

## Health and Wellbeing Board

**Wednesday, 07 February 2024 at 14:00**

**County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP**

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### **AGENDA**

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Minutes of the Last Meeting 13 December 2023  | 3 - 8     |
| 2 | To note the replacement of Councillor Scott Carlton with Councillor Tom Smith             |           |
| 3 | To note the appointment of the Acting Director of Public Health                           |           |
| 4 | Apologies for Absence   |           |
| 5 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)                      |           |
| 6 | Integrated Care Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2023 – 2027 March 2024 Review | 9 - 16    |
| 7 | Approval of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Chapter Suicide Prevention        | 17 - 92   |
| 8 | Chair's Report  | 93 - 106  |
| 9 | Work Programme  | 107 - 112 |

### **Notes**

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact James Lavender (Tel. 0115 854 6408) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting: Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: Wednesday 13 December 2023 (commencing at 2:00pm)

**Membership:**

Persons absent are marked with an 'Ap' (apologies given) or 'Ab' (where apologies had not been sent). Substitute members are marked with a 'S.'

**Nottinghamshire County Councillors**

John Doddy (Chair)  
Penny Gowland  
Tom Smith

**District and Borough Councillors**

	David Walters	-	Ashfield District Council
	Lynne Schuller	-	Bassetlaw District Council
Ap	Colin Tideswell	-	Broxtowe Borough Council
S	Richard Falvey	-	Broxtowe Borough Council
	Henry Wheeler	-	Gedling Borough Council
	Angie Jackson	-	Mansfield District Council
	Jonathan Wheeler	-	Rushcliffe Borough Council

**Nottinghamshire County Council Officers**

Jonathan Gribbin	-	Director for Public Health
Elizabeth Winter	-	Public Health & Commissioning Manager

**NHS Partners**

	Dr Thilan Bartholomeuz (Vice Chair)	-	Mid-Nottinghamshire Place-Based Partnership
S	Dr Janine Elson	-	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
	Helen Smith	-	South Nottinghamshire Place-Based Partnership

**Other Partners****Substitute Members**

Richard Falvey for Colin Tideswell

## **Officers and colleagues in attendance:**

Rhys Attwell	-	Nottinghamshire County Council Democratic Services Officer
Vivienne Robbins	-	Nottinghamshire County Council Deputy Director for Public Health
Sarah Collis	-	Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

## **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 November 2023, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Dave Briggs  
Colin Tideswell  
Susan Crosby  
Victoria McGregor Riley  
Stephen Shortt  
Oliver Newbould  
Melanie Williams

## **3. Declarations of Interests**

None.

## **4. Water Fluoridation in Nottinghamshire**

Vivienne Robbins, the Deputy Director for Public Health, presented a report on water fluoridation in Nottinghamshire. The report wished to inform members on water fluoridation in Nottinghamshire and seek comment on work to advocate for its expansion for the benefit of all local population.

Vivienne Robbins, presented to Board Members a presentation detailing the benefits of water fluoridation for the population of Nottinghamshire.

The following was discussed:

- a) It was noted by the Chair that 30% of Nottinghamshire have access to fluoridated water, with there being emphasis on increasing the populations access to water fluoridation.
- b) The Board noted that water fluoridation is a safe and effective population intervention that can reduce scale and likelihood of tooth decay. It was further noted that water fluoridation is a natural mineral which commonly occurs in water supplies, with there being a plan to mimic the naturally occurring fluoride levels.
- c) It was noted that 1 in 5 children under the age of 5 have experienced tooth decay, with it being explained that data had shown in some areas where there

is fluoridated water a decrease in tooth decay. As evidenced by Mansfield (fluoridated area) only having 16.9% visible decay compared to a neighbouring area with the same demographic being Boston in Lincolnshire (un-fluoridated area) having a visible decay of 32%.

- d) It was noted that the intended impact of water fluoridation in Nottinghamshire could lead to 35% reduction in children under 5 having missing or fillings in their teeth. It was also highlighted that an expected 115 fewer extraction a year would take place, and across the board oral health would improve for 130,000 people in Nottinghamshire aged over 65 who would be at risk of oral health issues.
- e) It was noted that Nottinghamshire County Council are going through a two phased progress. Stage one would take 6-12 months, which would involve a motion being passed at full council, Secretary of State for Health draft letter development, stakeholder engagement and finally a request letter being submitted to the secretary of state for Health.
- f) It was noted that Stage two would take place over a longer 3–10-year period and would involve a variety of different tasks undertaken including feasibility studies, which would involve liaising with water companies, a public consultation to understand the public perspective and the decision on whether to proceed with development by the Secretary of State for Health. If the Secretary of State for Health does decide to go ahead with the intended project, there would be a huge project around building infrastructure in Nottinghamshire.
- g) It was noted that the next step process and recommendations would collaborate with partners including the Health and Wellbeing Board to keep them updated with any outcomes which may have arisen.
- h) There were concerns by Board Members about the length of Stage Two, with some Board Members feeling that 3-10 years was a long waiting time.
- i) There was a discussion about the need for recruiting local dentists, with it being noted that East Midlands did not currently have a dentistry school. Board Members wished to see a discussion take place between partnership groups and East Midland based universities about establishing a dentistry school.
- j) It was noted by Board Members that a lot of families in Nottinghamshire do not have access to a dentistry practise, and for issues relating to teeth in young children, a lot of families use General Practitioner surgeries and Hospitals as a substitute.
- k) There was a discussion around the side effects about Water Fluoridation, with the Chair and Officers in attendance reassuring Board Members that potential challenges had been extremely researched and do not pose a risk to the public.
- l) There was a discussion around how to best engage concerned members of the public about Water Fluoridation and making them aware of facts rather than any potential conspiracy theories which is in the public domain.

## **RESOLVED (2023/030)**

- 1) To comment on and support the work programme to champion better oral health outcomes for children and young people and advocate for the expansion of water fluoridation in Nottinghamshire.

## 5. The Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter Two National Return

Naomi Robinson, Deputy Head of Joint Commissioning, NHS Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board, presented via a Microsoft teams link the Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter Two National Return Report.

The following was discussed:

- a) It was noted that this was the first quarterly report since the Covid-19 pandemic, brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was further noted that this was the first quarter template which had also been completed, focusing on metrics and performances to system demand and capacity planning around intermediate care, and did not include financial updates within the report.
- b) It was noted that the metrics for measuring performances was base upon avoidable admissions, which are conditions classed as avoidable if there is initiative-taking care available.
- c) It was noted that there is an Urgent Community Response Service, which is a service offered to the residents of Nottinghamshire who are at risk of acute admission. The Service was noted as taking referrals from healthcare professionals, providing a same day response within a two-hour period.
- d) It was noted that there is a new metric for measuring the emergency hospital admission for those over 65 who have experienced a fall.
- e) It was noted that there is ongoing targeted support for those who are frail and may need additional support, with more being done through primary care networks.
- f) It was noted that the use of a multi-disciplinary team through the BCF, funds various roles and coordinated role around care hubs, which are used to support residents who have been discharged and have various care packages in place, with additional assessments being carried out around any other support which may be required and how effective the care package had been.
- g) It was noted that the modelling for capacity planning and system demand modelling had been updated for intermediate care which have included seasonal Winter pressures with 10% increase added for December and January.
- h) In response to the question about digital aided virtual care, it was noted that there is an increase in virtual beds across the county, with digital monitors being used by those discharged from hospital early as a way of monitoring people from the comfort of there homes.
- i) There was a discussion around Rushcliffe District council having to use its own capital reserve to fund programmes, with there being concerns that they have an older population which may require extra help.
- j) There was a discussion around ensuring that the service offered is a personalised service aimed at keeping residents in their homes for as long as feasibly possible.
- k) It was noted that there is no current freeze on the recruitment drive in the ICB, but there was emphasis on waiting for the new financial year in some situations before advertising roles.

## **RESOLVED (2023/031)**

- 1) To ratify the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund quarter two reporting template that was submitted to NHS England on 31 October 2023.

## **6. Chairs Report**

Councillor John Doddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health, and Wellbeing Board presented a report on the current local and national health and wellbeing issues and their implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The following points were discussed:

- a) It was noted that the Chair wishing to see less than 5% of the population in Nottinghamshire smoking to try and reduce common illnesses such as heart attacks, lung disease and strokes.
- b) It was noted by that smoking inequality exists within Nottinghamshire, with Rushcliffe living longer by 8 years than those in Mansfield.
- c) Chair informed Board members that the response to a smoke free generation had been submitted to the government.

## **RESOLVED (2023/032)**

- 1) To consider the Chair's Report and its implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026.
- 2) To establish any actions required by the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the various issues outlined in the Chair's Report.

## **7. Work Programme**

Councillor John Doddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health, and Wellbeing Board presented and went through the work programme report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **RESOLVED (2023/033)**

- 1) That the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board's work programme be noted.
- 2) That Board members make any further suggestions for items for inclusion on the work programme for consideration by the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the relevant officers and partners.

**Chair:**



**07 February 2024****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD****INTEGRATED CARE STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAM AND  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2023 – 2027: MARCH 2024 REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board members on progress regarding delivery of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy and to outline and agree an approach to reviewing the strategy and refreshing the NHS Forward Plan by March 2024.

**Information**

2. In line with guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), at its meeting on 13 March 2023, the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) approved Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's Integrated Care Strategy. Subsequent work has focussed on implementation and refining measures to monitor the impact of the strategy to assure the ICP that the right conditions for success have been established and embedded.
3. On 06 October 2023, the ICP agreed to commence a light touch review of the Integrated Care Strategy at the end of the first year of delivery. The ICP will consider the revised strategy at their meeting on 22 March 2024.

**Integrated Care Strategy delivery**

4. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy is being delivered by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Health and Wellbeing Boards through the implementation of their Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies, and by NHS partners through delivery of the NHS Joint Forward Plan.
5. For Nottinghamshire County, the Health and Wellbeing Board continues to deliver a range of workshops, COVID-19 impact assessments, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), and reports to support the evidence base and implementation of the Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

6. A monthly Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Steering Group has been set up as an 'engine room' to support joined up delivery across the three Place Based Partnerships (Bassetlaw, Mid Nottinghamshire and South Nottinghamshire) and other partner organisations. The Health and Wellbeing Board also now utilises a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy outcomes dashboard to inform its work and this approach will continue to evolve over the next year.
7. During this financial year, Nottinghamshire County Council has allocated approximately £1 million of additional in-year funding from public health grant reserves to strengthen impact within a range of programmes that will contribute to delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This includes increasing support for those with greatest need (such as those experiencing severe multiple disadvantage and those who are homeless), as well as for weight management, community support through Community Friendly Nottinghamshire, alcohol use, and tobacco.
8. In July 2023 a report was taken to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board proposing a review of the Board to support the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Members endorsed the recommendations, agreeing that there was a timely opportunity to review how the Board delivers its responsibilities most effectively in the current health and care context. The review commenced in December 2023.
9. In May 2023 the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Smoking and Tobacco Control Alliance launched its [smoking and tobacco control vision document and delivery plan](#). Tobacco control is a priority for both Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Boards, and the vision document sets out a collective ambition to reduce smoking in adults across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to 5% or lower by 2035 to create a smokefree generation. A number of task and finish groups will develop and deliver priority actions in the areas of smoking cessation; illicit tobacco; smokefree environments; and prevention for children and young people.
10. On 13 July 2023 the Integrated Care Board (ICB) approved the initial [NHS Joint Forward Plan](#) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Joint Forward Plan for the local NHS sets out the five-year response to the Integrated Care Strategy, as well as how the NHS Mandate will be delivered. As part of its development, the Joint Forward Plan was considered by the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Health and Wellbeing Boards, and both confirmed that the plan would contribute to the delivery of their Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
11. Work is currently underway with NHS partners to confirm the delivery and oversight mechanisms for the lifetime of the plan and from March 2024 it will be refreshed on an annual basis.

### **Integrated Care Strategy impact**

12. Key areas of progress made in the first six months since the Integrated Care Strategy was approved include:
  - a. Supporting children and young people to have the best start in life with their health, development, education and preparation for adulthood. A recent OFSTED inspection of children's services found that Nottingham City Council continues to make good progress against an action plan to improve its Children's Services department.

