p>6b. Promote Pete’s Dragons services to those bereaved by suicide in Devon</p>	<p>Signposting to Pete’s Dragons on DCC Suicide Prevention web pages</p> <p>Signposting to Pete’s Dragons undertaken by all relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public Health Devon</p> <p>stakeholders as appropriate</p>	
<p>6c. Continuous review and improvements to the referral process by Police into the appropriate commissioned suicide bereavement services</p>	<p>Referrals to suicide bereavement service are made</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Devon & Cornwall Police</p>	<p>Lead - Suicide Prevention Strategic Co-ordinator for Devon & Cornwall Police</p>

7. Promoting online safety and responsible media content

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
<p>7a. Collaboration with Public Health colleagues in Plymouth and Torbay to seek to improve responsible reporting of suicide in local media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote good practice i.e. Samaritans guidelines - Approach media if concerns raised about specific articles 	<p>Good practice resources promoted broadly</p> <p>Guidance shared directly in response to highlighted concerns</p>	<p>March 2027 – ongoing</p>	<p>Public Health Devon in collaboration with Plymouth & Torbay Public Health teams</p>	<p>ICS wide</p>
<p>7b. Consider communication and media in relation to any identified clusters or other deaths as needed</p>	<p>Communication and media included in specific response plans as required</p>	<p>March 2027</p>	<p>Public Health Devon Comms Leads Other stakeholders as appropriate</p>	
<p>7c. Promote and share any good practice guidance & resources relating to online safety and reducing online harms</p>	<p>Signposting to resources on DCC Suicide Prevention web pages</p> <p>Signposting & sharing undertaken by all relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Public Health Devon</p> <p>stakeholders as appropriate</p>	

8. Suicide Prevention is everyone's business

Action	Outcome / measure	Target date	Leads & partners	Comments
8a. Develop ways of meaningfully engaging with and effectively supporting people who have lived experience to inform the work of the DCC Suicide Prevention Implementation Group.	The experiences of people with lived experience demonstrably influences suicide prevention work	March 2027	Public Health Devon All SPIG group members, and other stakeholders	
8b. Workforce training – promote suicide prevention training for all appropriate workforces, communities, groups and individuals	Training activity and feedback	March 2025 With regular review	Public Health Devon SPIG members Relevant stakeholders	Suicide prevention & emotional resilience currently funded across 3 x LA areas Funding position of all training from 2025-26 to be confirmed.
8c. Ongoing development of public-facing web pages that describe the DCC Suicide Prevention priorities and host relevant resources.	The web pages are developed and published. Web pages updated on regular basis.	March 2027 – ongoing updates as needed	Public Health Devon	In addition to our core Suicide Prevention information these pages will also signpost to wider services and information as appropriate.
8d. Promote relevant communications and campaigns to contribute to raising awareness of suicide prevention (and mental wellbeing) in local populations, to challenge stigma and increase knowledge and understanding	Campaigns are supported and promoted locally	March 2027 - ongoing	Public Health Devon All SPIG members	Aiming to highlight local stories where possible, particularly positive developments and good news stories.
8e. Collaborate to deliver suicide prevention activities in alignment with the priorities of the Integrated Care System (ICS) locality led partnerships & forums i.e., Local Care Partnerships, Population Health Management, Primary Care Networks	Attendance at relevant meetings Suicide prevention activities are identified and implemented as appropriate	March 2027	Public Health Devon ICS partners	