

**WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - SERVICES**

**21 March 2022**

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**PROGRESS UPDATE ON WAVERLEY SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN**

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**Head of Service:** Mr Robin Taylor, Head of Policy and Governance

**Key decision:** No

**Access:** Public

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**1. Purpose and summary**

- 1.1 To update the Committee on matters arising from the Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny's recommendations on 'Mental Health in Waverley' at its meeting on the Tuesday March 16, 2021.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee note the information provided in the Background section of this report.

**3. Reason for the recommendation**

- 3.1 It is valuable for members of Overview and Scrutiny members to be aware of the impact that their resolutions can have on the Council's operations and the local community.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 In March 2021, the Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report which set out the current provision of mental health services in Waverley, the initiatives being implemented for staff mental wellbeing and a draft Suicide Prevention Plan modelled on work done in collaboration between Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council. The Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny resolved to:

*a. "NOTE the report and the need to raise awareness through all sections of the community of the mental health support and advice networks that are available to Waverley staff and residents.*

*b. "COMMEND the adoption of the Draft Suicide Prevention Plan for Waverley to the Executive.*

*c. "AGREED to work together with the Housing Overview and Scrutiny committee to share good practice for staff and residents."*

4.2 On the 22 June 2021, the Executive considered Community Wellbeing O&S's recommendations. They agreed to adopt the Suicide Prevention Action Plan. This is included as Annexe 1.

4.3 Since then, the following measures have been taken to implement the plan:

- i. A Partnership Working Group has been set-up bringing together representatives from the Public Health Team at Surrey County Council and the Corporate Governance, Community Service, Human Resources and Communications teams at Waverley Borough Council.
- ii. A substantial programme of wellbeing-themed communications and events for Council staff is ongoing.
- iii. The Waverley Borough Council website has been updated to include a new page signposting resources on mental health and loneliness available to Waverley residents.
- iv. The training provided by Surrey Public Health on this topic is being added to the Surrey Learn training portal to make it more accessible not only to staff at Waverley but also other Surrey districts.
- v. Details of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training and Workshops will be shared in the weekly 'Cascade' emails which are sent to all Council staff.
- vi. All Council staff in customer facing roles have been invited to suicide prevention training and there has been a good uptake in areas such as housing.
- vii. Surrey Public Health is sharing a pro-forma template to enable Waverley to share intelligence on trends in suicides and suicide attempts.
- viii. Waverley's communications teams are meeting with Surrey Public Health to audit the Council's communications on suicide prevention.
- ix. A representative from the Council's Community Service Team has been invited to the Domestic Abuse and Suicide Prevention group chaired by Surrey Police.
- x. Localised data on suicide rates has been provided by the Surrey Public Health Team (included as annexe 2).

4.4 In addition to Waverley specific work, the Surrey Public Health team also continues to implement suicide prevention initiatives at a county-wide level. This work includes:

- i. Refreshing the Suicide Prevention Strategy. Waverley and other district councils will be invited to part of this so that they can deliver interventions at a local level.

- ii. Establishing a real time suicide database to enable cases to be identified and responded to quickly.
- iii. Tendered for a new suicide bereavement support service, which will begin from the June 1 2022
- iv. A mental health and suicide prevention training package has been developed for schools. This will be supported by an 18 month post to embed the suicide prevention toolkit in Schools.

## **5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan**

- 5.1 The Action Plan contributes to the Council's objective that *"through the wide variety of services we provide we will seek to reduce health inequalities and support our communities by supporting the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly those experiencing social isolation, loneliness and poor mental health"*.

## **6. Implications of decision**

### **6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)**

There are no resource implications of this report.

### **6.2 Risk Management**

No risks arising from the recommendations of this report have been identified.

### **6.3 Legal**

There are no legal implications from this report.

### **6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion**

There are no direct equality and diversity implications from this report.

### **6.5 Climate emergency declaration**

There are no direct climate change implications from this report.

## **7. Consultation and engagement**

- 7.1 N/A

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 None

## **9. Governance Journey**

- 9.1 None.

## **Annexes:**

Annexe 1 – Waverley Suicide Prevention Plan

Annexe 2 – Local data on suicide rates provided by the Surrey Public Health Team

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## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act (1972)

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