- b. Supporting frail and/or older people with underlying conditions to stay well, remain independent and avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital in the short term. Partners are working together to jointly develop the same day emergency care pathway to prevent hospital admissions and keep people at home.
  - c. Ensuring that all health and care staff understand the building blocks of health and health inequalities. Work is underway in Adult Social Care in Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Councils to embed strengths-based conversations and champion preventive approaches for citizens. This will help staff understand what is important to people accessing services and identify what support they feel they need to make positive changes in their life. Initial discussions are taking place to consider how Making Every Contact Count (MECC), personalisation and strength-based approaches can be coordinated across the ICP to improve outcomes for citizens that use adult social care services.
  - d. Establishing clinical priorities for the next 24 months to support children, young people and adults with the greatest needs. The clinical priorities include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); stroke; heart failure; cancer; dementia; delirium and confusion; pneumonia; cellulitis; sepsis; falls and injuries; musculoskeletal health; maternity; children and young people; and mental health. Each will be supported by a population health management approach that includes detailed analysis and an in-depth review, with recommendations approved through different levels of clinical leadership. Improvements in care quality, effectiveness and clinical outcomes for local people will be tracked as this work progresses.
  - e. Focusing and investing in prevention priorities such as a new Integrated Wellbeing Service in Nottingham City. The service has been developed to support Nottingham's citizens to receive personalised help to live healthier lives and support people living with severe multiple disadvantage.
  - f. The ICP being selected as a Scaling People Services Vanguard for the Midlands, attracting external funding to the system. This will support the ICP to test and develop a single health and care recruitment hub to better support staff.
  - g. The initial stage of the Better Care Fund (BCF) review being completed. The output will inform commissioning decisions and has identified potential areas to scale up collaborative commissioning including prevention, urgent care, mental health and children and young people.
  - h. Adding social value as major institutions in the local area. The ICP has been chosen as one of ten NHS England Pathfinders for Care Leavers. A project is underway to support 250 young people into work by January 2024.
13. A more detailed update, mapped to the Integrated Care Strategy's 14 priorities, will be presented to the ICP at its March 2024 meeting. This update will be shared with Health and Wellbeing Board members following the meeting.
14. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed to align with the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies and NHS Joint Forward Plan. It proposes using a mixed

methods (quantitative and qualitative) approach and that will be supported by the developing Integrated Care System (ICS) outcomes framework. Governance for the framework is being confirmed and will align with existing accountability.

## Healthy Life Expectancy targets

15. At the time of approving the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy, the ICP agreed that the system Healthy Life Expectancy and Life Expectancy targets (HLE) should be revisited and refreshed. The ICP remain committed to progressing this work.
16. Early results are anticipated by early 2024 to support ICP discussions on setting the level of ambition for HLE. The usual measure for HLE uses surveys to assess health states and cannot be replicated locally. Analysts from the ICB and Public Health are developing alternative measures which can be monitored using local data.

## Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Joint Forward Plan refresh

17. An annual review of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy and the NHS Joint Forward Plan is planned for March 2024, with NHS England publishing updated [guidance on updating the Joint Forward Plan for 2024/25](#) on 22 December 2023. There has been no further national guidance published on the Integrated Care Strategy. Key points from the NHS Joint Forward Plan guidance are:

- a) The three principles for the development of Joint Forward Plans remain:
  - **Principle 1:** Fully aligned with the wider system partnership's ambitions.
  - **Principle 2:** Supporting subsidiarity by building on existing local strategies and plans as well as reflecting the universal NHS commitments.
  - **Principle 3:** Delivery focused, including specific objectives, trajectories and milestones as appropriate.
- b) Systems continue to have flexibility to determine the scope and structure of the Joint Forward Plan. It is anticipated that plans will continue to reflect the priorities set out in 2023/24.
- c) Health and Wellbeing Boards must be involved in revising the Joint Forward Plan and confirm that it continues to take proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWBS).
- d) The ICB and partner trusts continue to be responsible for the development of the Joint Forward Plan. Systems are encouraged to use the Joint Forward Plan as a shared delivery plan for the Integrated Care Strategy and JHWBS.
- e) Should there be any significant revisions to the Joint Forward Plan, there is a statutory duty for the ICB and partner trusts to consult with partners, including the ICP and NHS England.
- f) Previous local patient and public engagement exercises and subsequent action should inform the Joint Forward Plan. ICBs and their partner trusts must include a summary of

the views expressed by anyone they have a duty to consult and explain how they have taken them into account.

18. The ICP will need to consider any changes in their wider context including new or changed policies or guidance and be transparent and inclusive about the timing of the refresh and the opportunities to be involved.
19. At the end of this first year of delivery, the ICP will review and reconfirm the Integrated Care Strategy at their 22 March 2024 meeting. Board members are invited to feedback regarding the strategic priorities by 1 March 2024 in order that their comments are reflected in the final version of the strategy.

### **Other Options Considered**

20. There is an option to not consult the Health and Wellbeing Board on the refresh of the Integrated Care Strategy, however this option was discounted because guidance states that the Integrated Care Strategy should build on and complement Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies, which are a statutory responsibility of Health and Wellbeing Board.
21. There is an option to not consult the Health and Wellbeing Board on the refresh of the NHS Joint Forward Plan. However, this option was discounted because guidance requires the Health and Wellbeing Board to be involved in revising the Joint Forward Plan and to confirm that it continues to take proper account of the Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

22. To ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board has opportunity to inform the review of the Integrated Care Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
23. To ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board has opportunity to inform the NHS Joint Forward Plan refresh for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and to provide its statement of opinion as required by national guidance.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

25. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
26. The Integrated Care Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire will provide system level direction for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities. Although no specific

funding is allocated to the delivery of the strategy it steers system level priorities for the ICS and its constituent organisations.

## **Consultation**

27. The Integrated Care Strategy has its origins in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and, as such, should be seen as both complementary to, and building upon, the aims set out in those documents. As part of developing the Integrated Care Strategy, extensive listening exercises were undertaken the public, patients and stakeholders to ensure it reflected the hopes, needs and aspirations of local people and their communities. [A full engagement report](#) has been produced.

28. The Joint Forward Plan acts as the NHS delivery commitment for all NHS organisations within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS. In developing the plan, engagement took place with public, patients and stakeholders. The engagement programme built on engagement for the Integrated Care Strategy and included stakeholder meetings, presentations at existing forums, public events and a survey. In total, just under 800 individuals were involved in a range of activities, between May and June 2023. An [engagement report](#) has been produced.

## **Implications in relation to the NHS Constitution**

29. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Forward Plan have been developed in line with the NHS Constitution.

## **Implications for Residents**

30. The vision of the Integrated Care Strategy is that 'every person will enjoy their best possible health and wellbeing.' This is delivered through the four aims of the strategy (improved outcomes in population health and healthcare, tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access, enhance productivity and value for money and support the broader social and economic development). The strategy aims to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our local communities, reduce health inequalities, deliver a more preventative approach to health and care and deliver more integrated effective and efficient services.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

31. One of the aims of the strategy is to support broader social and economic development. This includes developing the role of major anchor institutions across the ICS which will have a strong role in supporting local sustainability and the environment through their Green Plans.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 1) Provide comment regarding strategic priorities for consideration within the Integrated Care Strategy 2024 review.
- 2) Agree to delegate ongoing input from the Health and Wellbeing Board regarding the review of the Integrated Care Strategy and refresh of the NHS

Joint Forward Plan to the Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Director of Public Health.

- 3) Agree to schedule a workshop in March 2024 to consider draft revisions to the NHS Joint Forward Plan and to discuss and agree an indicative statement of support for the Plan.
- 4) Agree to schedule an item at the April 2024 Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the formal statement of support for the draft revised NHS Joint Forward Plan.

**Dave Briggs**  
**Medical Director**  
**NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KA 26/01/24)**

32. The recommended decisions are within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Financial Comments (MM 19/01/24)**

33. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Strategy 2023-2027: [Integrated Care Strategy - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS \(healthandcarenotts.co.uk\)](#)
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire NHS Joint Forward Plan 2023-2027: [NHS Joint Forward Plan - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS - NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS \(healthandcarenotts.co.uk\)](#)
- Department of Health and Social, Guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies: [Guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026: [Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026 \(healthynottinghamshire.org.uk\)](https://healthynottinghamshire.org.uk)

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All

**07 February 2024****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****APPROVAL OF JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)  
CHAPTER: SUICIDE PREVENTION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To request that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter on Suicide Prevention.

**Information****Background**

2. Suicide is preventable and Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and local partners work towards reducing suicide in the local population by proactively improving population mental health and wellbeing, and by responding to known risks for suicide in the population.<sup>1</sup>
3. The previous Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on Suicide Prevention was approved in February 2016. Seven years on, and post the coronavirus pandemic, research has shown increased psychological morbidity in UK populations.<sup>2</sup> In terms of suicide risk, systematic review research has shown that the way people seek help for suicidal behaviour has changed, with no overall rise in suicide deaths.<sup>3</sup>
4. A renewed understanding of local needs for those at risk of suicide is needed. From 2019, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County have collected data on suspected suicide deaths (pre-Coroner's inquest) as part of a Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system. Insight from RTSSS will provide an improved local assessment of suspected suicide, which along with nationally reported data, will ensure strategies to prevent suicides are based on local data and intelligence.

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<sup>1</sup> Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Public Health. Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2023. September 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Jia R, Ayling K, Chalder T, et al Mental health in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: cross-sectional analyses from a community cohort study BMJ Open 2020;10:e040620. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040620

<sup>3</sup> John A, Eyles E, Webb RT et al. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-harm and suicidal behaviour: update of living systematic review [version 2]. F1000Research 2021, 9:1097 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.25522.2>)

5. This executive summary contains findings in terms of unmet need, knowledge gaps, and recommendations. The full JSNA document goes into the detail of who is at risk, what this tells us and what to do next.
6. This JSNA is owned by the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group. Progress of the JSNA was driven by a dedicated task and finish group, consisting of stakeholders from within the owning group. This included representatives from Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board mental health commissioners, Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health, Nottingham City Council Public Health, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership, and the voluntary sector (the Samaritans).

## Unmet need

7. The following unmet need has been identified through the JSNA:
8. Current school-based mental health support does not specifically address suicide prevention. Evidence suggests vulnerability to suicide is partly established early in life and that taking early intervention and school-based approaches can be preventative.<sup>4</sup> The Whole School Approach and Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Transformation Programme provides an opportunity to integrate suicide prevention within existing emotional wellbeing approaches.
9. There is a need for additional work to tailor support for men regarding risk factors and antecedents (factors that were present in a person's life prior to suicide) for suicidality. These include economic adversity, alcohol and drug misuse, relationship stresses and social connections. Current provision exists to support men addressing crisis, self-harm and suicide prevention but could go further to address the additional risk factors and antecedents for suicidality.
10. There is a need to support health seeking behaviours in men. National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) data suggests that 9% of middle-aged men experiencing suicidality are not in contact with any support.<sup>5</sup> Currently there is not a year-round targeted communications strategy to support men to engage with appropriate services and support.
11. Voluntary and community services report a need for increased skills and knowledge in how to help people experiencing self-harm and suicidality access a continuum of appropriate holistic support. Voluntary and community sector providers have reported an increase of self-harm presentations to their services, during the same period that hospital admissions for intentional self-harm have decreased.
12. Ensure evidence-based approaches support social connectedness and emotional wellbeing to reduce self-harm and suicidality among LGBTQ+ young people in current school-based and community-based locations. There is currently an opportunity address the risk factors of suicidality for LGBTQ+, such as loneliness, bullying and abuse via whole school approaches and the Children and Young People (CYP) mental health transformation programme.

<sup>4</sup> The developmental origins of suicide mortality: A systematic review of longitudinal studies, Vidal-Ribas, Pablo; et al. , European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Suicide by middle-aged men. 2021. The University of Manchester.

13. Further collaborative work is needed to improve access for Gypsy Roma Traveller groups to support services. Evidence suggested that roles embedded in the community are best placed to support Gypsy Roma Traveller groups. There is an opportunity to collaborate with existing community champions and other community assets.
14. Systems are needed to ensure professionals in community, healthcare, money help and other public-facing roles have up-to-date knowledge and can support access to financial advice and wellbeing and mental health support. This should include knowledge and pathways at a local level. National and local intelligence suggests that financial adversity is a risk factor for suicide.<sup>6</sup> The rising cost of living is likely to add additional risk and requires timely support to be implemented. Feedback from stakeholders acknowledges challenges for both citizens and professionals in identifying what financial support is available and where to access it.
15. Follow-up support is commissioned after first attendance to emergency departments for suicide ideation, and not for later attendances. Intentional self-harm requiring emergency hospital treatment has been found to be present in about 15% of those who take their own life.<sup>7</sup> Effective follow-up care has the potential to help people who self-harm to access the right support and prevent suicide.
16. There is a need to identify effective interventions to address the mental health needs and prevent suicide for people with long term physical health conditions. National data shows that people with long-term and chronic physical illness may be an at-risk group for low mental wellbeing and suicidality.<sup>8</sup> Local intelligence identified cancer diagnosis and chronic pain as the most cited physical health condition within RTSSS data. Some links exist between physical health and mental health services, however, more needs to be done to support and understand patient's needs.
17. Greater links and shared learning between domestic abuse teams and suicide prevention is needed. National data and research highlight that women are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse suicide.<sup>8 9</sup> This group characteristically have multiple unmet needs with fewer resources to escape and seek help.
18. There is a need to better support the needs of children and young people who are in crisis and present to the emergency department with self-harm or suicidal ideation. Local stakeholders have highlighted inappropriately met or unmet needs of young people who are in crisis, with some CYP experiencing long waits on physical health wards whilst appropriate provision was sought. Looked after young people and those transitioning from CYP to adult services, were identified as a group of particular need.
19. There is a need to address online safety and suicide-related internet use. In the absence of local data, we look to national data which indicates a general increase in suicide-related internet use since 2011. Evidence of suicide-related internet use was identified in 8% of the suicides in people who were in contact with mental health services over the past year.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Annual report 2023: UK patient and general population data 2010-2020. March 2023 Available from <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

<sup>7</sup> McManus S et al. Suicide and self-harm in Britain: researching risk and resilience. NatCen Social Research, 2019 Available from: <https://nspa.org.uk/resource/suicide-and-self-harm-in-britain-researching-risk-and-resilience-using-uk-surveys-data-and-analysis/>

<sup>8</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Annual report 2022. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2022/>

<sup>9</sup> Intimate partner violence, suicidality, and self-harm: a probability sample survey of the general population in England Sally McManus et al. June 07, 2022 DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(22\)00151-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00151-1)

## Knowledge gaps

20. The following knowledge gaps have been identified through the JSNA:

- a. Evidence is currently limited on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide and self-harm in people using substances.
- b. Limited understanding of the links between gender, domestic abuse and suicide (particularly sexual violence).
- c. Effective and appropriate links between RTSSS and Mental Healthcare Trusts' self-harm and suicide data to inform antecedent themes and prevention action.
- d. Prevalence and means of self-harm, including understanding of self-harm presentations to Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and the scale of potentially unmet need.
- e. Understanding gambling harm local intelligence in relation to suicide risk factors to inform target led interventions.
- f. Limited understanding of local probation and youth services and approaches to reducing suicidality in people in contact with probation and youth justice services.

## Recommendations for consideration

21. The JSNA recommendations identify key changes needed to address needs of Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City residents in relation to suicide prevention. These are set out in the table below:

	Recommendations	Lead(s)
	<b>Improved data and evidence</b>	
<b>1</b>	Improve data and intelligence sharing between partners including through the local Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system in order to ensure the quality of the RTSSS data and learning reviews after a suicide death has occurred and to improve the understanding of local need and gaps.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust/ partners in RTSSS working group
<b>2</b>	Establish protocols for appropriate sharing and analysis of data on self-harm and suicide attempts among key partners working with groups at increased risk of suicidality, including mental health, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use services to inform preventative actions.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
	<b>Reducing access to means and high frequency locations</b>	
<b>3</b>	Continue to prioritise action on reducing access to means for suicide within public places using intelligence from Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) and through the RTSSS Working Group.	Local authority Public Health teams and partners in RTSSS working group

Providing tailored and targeted support to target groups		
4	Develop integrated suicide prevention approaches for children and young people (CYP) in school settings via the Whole School Approach and CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme.	Local authority Public Health and Education teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
5	Facilitate the development of services and support, co-produced with men, to address suicide risk factors and promote social connections in informal settings.	Local authority Public Health teams/VSCE sector
6	Develop targeted suicide prevention communications for men to support engagement in and access to support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
7	Work with partners (including VSCE and primary care) to better understand where people experiencing self-harm or suicide ideation come into contact with services and what further action is needed to identify and support them, particularly for those whose needs do not meet the threshold for secondary mental healthcare.	All commissioners in local authority Public Health teams
8	Develop communication resources to support people experiencing self-harm to access the right support at the right time.	Local authority Public Health teams
9	Integrate evidence-based approaches to supporting social connectedness and emotional wellbeing for LGBTQ+ people into school and community-based approaches and services.	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
10	Partner with community champions and existing organisations to improve access to appropriate support services for people from Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.	Local authority Public Health teams
Addressing risk factors		
11	Use learning from local pilot projects and listening events to improve access for groups who are at increased risk of not accessing self-harm and suicide prevention support such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gypsy Roma Traveller groups</li> <li>- LGBTQ+ groups</li> <li>- Men</li> <li>- Those who are financially vulnerable, unemployed or people with a gambling problem</li> <li>- People with neurodevelopmental conditions</li> <li>- Young people/adults at risk of self-harm/suicide</li> <li>- People bereaved by suicide</li> </ul>	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
12	Support the community and voluntary sector to support people from at-risk groups who are experiencing self-harm and	Local authority Public Health

	suicidality such as: men, people with financial difficulty, LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing loneliness, and people in contact with the criminal justice system.	teams/VSCE sector
13	Work with services providing financial support/advice and wellbeing support to improve the pathways between psychosocial support and money help, promote workforce awareness of financial advice and wellbeing support, and strengthen links between financial support and mental health services.	Local authority Public Health teams
14	Identify contacts and foster links with commissioners and providers of chronic pain and cancer pathways to explore how to improve access to appropriate support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
15	Develop links with probation, youth justice and community-based services for people in contact with criminal justice system to develop training and involvement with the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Network and Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
16	Review mechanisms for sharing learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews relating to suicide with the suicide prevention partnership and consider opportunities for links between Assurance Learning Implementation Groups (ALIG) and the Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>Effective crisis support</b>		
17	Work with the Integrated Care Board to identify support following Emergency Department attendance for every incident of suicide ideation.	Integrated Care Board
18	Work with the Integrated Care Board's Children and Young People (CYP) team to identify opportunities to promote the mental health and wellbeing and appropriate crisis support for CYP and looked-after children and ensure pathways for support are aligned to facilitate easy access for CYP.	Integrated Care Board (CYP and looked-after children's team)
<b>Online safety</b>		
19	Develop an approach to promote online safety, informed by the national online excellence programme.	Local authority Public Health, Education and Children's social care teams

## Other Options Considered

22. The recommendations outlined in this report are based on the current evidence available and will be used to inform future work across partners on the suicide prevention agenda.

## Reasons for Recommendations

23. Mental health is a priority across the system and suicide has a significant impact on individuals, families, and wider communities. The Suicide Prevention JSNA will inform recommissioning by the Integrated Care Board and the development of a new suicide

prevention strategy. Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory responsibility to produce a JSNA and approval for the Suicide Prevention JSNA chapter is sought from the Board in line with the approved JSNA work programme.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Data Protection and Information Governance**

25. Guidance was sought and utilised on the best practice for reporting on localised Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities lead on Health and Wellbeing (Midlands).

## **Financial Implications**

26. There are none arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- 1) To approve the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter on Suicide Prevention, provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 2) To support implementation of the JSNA recommendations within the context of a new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy.

**Viv Robbins**  
**Acting Director of Public Health**  
**Nottinghamshire County Council**

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## **Constitutional Comments (GMG 24/11/23)**

27. This report falls to be considered and determined by the Health and Wellbeing Board under the Council's Constitution (see Section 7, Part 2, paragraph 8 on page 119).

### **Financial Comments (DG 27/11/23)**

28. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- 'All'

# NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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## SUICIDE PREVENTION

DECEMBER 2023

Topic information	
<b>Topic owner</b>	Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group
<b>Topic author(s)</b>	Safia Ahmed Serena Coultress Lucy Jones David McDonald Sid Basu
<b>Topic quality reviewed</b>	November 2023
<b>Topic endorsed by</b>	Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group
<b>Topic approved by</b>	
<b>Replaces version</b>	2016
<b>Linked JSNA topics</b>	Self-Harm

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## Executive summary

### Introduction

Suicide is preventable and Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and local partners work towards reducing suicide in the local population by proactively improving population mental health and wellbeing, and by responding to known risks for suicide in the population.<sup>1</sup>

The previous Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Suicide Prevention was approved in February 2016. Seven years on, and post the coronavirus pandemic, research has shown increased psychological morbidity in UK populations.<sup>2</sup> In terms of suicide risk, systematic review research has shown that the way people seek help for suicidal behaviour has changed, with no overall rise in suicide deaths.<sup>3</sup>

A renewed understanding of local needs for those at risk of suicide is needed. Since 2019, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County have collected data on suspected suicide deaths (pre-Coroner's inquest) as part of a Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system. Insight from RTSSS provides an improved local assessment of suspected suicides, which along with nationally reported data, ensures actions to prevent suicides are based on local data and intelligence.

This executive summary contains findings in terms of unmet need, knowledge gaps, and recommendations. The full JSNA document provides the detail of who is at risk, what this tells us and what to do next.

This JSNA is owned by the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group. Development of the JSNA was driven by a dedicated task and finish group, consisting of stakeholders from within the owning group. This included representatives from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board mental health commissioners, Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health, Nottingham City Council Public Health, Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership, and the voluntary sector (the Samaritans).

<sup>1</sup> Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Public Health. Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2023. September 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Jia R, Ayling K, Chalder T, et al Mental health in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic: cross-sectional analyses from a community cohort study BMJ Open 2020;10:e040620. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040620

<sup>3</sup> John A, Eyles E, Webb RT et al. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-harm and suicidal behaviour: update of living systematic review [version 2; peer review: 1 approved, 2 approved with reservations]. F1000Research 2021, 9:1097 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.25522.2>)

## Unmet need and gaps

The following unmet needs were identified:

1. Current school-based mental health support does not specifically address suicide prevention. Evidence suggests vulnerability to suicide can be partly established early in life and that taking early intervention and school-based approaches can be preventative.<sup>4</sup>
2. There is a need for additional work to tailor support for men to reduce risk factors and antecedents for suicidality. These include economic adversity, alcohol and drug use, relationship stresses and lack of social connections.
3. There is a need to support health seeking behaviours in men. National data suggests that 9% of middle-aged men experiencing suicidality are not in contact with any support.<sup>5</sup>
4. Voluntary and community services report a need for increased skills and knowledge in how to help people experiencing self-harm and suicidality access a continuum of appropriate holistic support.
5. Ensure evidence-based approaches support social connectedness and emotional wellbeing to reduce self-harm and suicidality among LGBTQ+ young people in current school-based and community-based locations.
6. Further collaborative work is needed to improve access to support services for Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.
7. Systems are needed to ensure professionals in community, healthcare, money help and other public-facing roles have up-to-date knowledge and can support access to financial advice and wellbeing and mental health support. This should include knowledge and pathways at a local level.
8. Follow-up support is commissioned after first attendance to emergency departments for suicide ideation, and not commissioned for later attendances. Effective follow-up care has the potential to help people who self-harm to access the right support and prevent suicide.
9. There is a need to identify effective interventions to address the mental health needs and prevent suicide for people with long term physical health conditions.
10. Greater links and shared learning between domestic abuse and suicide prevention teams is needed. National data and research highlight that women are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse suicide.<sup>6</sup>
11. There is a need to better support the needs of children and young people who are in crisis and present to the emergency department with self-harm or suicidal ideation. Looked after young people and those transitioning from CYP to adult services, were identified as groups of particular need.

<sup>4</sup> The developmental origins of suicide mortality: A systematic review of longitudinal studies, Vidal-Ribas, Pablo; et al, European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Suicide by middle-aged men. 2021. The University of Manchester.

<sup>6</sup> Intimate partner violence, suicidality, and self-harm: a probability sample survey of the general population in England Sally McManus et al. June 07, 2022 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(22\)00151-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00151-1)

12. There is a need to address online safety and suicide-related internet use. In the absence of local data, we look to national data which indicates a general increase in suicide-related internet use since 2011.<sup>6</sup>

The following knowledge gaps were identified:

- Evidence is currently limited on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide and self-harm in people using substances.
- Limited understanding of the links between gender, domestic abuse and suicide (particularly sexual violence).
- Effective and appropriate links between RTSSS and Mental Healthcare provider self-harm and suicide data to inform antecedent themes and prevention action.
- Prevalence and means of self-harm, including understanding of self-harm presentations to VSCE organisations and the scale of potentially unmet need.
- Understanding gambling harm local intelligence in relation to suicide risk factors to inform targeted interventions.
- Limited understanding of approaches to reducing suicidality in people in contact with probation and youth justice services.

### Recommendations for consideration

The following recommendations have been identified and are aligned to components of the new Suicide Prevention Strategy for England (2023 to 2028):

	Recommendations	Lead(s)
	<b>Improved Data and Evidence</b>	
<b>1</b>	Improve data and intelligence sharing between partners including through the local Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system in order to ensure the quality of the RTSSS data and learning reviews after a suicide death has occurred and to improve the understanding of local need and gaps.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust/ partners in RTSSS working group
<b>2</b>	Establish protocols for appropriate sharing and analysis of data on self-harm and suicide attempts among key partners working with groups at increased risk of suicidality, including mental health, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use services to inform preventative actions.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
	<b>Reducing access to means and high frequency locations</b>	
<b>3</b>	Continue to prioritise action on reducing access to means for suicide within public places using intelligence from Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) and through the RTSSS Working Group.	Local authority Public Health teams and partners in RTSSS working group
	<b>Providing tailored and targeted support to target groups</b>	

<b>4</b>	Develop integrated suicide prevention approaches for children and young people (CYP) in school settings via the Whole School Approach and CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme	Local authority Public Health and Education teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
<b>5</b>	Facilitate the development of services and support, co-produced with men, to address suicide risk factors and promote social connections in informal settings.	Local authority Public Health teams/VSCE sector
<b>6</b>	Develop targeted suicide prevention communications for men to support engagement in and access to support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
<b>7</b>	Work with partners (including VSCE and primary care) to better understand where people experiencing self-harm or suicide ideation come into contact with services and what further action is needed to identify and support them, particularly for those whose needs do not meet the threshold for secondary mental healthcare.	All commissioners in Local authority Public Health teams
<b>8</b>	Develop communication resources to support people experiencing self-harm to access the right support at the right time.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>9</b>	Integrate evidence-based approaches to supporting social connectedness and emotional wellbeing for LGBTQ+ people into school and community-based approaches and services.	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
<b>10</b>	Partner with community champions and existing organisations to improve access to appropriate support services for people from Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>Addressing risk factors</b>		
<b>11</b>	Use learning from local pilot projects and listening events to improve access for groups who are at increased risk of not accessing self-harm and suicide prevention support such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gypsy Roma Traveller groups</li> <li>- LGBTQ+ groups</li> <li>- Men</li> <li>- Those who are financially vulnerable, unemployed or people with a gambling problem</li> <li>- People with neurodevelopmental conditions</li> <li>- Young people/adults at risk of self-harm/suicide</li> <li>- People bereaved by suicide</li> </ul>	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
<b>12</b>	Support the community and voluntary sector to support people from at-risk groups who are experiencing self-harm and suicidality such as: men, people with financial difficulty, LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing loneliness, and people in contact with the criminal justice system.	Local authority Public Health teams/VSCE sector

<b>13</b>	Work with services providing financial support/advice and wellbeing support to improve the pathways between psychosocial support and money help, promote workforce awareness of financial advice and wellbeing support, and strengthen links between financial support and mental health services.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>14</b>	Identify contacts and foster links with commissioners and providers of chronic pain and cancer pathways to explore how to improve access to appropriate support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare trust
<b>15</b>	Develop links with probation, youth justice and community-based services for people in contact with criminal justice system to develop training and involvement with the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Network and Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>16</b>	Review mechanisms for sharing learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews relating to suicide with the suicide prevention partnership and consider opportunities for links between Assurance Learning Implementation Groups (ALIG) and the Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>Effective crisis support</b>		
<b>17</b>	Work with the Integrated Care Board to identify support following Emergency Department attendance for every incident of suicide ideation.	Integrated Care Board
<b>18</b>	Work with the Integrated Care Board's Children and Young People (CYP) team to identify opportunities to promote the mental health and wellbeing and appropriate crisis support for CYP and looked-after children and ensure pathways for support are aligned to facilitate easy access for CYP.	Integrated Care Board (CYP and looked-after children's team)
<b>Online safety</b>		
<b>19</b>	Develop an approach to promote online safety, informed by the national online excellence programme.	Local authority Public Health teams, Education and Children's social care teams

## Full JSNA report

### Notable changes from previous JSNA

Real Time Surveillance for suspected suicide: (RTSSS) data collection (pre-Coroner's inquest) in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County has been in place since 2019, with data around sexual identity, deprivation and ethnicity consistently collected from 2022 onwards. Insight from this platform has allowed an improved local needs assessment of suspected suicide (pre-Coroner's inquest) of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County residents. RTSSS data is also used to highlight any potential clusters or patterns of suspected suicide deaths to inform timely strategies to help prevent suicide.

National Statistics definition of suicide: This includes all deaths from intentional self-harm for persons aged 10 years and over and deaths caused by injury or poisoning where the intent was undetermined for those aged 15 years and over.<sup>7</sup>

From January 2016 the National Statistics definition of suicide widened to include deaths from intentional self-harm in children aged 10 to 14 years. Deaths from an event of undetermined intent in 10- to 14-year-olds are not included in suicide statistics. This is because for older teenagers and adults, it is assumed that the harm resulting in death is self-inflicted, however for younger children it is not clear whether this assumption is appropriate.

Research has been conducted and it was found that the inclusion of these deaths has not had a significant impact on the overall age-standardised rates.<sup>1</sup>

Change to the Standard of Proof for suicide in England and Wales: In England and Wales, all unnatural deaths are investigated by coroners to establish the cause and circumstances of the death. The investigation, known as an inquest, compiles evidence such as post-mortem, toxicology reports, and interviews with relatives and friends. Once all the available evidence has been collected, a coroner will then determine the cause of death, and manner of death and surrounding circumstances.<sup>8</sup>

On 26 July 2018, as a result of a case in the High Court, the standard of proof (the evidence threshold) used by coroners to determine whether a death was caused by suicide was changed from the criminal standard of "beyond all reasonable doubt" to the civil standard of "on the balance of probabilities". This legal change has not resulted in any significant change in the reported suicide rate in England and Wales; recently observed increases in suicide among males and females in England, and females in Wales, began before the standard of proof was lowered.

Since the change, the proportion of deaths in England and Wales with an underlying cause of intentional-self harm increased, whereas the proportion coded to undetermined intent

<sup>7</sup> Suicide rates in the UK Quality and Methodology Information 2019. Office for National Statistics. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/methodologies/suicideratesintheukqmi>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/changeinthestandardofproofusedbycoronersandtheimpactonsuicidedeathregistrationsdatainenglandandwales/2020-12-08>

decreased; this indicates a change in conclusions reached by coroners, but when taken as a whole does not impact suicide statistics as both of these are included in the suicide rate.

## **What do we know?**

### **1. Who is at risk and why?**

---

Suicide is a major issue for society and a leading cause of years of life lost. Suicide can affect anyone and has a significant, lasting and often devastating impact on individuals, families, communities, and wider society.<sup>9 10</sup>

Suicide is often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events. However, suicide is preventable by working towards improving population mental health and wellbeing, and by responding to known risks for suicide in the population.

#### **1.1. National context and general trends in suicide**

Nationally, a total of 15,447 deaths from suicide were registered in the three-year period of 2019-21, equating to a rate of 10.4 per 100,000 people (Figure 1).<sup>10</sup> This is the highest rate recorded since records began in 2001-03. However, this is not statistically significant compared to the previous three-year period of 2018-20 (10.3 per 100,000). The overall trend in suicide rates has been on the rise since 2006-08, rising from 9.2 per 100,000 (2006-08) to 10.4 per 100,000 (2019-21).

Males continued to account for three-quarters of suicide deaths registered in 2021 (4,129 male deaths compared with 1,454 female deaths), as seen since the mid-1990s.<sup>11</sup> Among women, those aged 45 to 49 years had the highest age-specific suicide rate at 7.8 per 100,000 in 2021 (146 registered deaths). Among men, those aged 50 to 54 years had the highest age-specific suicide rate at 22.7 per 100,000 (456 deaths). In terms of age and suicide, small differences from year to year or between age groups are unlikely to be statistically significant.

#### **1.2. Risk factors for suicide**

Many risk factors for suicide are well established. For example, most people who end their own life experience mental illness, with depression, psychosis, personality disorder, or substance dependence often implicated.<sup>14</sup> Among the most common risk factors identified is

<sup>9</sup> Zero Suicide Alliance. ZSA Training. 2021. Available from: <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training>

<sup>10</sup> Suicide Prevention Profile. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Available from: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/suicide>

<sup>11</sup> Suicide registrations in England and Wales 2021: Statistical bulletin. Office for National Statistics (ONS). Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/suicidesintheunitedkingdom/2021registrations>

a history of self-harm and previous suicide attempts, present in approximately 40% of people who have died by suicide.<sup>12</sup>

The National Centre for Social Research (2019) identified and reviewed government-funded surveys to consolidate national self-harm and suicidal behaviour survey data in terms of common findings on trends, prevalence, subgroup variations, and risk and protective factors. Seven consistent themes emerged from analyses and included:

1. Mental illness and wellbeing
2. Physical health and health behaviours (multiple chronic health conditions)
3. Relationships (social isolation, relationship breakdown or violence and abuse)
4. Acute and chronic stressors (crisis and sustained adversity)
5. Economic adversity and insecurity (debt and housing insecurity)
6. Demographics and identity
7. Formal service contact

Mental illness was consistently the strongest risk factor for suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts and self-harm (without intent) to emerge across multiple analyses. Men in midlife and non-heterosexual population groups were also associated with higher rates of suicidal thoughts and attempts compared to the general population.

### **The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health**

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) provides findings relating to those who died by suicide between 2010 and 2020 across all UK countries. The dataset includes deaths in the general population and deaths of patients in contact with mental health services. This audit of suicides is useful in establishing key groups at risk, as well as changing trajectories seen through the context of current economic and societal factors. Key findings from the most recent annual report include:<sup>13</sup>

General population suicide trends: The rate of suicide decreased by 6% in the UK in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to 2019. This followed a general increase in suicide rates in 2018-19 compared to 2017.

Patient suicide trends: This relates to people in contact with mental health services within 12 months of suicide. 27% of all general population suicides were among people who had been in contact with mental health services within 12 months prior to their death (18,403 deaths in 2010-2020). The overall increase in the rate of suicide in England over the reporting period was not reflected in the rate of suicide among patients under mental health care. There has been little change over time in this key group.

Clinical and social characteristics: The majority of mental health service patients who died had a history of self-harm (64%) and had more than one mental health diagnosis (53%). There were also high proportions of those with alcohol (48%) and drug (37%) use. Nearly

<sup>12</sup> McManus S et al. Suicide and self-harm in Britain: researching risk and resilience. NatGen Social Research, 2019 Available from: <http://www.natcen.ac.uk/our-research/research/suicide-and-self-harm-in-britain-researching-risk-and-resilience/>

<sup>13</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health. Annual Report: UK patient and general population data, 2010-2020. 2023. University of Manchester. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

half (48%) of all patients lived alone. In 5% of cases overall, the patients were recent migrants, i.e. seeking permission to stay in the UK or resident in the UK for less than 5 years.

Clinical care: Between 2010-2020, 5,103 mental health patients died by suicide in mental health acute care settings (28% of the total deaths that occurred), including in-patients (6%), post-discharge care (14%) and crisis resolution/home treatment (13%), with an average of 464 deaths per year. The most common non-acute settings were community mental health services (14%), alcohol or drug services (13%), and older people's mental health services (8%).

Suicide-related internet use – Between 2011 and 2020, there were 73 deaths of mental health patients per year where there was evidence of suicide-related internet use, equating to 8% of all patient suicides. The number has generally been increasing since 2011 though figures for 2019-20 suggest a recent fall.

## **2. Size of the issue locally**

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This section looks at local suicide rates and how they vary over time compared to national and regional areas, along with district and city level data compared with statistically similar neighbours.

### **2.1. Local trends in suicide**

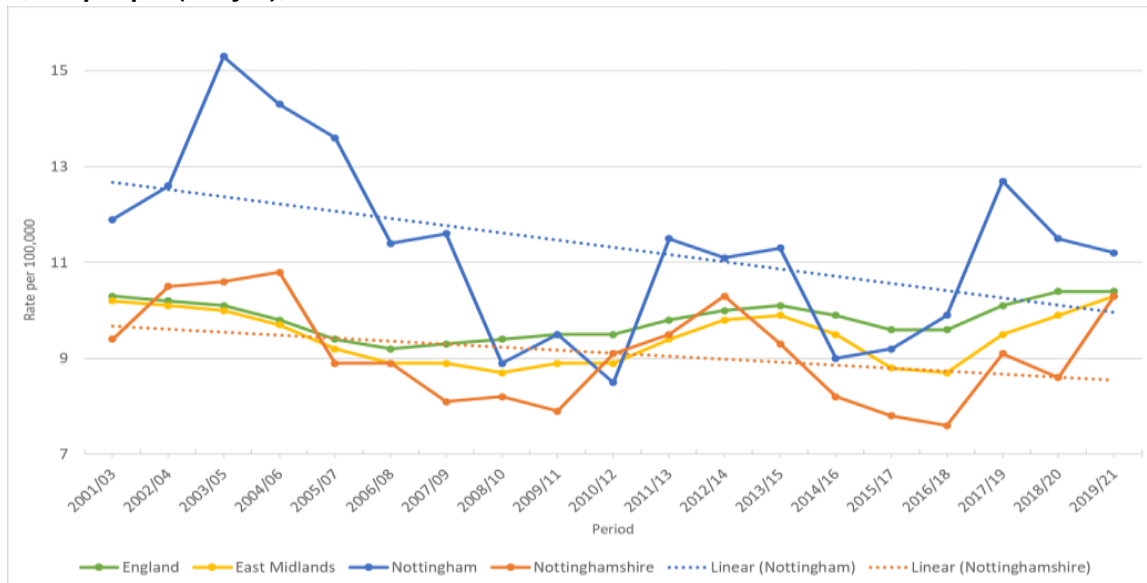
In the East-Midlands, the rate of suicide is 10.3 per 100,000 people (2019-21), which is statistically similar to the England average of 10.4. The overall trend for the region follows a similar pattern to the England average, but in more recent periods there has been a steady increase in the rate from 8.7 per 100,000 (2016-18) to 10.3 per 100,000 (2019-21) (Figure 1).<sup>3</sup>

In the latest three-year period (2019-21), Nottinghamshire's rate of 10.3 per 100,000 people is statistically similar to both the East-Midlands (10.3) and the England average (10.4). From 2012-14, the suicide rate in Nottinghamshire dropped from 10.3 to 7.6 per 100,000 in 2016-18 and has subsequently increased to 10.3 for the most recent period (2019-21). It is worth noting that the recent increase in rate from 8.6 in 2018-20 to 10.3 in 2019-21 is not significantly different.

In Nottingham, the most recent suicide rate is 11.2 per 100,000 people (2019-21), which is higher than both the East-Midlands (10.3) and England (10.4) rates, however is not a statistically significant difference. Recently in Nottingham, the rate of suicide has decreased from 12.7 per 100,000 people in 2017-19 to 11.2 per 100,000 in 2019-21.

Overall, between 2001 and 2021 the linear trend for rates of suicide in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham is following a downward trajectory.

**Figure 1: Age Standardised Mortality Rate from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent per 100,000 people (10+ yrs), 2001-2021**



Source: OHID

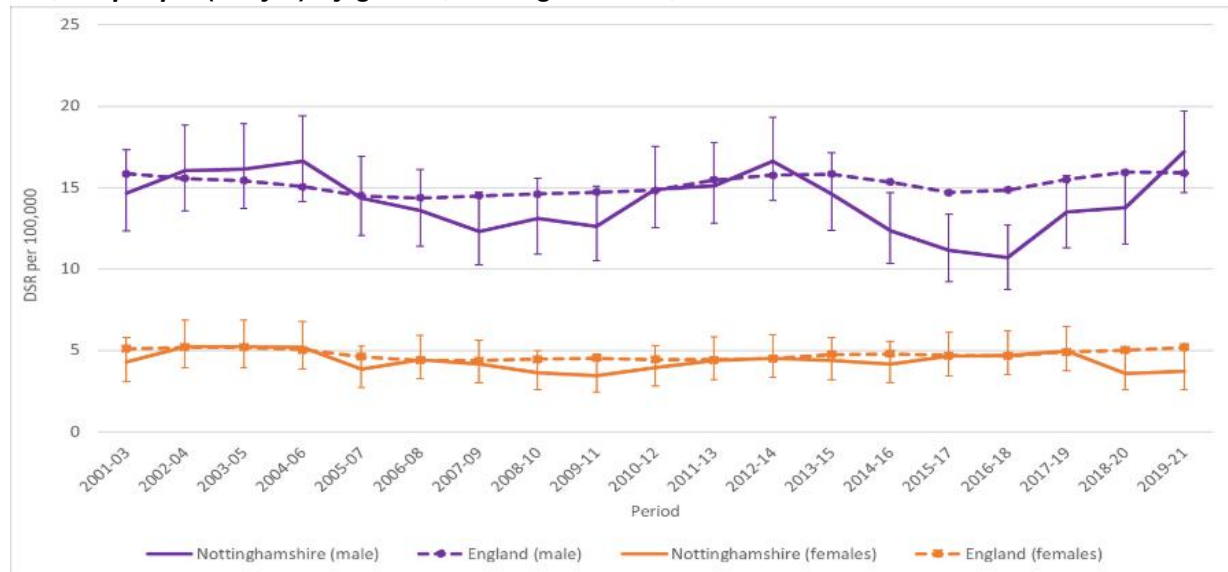
\*Y axis starts from 7

\*\* Changes in coronial context from July 2018. This legal change has not resulted in any significant change in the reported suicide rate in England and Wales.

Figure 2 shows that since 2001, suicide rates in Nottinghamshire have been significantly higher in males compared to females, mirroring national patterns. Rates in females have remained relatively stable and similar to the rates observed in England over the given time period. However, there was a notable decrease in rates among females in 2017-19 from 4.9 per 100,000 people to 3.6 in 2018-20. The rate has remained relatively constant in the recent period.

Rates among males exhibit annual variations, with a significant decrease observed from 16.6 per 100,000 people in 2012-14 to 10.7 per 100,000 people in 2016-18. However, since 2016-18 there has been a steady rise in suicide rates among males.

**Figure 2: Age Standardised Mortality Rate from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent per 100,000 people (10+ yrs) by gender, Nottinghamshire, 2001-2021**

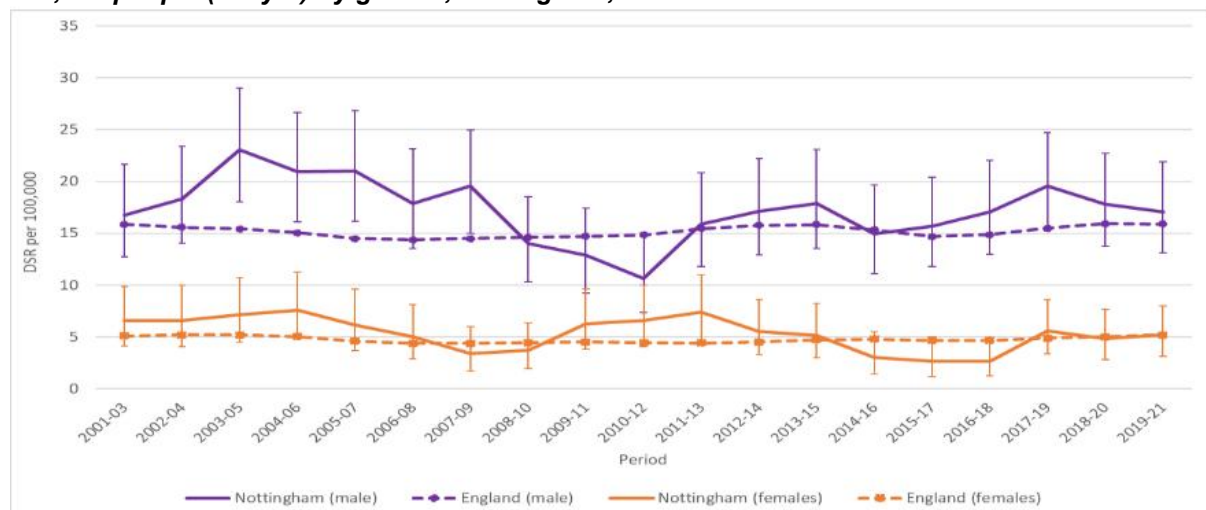


Source: OHID

Note: Directly standardised rate (DSR)

Similar to Nottinghamshire, suicide rates for males in Nottingham City have been consistently higher compared to females since 2001, mirroring national patterns. Rates in females, though varying year on year have remained statistically similar to the England average and have plateaued in more recent years. Apart from the period between 2003 and 2007, rates in males have not been significantly different from the England average. In more recent periods, suicide rates in males in Nottingham has been decreasing as shown in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3: Age Standardised Mortality Rate from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent per 100,000 people (10+ yrs) by gender, Nottingham, 2001-2021**



Source: OHID

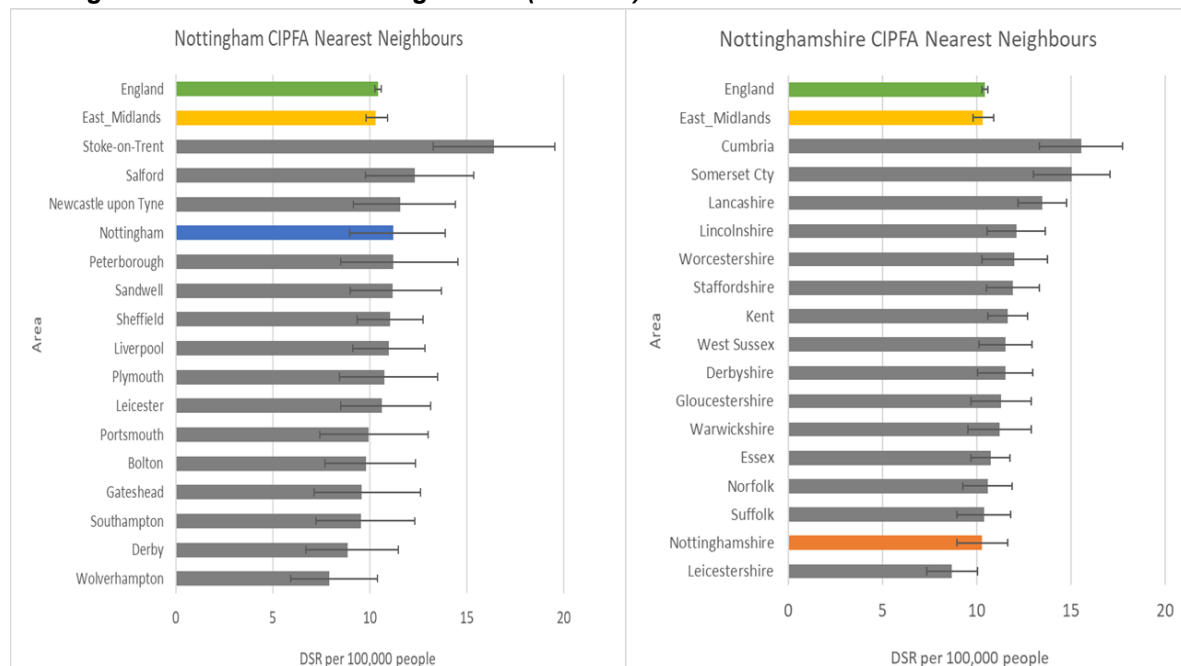
Note: Directly standardised rate (DSR)

### 2.1.1 Comparison to CIPFA Neighbours

For the latest three-year period (2019-21), Nottinghamshire has the second lowest rate of suicide among its Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) neighbours and is also statistically significantly similar to the National and East-Midlands rates. Among CIPFA neighbours, Cumbria has the highest suicide rate of 15.5 per 100,000 people and Leicestershire the lowest rate (8.7 per 100,000 people).

For the same three-year period, Nottingham has the fourth highest suicide rate compared to its CIPFA neighbours, but this is not significantly different to either its CIPFA neighbours, England or East-Midlands averages. Among CIPFA neighbours, Stoke-on-Trent has the highest suicide rate and Wolverhampton the lowest rate (16.4 and 7.9 per 100,000 people respectively).

**Figure 4: Age Standardised Suicide Rates (persons) per 100,000 people, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and CIPFA Neighbours (2019-21)**



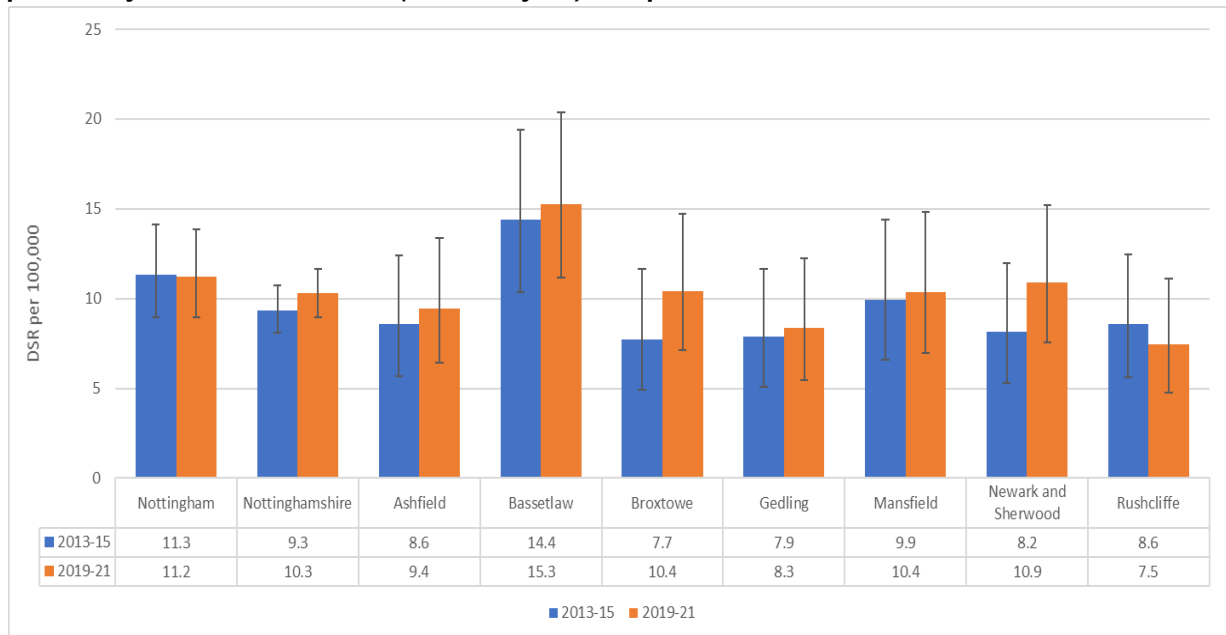
Source: OHID

Note: Directly standardised rate (DSR)

### 2.1.2 Suicide rates by area

Compared to the baseline year (2013-15), there has been no significant change in the suicide rates across the districts and Nottingham City as illustrated in Figure 5 below. Broxtowe and Newark & Sherwood had the highest rate change from the baseline year increasing from 7.7 to 10.4 and 8.2 to 10.9 per 100,000 people respectively (Table 1). Across the districts, Rushcliffe recorded a decrease in suicide rate from 8.6 (2013-15) to 7.5 per 100,000 people (2019-21). Due to absolute numbers being low, it is difficult to reliably detect patterns or changes over short periods of time.

**Figure 5: Age Standardised Mortality Rates from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent, pooled 3-year data for 2013-15 (baseline year) compared to 2019-21**



Source: OHID

Note: Directly standardised rate (DSR)

**Table 1: Rate change in Mortality from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent, 2013-15 (baseline year) versus 2019-21.**

Local Area & District	2013-15		2019-21		Difference	
	DSR per 100,000	Number	DSR per 100,000	Number	Rate Change	% Change
Nottingham	11.3	85	11.2	94	-0.1	11%
Nottinghamshire	9.3	200	10.3	226	1	13%
Bassetlaw	14.4	43	15.3	47	0.9	9%
Newark & Sherwood	8.2	26	10.9	35	2.7	35%
Broxtowe	7.7	23	10.4	32	2.7	39%
Mansfield	9.9	28	10.4	30	0.5	7%
Ashfield	8.6	28	9.4	32	0.8	14%
Gedling	7.9	25	8.3	26	0.4	4%
Rushcliffe	8.6	27	7.5	24	-1.1	-11%

Source: OHID

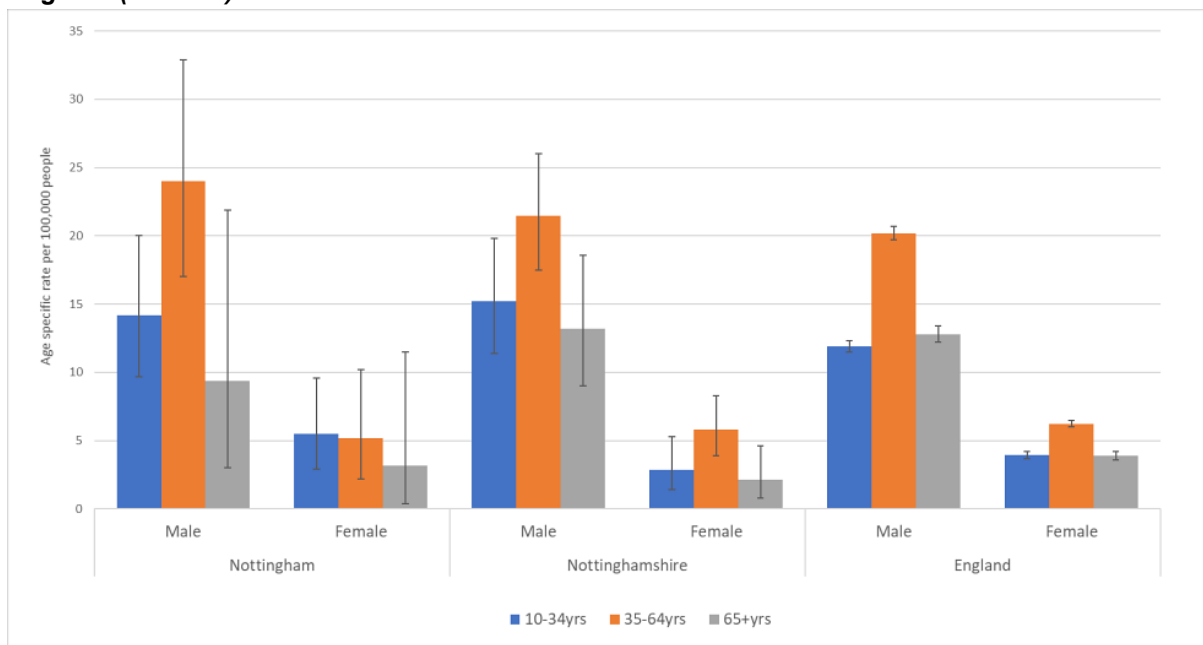
Note: Directly standardised rate (DSR)

\*The darker shades indicate higher rates.

### 2.1.3 Age specific rates by gender

Figure 6 displays the age specific rates by gender in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, and England. The data indicates significantly higher rates among males compared to females across all age groups except in the 10-35 and 65+ age groups in Nottingham. For both males and females, the rates are higher in age group 35-64; however, this is not statistically significant compared to other age groups in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Likewise, although rates are highest in males aged 35-64 in Nottingham, it is not significantly higher compared to rates in Nottinghamshire and England.

**Figure 6: Age Specific Suicide Rates by Gender, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire and England (2019-21)**



Source: NHS Digital/ONS

## 2.2 Real Time Surveillance

This section looks at data from the Real Time Surveillance of Suspected Suicides (RTSSS) and includes general trends over time with further sub-group analysis by age, gender, ethnicity and deprivation.

The RTSSS data is comprised of data reported by Nottinghamshire Police and British Transport Police. Data is reported pre-Coroners' inquest and relates to deaths that are suspected to be suicide deaths rather than deaths that have been confirmed as a suicide by the coroner. The system supports the local response whilst there is a lag in official statistics on numbers of deaths by suicide.



There are a range of factors that may influence the numbers and patterns of reported suspected suicide deaths that the real-time surveillance system is informed of. Nationally reported data provides a more consistent measure.

Data reported by Nottinghamshire Police is collected from the next of kin at the time of death and is reliant on what next of kin are able and comfortable to share. Nottinghamshire Police made improvements to case finding methods in 2022 and some changes in rates may in part be attributed to this.

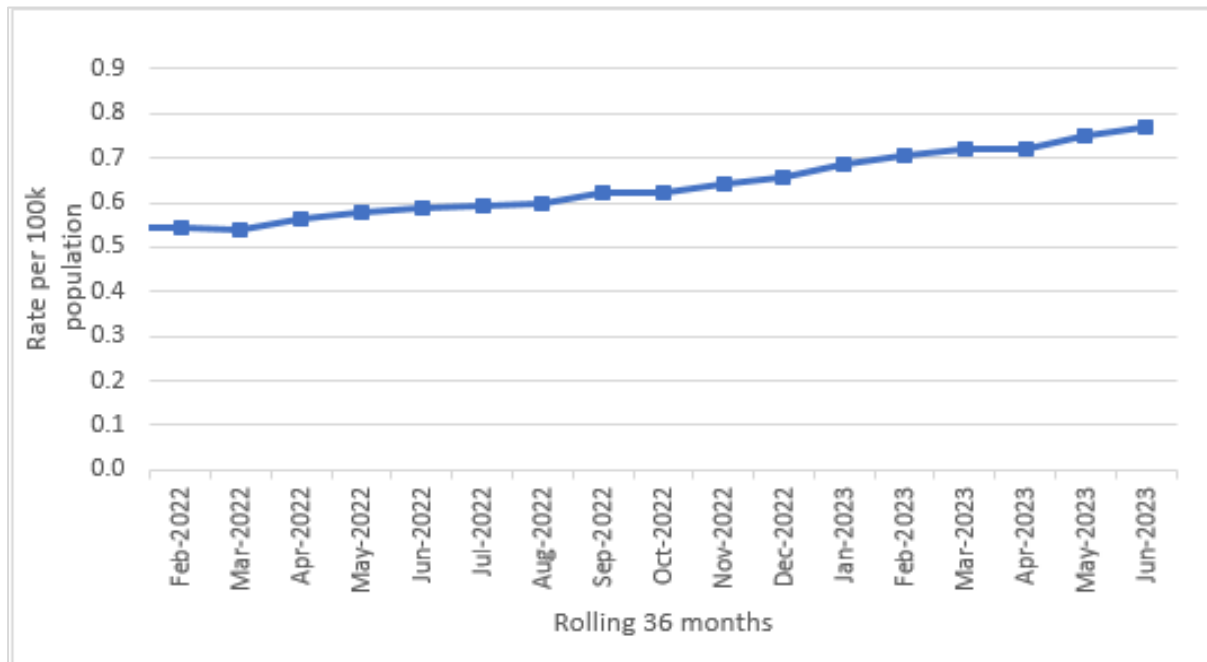
Data reported is based on the location of death rather than the location of residence. It is therefore likely that some deaths reported in the data were residents outside of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It is also likely that some Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents will have died outside of the local area and will not be reflected within the data.

The time period used for RTSSS data is 1st February 2019 to 9th July 2023. This time period runs from when RTSSS data was first collected in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, up to the most recent data submitted and available for analysis. Due to the small numbers of data at a local level, the longer time period was selected to ensure as large a dataset as possible. Even with the larger dataset this data is sensitive to changes in data collection and reporting and should be interpreted with caution.

### **2.2.1 Suspected suicide rates**

Local suspected suicide rates were calculated on a rolling 3-year average by month with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire RTSSS data. Figure 7 shows that the monthly rolling 3-year average for suspected suicide rate from a rate of 0.53 per 100,000 population in February 2022 to 0.73 per 100,000 population in June 2023.

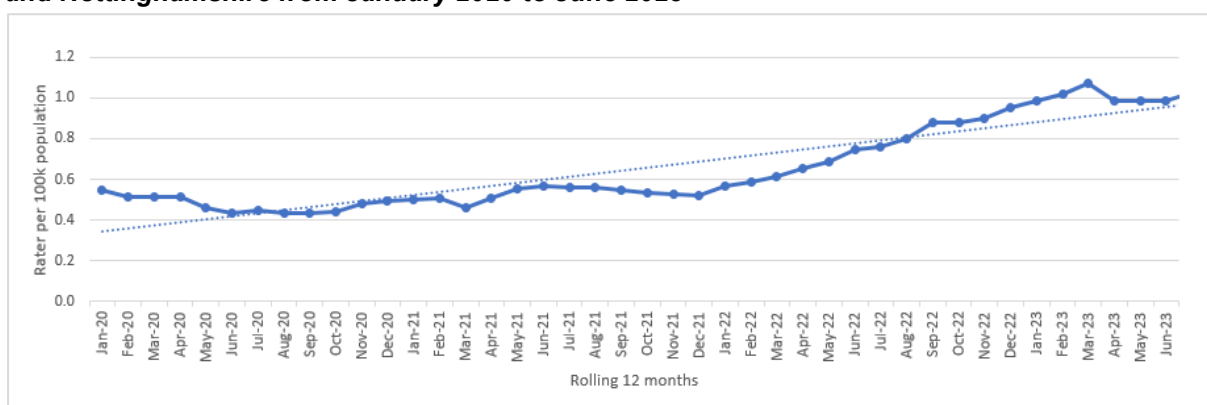
**Figure 7: Suspected suicide monthly rolling 3-year average per 100,000 population for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire from February 2022 to June 2023**



Source: Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data

A 12-month rolling rate (Figure 8) calculated from February 2020 shows that the suspected suicide rate increases from early 2022. This is consistent with the time that the Police improved case finding methods for suicide reporting. It is not possible to deduce from this graph alone whether there was a true increase in suspected suicide in our population or whether the Police were capturing more cases due to changes made in reporting.

**Figure 8: Suspected suicide 12 month rolling average per 100,000 population for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire from January 2020 to June 2023**



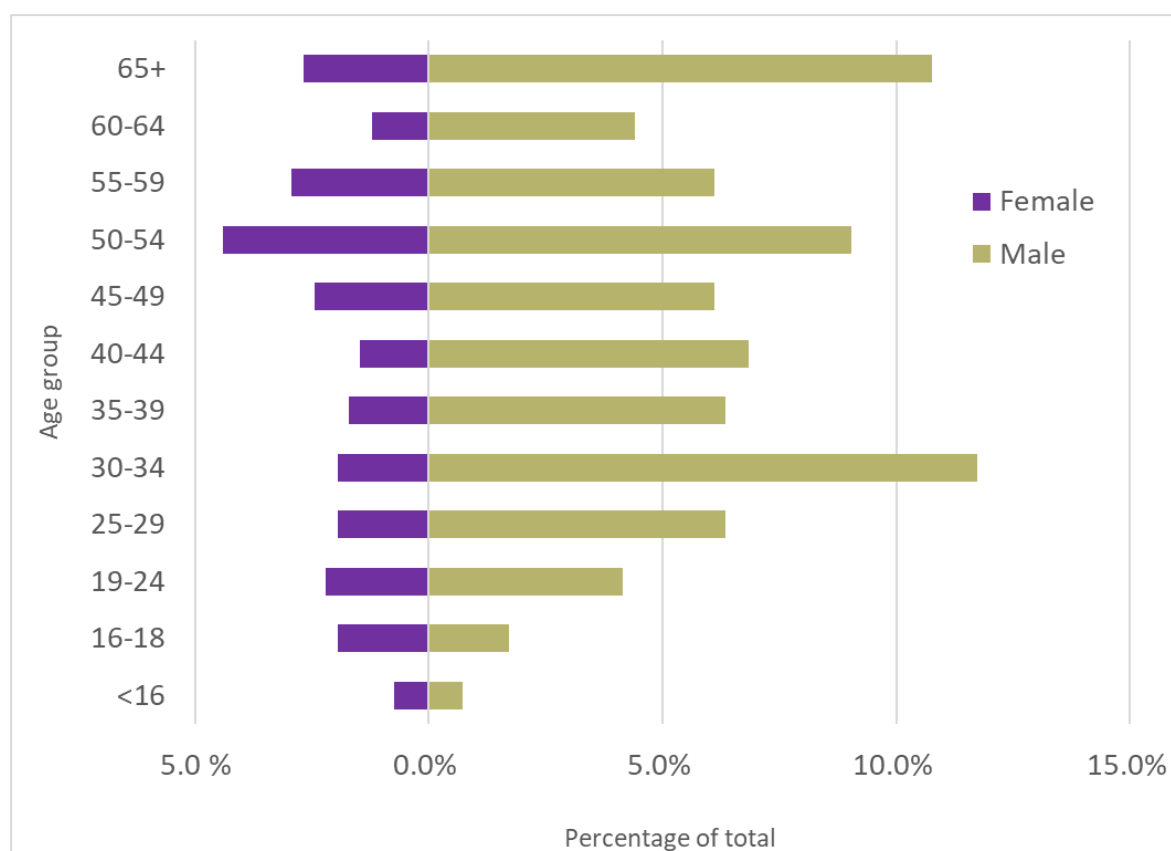
Source: Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data

## 2.2.2 Age and Gender

RTSSS data for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County indicates that suspected suicide deaths of males are higher in age groups 30-34, 50-54 or 65+ years. Females

suicide deaths from RTSSS data are higher in the age group of 50-54 years (Figure 9). The proportion of male to female suspected suicides is approximately 2.9:1. The latest national data available is for 2021, which showed similar proportions of male to female suicide registrations (3:1), consistent with long term trends for male/female differences in suicides.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 9: Proportion of suspected suicides for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by age and gender from February 2019 to June 2023**



Source: Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data

### 2.2.3 Ethnicity

National data on suicide rates and ethnicity is published by the Office for National Statistics (Table 2).<sup>14</sup> Estimated suicide rates for England and Wales are highest in Mixed/Multiple and White ethnic groups and lowest in Arab, Pakistani and other Asian/Asian British ethnic groups, for both men and women.

<sup>14</sup> Sociodemographic inequalities in suicides in England and Wales: 2011 to 2021: A population level analysis comparing the risk of dying by suicide across sociodemographic groups in adults in England and Wales. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthinequalities/bulletins/sociodemographicinequalitiesinsuicidesinenglandandwales/2011to2021>

**Table 2: Rates of suicide per 100,000 people by ethnicity in England and Wales, 2011 to 2021**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Women</b>			<b>Men</b>		
	<b>Rate per 100,000 people</b>	<b>Lower 95% confidence limit</b>	<b>Upper 95% confidence limit</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000 people</b>	<b>Lower 95% confidence limit</b>	<b>Upper 95% confidence limit</b>
White	6.79	6.53	7.05	21.03	20.56	21.51
Arab	2.54	1.32	4.88	3.75	2.33	6.03
Caribbean, African, Black British and other Black	2.8	2.35	3.34	9.1	8.15	10.15
Chinese	4.8	3.69	6.26	6.6	5.12	8.51
Indian	4.21	3.6	4.94	10.78	9.75	11.92
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	9.57	8.27	11.08	23.56	21.32	26.04
Other ethnic group	3.59	2.42	5.32	11.87	9.55	14.75
Pakistani and other Asian/Asian British	2.75	2.33	3.24	6.43	5.75	7.19

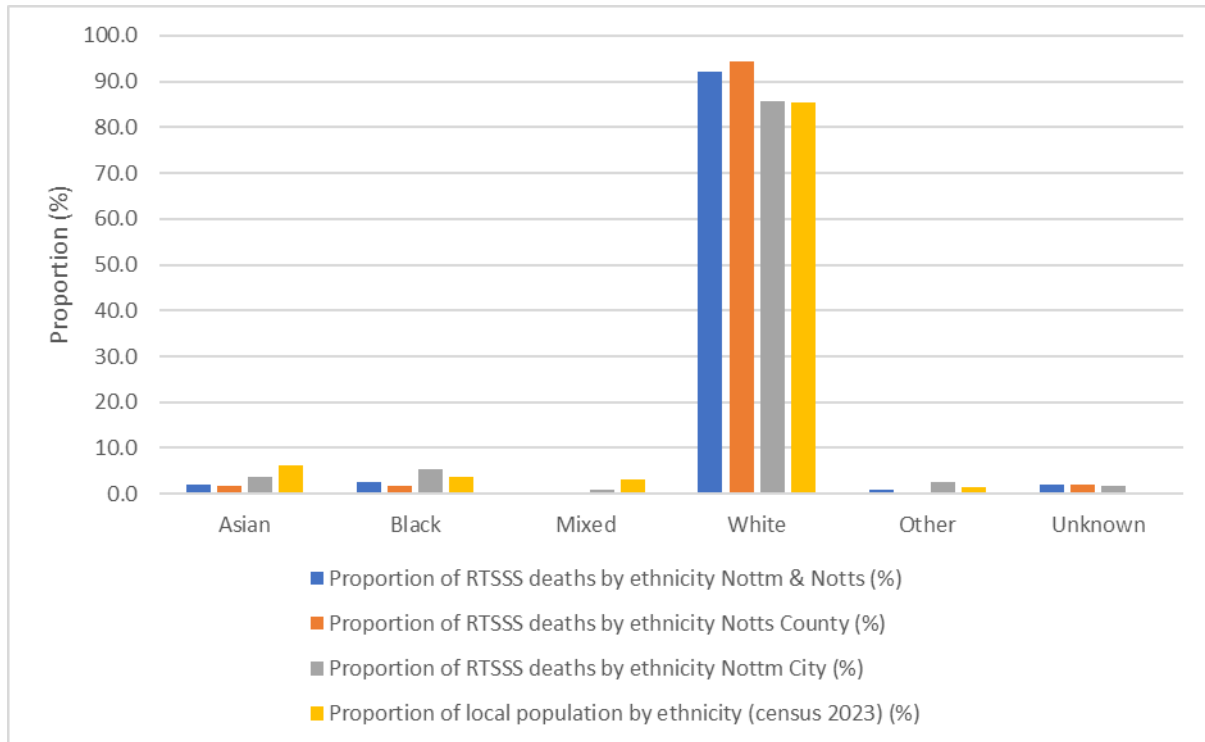
Source: 2011 Census and death registration data from the Office for National Statistics

When reviewing local data on suspected suicide deaths and ethnicity, it should be noted that the absolute numbers of suspected suicide deaths among non-White ethnic groups are low, and data should be interpreted with caution.

Within local RTSSS data (Figure 10), the highest percentage of suspected suicide deaths in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are of people from White ethnic groups (92.1%) and this is broadly reflective of the ethnicity profile of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire combined. People from Black ethnic groups make up the second highest percentage of suspected suicide deaths in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (2.62%), followed by people from Asian ethnic groups (2.14%). People from Mixed ethnic groups make up the lowest percentage of suspected suicide deaths (0.24%).

The population of Nottingham City is more ethnically diverse than the population of Nottinghamshire County and the population of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire combined. When looking at data for Nottingham City alone, it remains that the highest percentage of suspected suicide deaths are of people from White ethnic groups (85.6%).

**Figure 10: RTSSS stated ethnicity (01/02/19-09/07/23) as % of all deaths reported, compared by LA and with Census reported ethnicity (2023), Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**



Source: Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data

## 2.2.4 Deprivation

Nationally, there is a clear link between deprivation and rates of suicide. In England the suicide rate in the most deprived 10% of areas ('decile') in 2017-2019 was 14.1 per 100,000, which is almost double the rate of 7.4 per 100,000 in the least deprived decile.<sup>3</sup>

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is an overall measure of deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for 32,844 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in England. Every such neighbourhood in England is ranked according to its level of deprivation.<sup>17</sup>

When ranking the most deprived local authorities based on IMD 2019, Nottingham ranks 10<sup>th</sup> nationally for the highest average levels of deprivation across an area, based on the population weighted ranks of all the neighbourhoods within it. Nottingham also ranks as the 15<sup>th</sup> local authority district with the highest proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods nationally on the IMD 2019.<sup>15</sup> Nottinghamshire County is ranked 101<sup>st</sup> out of 151 Upper Tier Local Authorities in England on IMD 2019.<sup>16</sup> At a local authority district level, Mansfield ranked 46<sup>th</sup> out of 317 Lower Tier Local Authorities

<sup>15</sup> The English Indices of Deprivation 2019. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Available from: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8e26f6ed915d5570c6cc55/loD2019\\_Statistical\\_Release.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8e26f6ed915d5570c6cc55/loD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf)

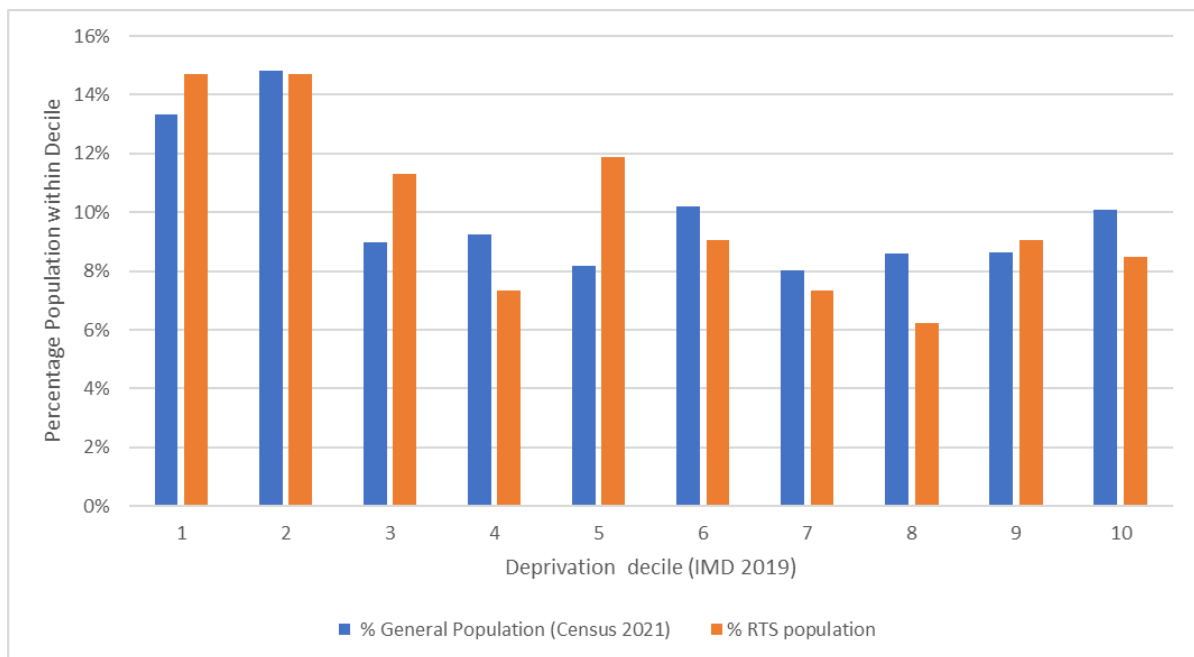
<sup>16</sup> Indices of Deprivation (2019). Nottinghamshire Insight. Available from: <https://www.nottinghamshireinsight.org.uk/themes/deprivation-and-poverty/indices-of-deprivation-2019/>

in England (using an average score measure) putting Mansfield in the top 20% of most deprived districts in the country. In contrast, Rushcliffe was within the top 3% of least deprived Local Authority Districts in the country.

Approximately 75% of suspected suicides reported in local RTSSS data take place at a private residence. Private residence postcodes were only collected as part of RTSSS from the year 2022 onwards. For those deaths taking place within a private residence, the deprivation decile can be calculated using the postcode of that residence, based upon an assumption that the individual died in their own residence. It is not possible to include those deaths occurring in a public place as the postcode for home residence is not collected.

Figure 11 displays proportions of suspected suicides by private residence deprivation decile against Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's population by deprivation decile, taken from Census 2021 data.

**Figure 11: Proportion of suspected suicides by private residence deprivation decile, compared to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's population by deprivation decile, from 2022 onwards.**



Source: Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance data

Note: The lower the decile the more deprived the area.

Deciles 6-10 show proportionately fewer suicides than the population proportion living in matching deciles based on 2021 census data. Deciles 1-5 generally show higher proportions of suicide than the population proportion living in matching deciles based on 2021 census data. This indicates that locally we see a deprivation gradient, with suicides more likely to occur in more deprived areas, consistent with national trends.

## 2.3 Target groups

This section summarises the national and local data and research around specific targeted at-risk groups for suicide.

### 2.3.1 Mental health

Established data and research shows that a previous history of mental illness such as depression, psychosis or personality disorder can increase suicide risk.<sup>12 13</sup>

#### Local data

Locally within RTSSS data, issues with mental health and wellbeing were the most common theme identified within the narrative reports and were mentioned in over half of all narrative reports analysed. This included undiagnosed poor mental health and wellbeing including 'low mood'.

Diagnosed mental health problems can span from common mental health disorders to severe mental illness. Whilst it is clear that there is heightened risk of suicidality with diagnosed mental health disorders, the differing levels of suicide risk between mental health conditions is less clear. A common mental health disorder is a generic term that includes depression and anxiety disorders. In 2017 the prevalence of common mental health disorders in people (aged 16 years or older) was approximately 21% in Nottingham City and 12-16% in the Nottinghamshire population.<sup>17</sup> Severe mental illness includes all patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder, and other psychoses.<sup>18</sup>

The Population Health Management team at the Integrated Care Board (ICB) shared the following data at the level of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System around severe mental illness:

- 'As an ICS we have 8,880 people aged over 15 on the GP severe mental illness (SMI) register (0.8% prevalence).'
- '6,245 of these individuals have a recorded diagnosis of schizophrenia or other psychoses, and 2,635 have a recorded diagnosis of bipolar affective disorder (BPAD).'
- 'Prevalence of SMI is higher in Black and Mixed ethnic groups and in more deprived areas – the proportion of people with SMI living in the most deprived areas is more than double than in the least deprived areas.'
- 'Prevalence of GP recorded SMI is significantly higher in Nottingham City than the overall Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB rate.'

<sup>17</sup> Common Mental Health Disorders. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Available from: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/common-mental-disorders/data#page/1/ati/154/are/E38000132>

<sup>18</sup> Severe Mental Illness Indicator definitions. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/severe-mental-illness/data#page/6/gid/1938132719/pat/159/par/K02000001/ati/15/are/E92000001/iid/90581/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctpl/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>

- 'More men have a diagnosis of schizophrenia and/or other psychoses than women (58% are male), but more women have a diagnosis of bipolar affective disorder (BPAD) than men (60% are female).'
- 'Prevalence of comorbidities and long-term conditions are also higher. 69% of people on the SMI Register have other long-term conditions.'

### **2.3.2 Mental Healthcare Service Users**

Local mental healthcare usage data was not available during the joint strategic needs assessment and is noted as a knowledge gap. Going forward, establishing a data sharing agreement between partners would facilitate a better understanding of the needs of mental health service users.

#### Local data

Analysis of RTSSS data fields indicate 34% of suspected suicides in the last year of data collected (October 2022 - September 2023) were known to mental health services in the six months leading up to death, 52% were not known to mental health services and in 14% of cases the information was unknown. As RTSSS data is based police reporting rather than healthcare data, there is an element of uncertainty around these figures. Nationally people known to be in contact with mental health services over years 2010 to 2020 represent around 27% of all deaths by suicide in England.<sup>19</sup> NCISH also report that the overall increase in England in suicides over 2010 to 2020 was not reflected in the rate of suicide among patients under mental health care. There has been little change over time in this key group.

Where local views have been sought through engagement with Healthwatch, an independent consumer champion for both health and social care, local people have reported experiencing long waiting times when accessing mental health services:

- 'Significant problems around a lack of Mental Health Services for those falling between Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and Crisis Care.'
- 'Acknowledgment that there is a need for long waiting times for many Mental Health services to be reduced in order to prevent individuals' conditions deteriorating before they can access the support required.'

### **2.3.3 Self-Harm**

Self-harm as an antecedent for suicide has been increasingly recognised from data and research. Among the most common risk factors for suicide identified is a history of self-harm and previous suicide attempts, present in approximately 40% of people who have died by suicide. Self-harm requiring emergency hospital treatment has been found to be present in about 15% of those who take their own life.<sup>8</sup>

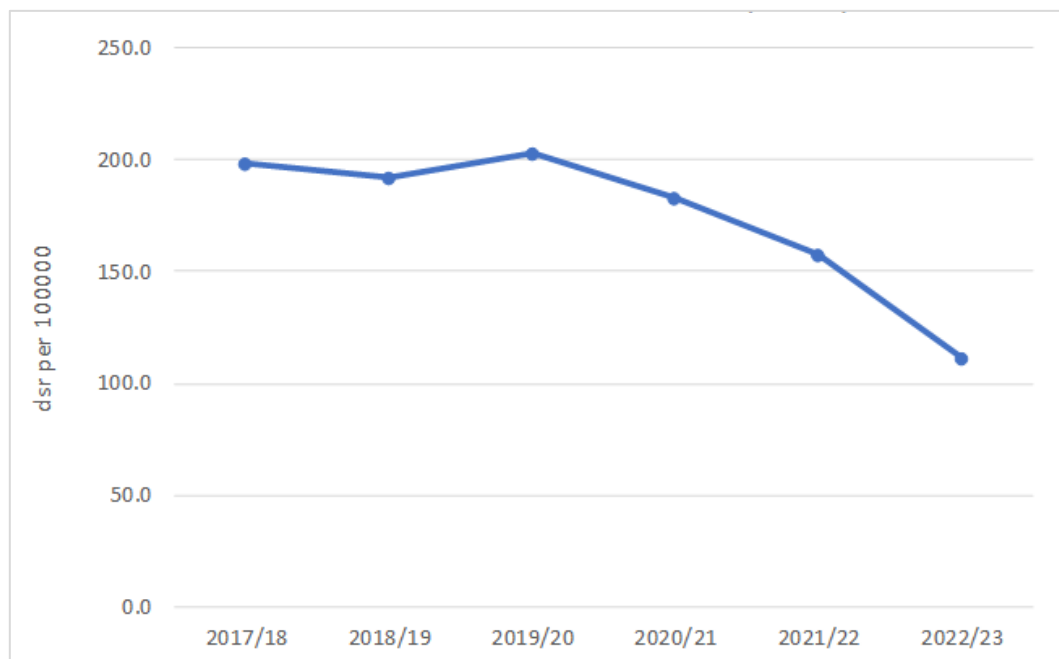
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<sup>19</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Annual report 2022 Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

### Trends in emergency admissions for intentional self-harm

As part of the Mental Health Covid Impact Assessment for Nottinghamshire County Council, hospital admissions data for intentional self-harm was explored to assess any changes in trends over the COVID-19 pandemic. Data included pre-pandemic years to post pandemic years (2017-2023) for Nottinghamshire County residents.

**Figure 12: Directly standardised rate of Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self-harm, for Nottinghamshire County residents, over time between years 2017 to 2023.**



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Digital

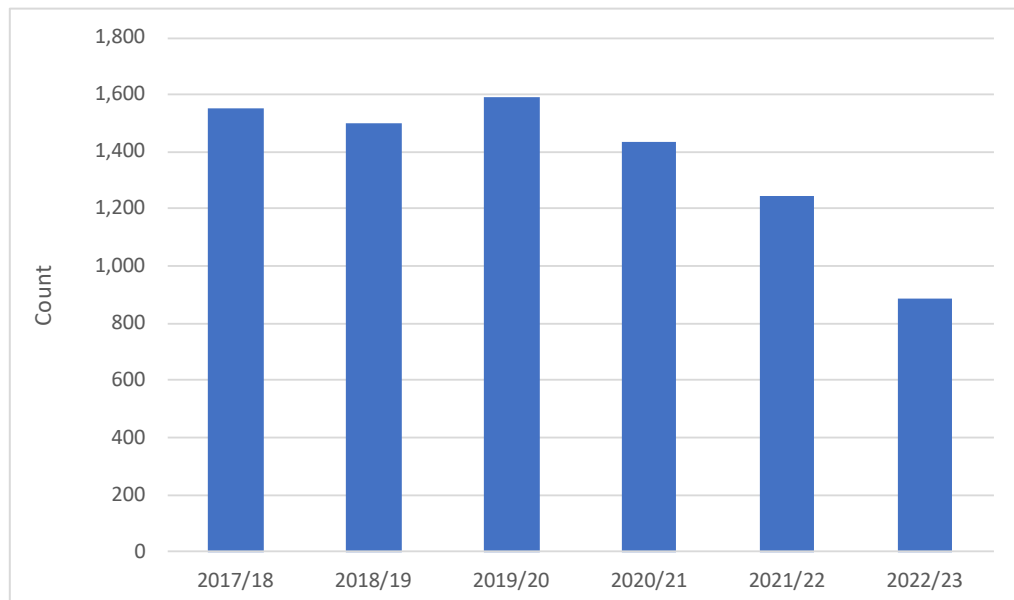
Note: Directly Standardised Rate (DSR)

Figure 12 shows the direct standardised rate of Emergency Hospital Admissions for intentional self-harm remained stable in pre-pandemic years at around 198.8 to 202.8 per 100,000 people (2017-2020). There were then notable decreases year-on-year for the subsequent 3 years; with emergency admissions for intentional self-harm for the year 2022/23 being almost 50% of 2019/20 values, at 111.7 per 100,000 people. This decrease is consistent with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and appears to have persisted well into recovery phases (2022/2023 data).

Figure 13 highlights counts of Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self-harm for Nottinghamshire County residents. This reiterates that admissions for intentional self-harm had a sustained fall from 1,590 in 2019/2020 to 888 in 2022/2023, constituting a drop of 40%. In terms of benchmarking, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County are in line

with England and regional averages on emergency admissions for intentional self-harm for the latest data available (2021/22).<sup>20</sup>

**Figure 13: Counts of Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self-harm, for Nottinghamshire County residents, over time between years 2017 to 2023.**



Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), NHS Digital

### Demographic Analyses

Further subgroup analysis by age, sex, district, ethnicity, deprivation, and provider trust indicated a general trend of reducing admission rates and count data over time. Patterns between categories within subgroup analysis also remained similar over time.

### Local stakeholder input

On review of this data, the JSNA task and finish group noted that local voluntary and community sector organisations were reporting increases in people presenting with self-harm to their organisations for the time period this data covered. There were suggestions that there could be unmet demand in relation to people who intentionally self-harm accessing the right support. In addition, the Task and Finish group reported that follow-up support for intentional self-harm is currently provided at emergency departments after first attendance only, and not for later attendances, constituting a potential service gap.

<sup>20</sup> Suicide Prevention Profile. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Available from: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/self%20harm#page/3/gid/1/ati/501/iid/21001/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0>

### 2.3.4 Men in mid-life

A 2021 report by National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) used national mortality data of men aged 40-54 who had died by suicide in 2017.<sup>21</sup> Key findings included:

- Suicide in men is complex and multi-layered: There is often a combination of longstanding and recent risks for suicide therefore attributing suicide deaths to single causes will make prevention less effective. Vital roles in suicide prevention exist particularly for primary care, A&E, the justice system, and mental health services.
- Service contact: Rates of contact with services among middle-aged men were higher than expected (91% had been in contact with at least one frontline service or agency). Middle-aged men who seek help for their mental health sometimes remain untreated – in particular, psychological therapies suited to their needs should be offered.
- Risk factors: Economic adversity, alcohol and drug misuse, and relationship stresses are common antecedents of suicide in men in mid-life. More than half of the middle-aged men who died had a physical health condition. Many of the men were affected by bereavement.
- Role of the Voluntary/Community Sector: 9% of middle-aged men experiencing suicidality appear to be out of contact with any support. There are several examples of local and national third sector initiatives aiming to reach this group.
- Online safety: Suicide methods were often obtained via the internet – online safety should be part of any prevention plan for men at risk of suicide.

### 2.3.5 Gambling

#### Summary of the key issues in relation to suicide and gambling

There is a growing evidence base linking gambling related harm and suicidality. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) estimates there are up to 496 gambling-related suicides every year in England which suggests that experience of a gambling problem can be a significant driver of suicidal behaviours and thoughts.<sup>22</sup>

Gambling is a legal activity that is participated in by half of the UK population.<sup>23</sup> Gambling can harm physical and mental health, relationships, finances, employment, and education. Gambling-related harms are the negative consequences of gambling on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities, and society with suicide being the greatest harm. Individuals experiencing a gambling problem are a key risk group for experiencing suicidality. According to Public Health England, a person with a gambling problem is 19.3

<sup>21</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Suicide by middle-aged men. 2021. The University of Manchester. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/suicide-by-middle-aged-men/>

<sup>22</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023). *The economic and social cost of harms associated with gambling in England*. [The economic cost of gambling-related harm in England: evidence update 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1155557/the-economic-cost-of-gambling-related-harm-in-england-evidence-update-2023.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> National Audit Office (2020). *Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people*. [Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people - National Audit Office \(NAO\) report](https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Gambling-regulation-problem-gambling-and-protecting-vulnerable-people.pdf)

times and 9.6 times more likely to die by suicide compared to the general population in younger (20-49 years) and older (50-64 years) age groups respectively.<sup>24</sup> A recent cross-sectional research study found a link between suicide attempts in 16-24 year olds and excessive gambling, even after adjustment for other factors.<sup>25</sup> The researchers conclude that young people and young adults experiencing gambling problems should be considered at risk for suicidality.

There are a range of factors which increase the likelihood of suicidality for people with a gambling problem. Research has highlighted gambling type, gambling severity, social relationships, quality of life and comorbidities as important factors which influence the risk of suicide. Women with gambling problems are at a higher risk of dying by suicide compared to their male counterparts, with identified factors such as social isolation, relationship breakdown, trauma and socio-economic stress having a greater impact on this group.<sup>26</sup>

The UK Government recently published the [Gambling White Paper](#) setting out a legislative framework to reduce gambling-related harms. The new [National Suicide Prevention Strategy](#) has highlighted that experiencing a gambling problem is a significant risk factor for suicidality which needs to be addressed through early intervention and tailored support.

### Estimated prevalence rates of gambling

There is limited availability of local data sources to understand the prevalence of gambling in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Gambling Commission national survey data (2020) was applied to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire population data to provide estimated gambling prevalence.

In Nottinghamshire (see table 3), almost 35% of people aged 16 or over have gambled in the last four weeks. Within this cohort, 6,300 individuals are at a moderate risk of a gambling problem where signs of gambling-related harms are demonstrated but the individual falls below the screening tool threshold for a gambling problem. 2,111 individuals are estimated as having a gambling problem (defined as having a PGSI score of 4 or above). The 35-44 age group has the highest prevalence of gambling problems, while prevalence of moderate risk gambling is highest for 16-24 year olds.

In Nottingham (see table 4), almost 40% of people aged 16 or over have gambled in the last four weeks. There are 3,447 individuals at moderate risk of a gambling problem, while 1,050 individuals are estimated to have a gambling problem. Similar to Nottinghamshire, the 35-44 age group has the highest prevalence of gambling problems in the city and the 16-24 age group is the highest for moderate risk gambling.

<sup>24</sup> Public Health England (2021). *Harms associated with Gambling*. [Harms associated with gambling: an abbreviated systematic review \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> Wardle, H. (2021) *Suicidality and gambling among young adults in Great Britain: results from a cross-sectional online survey*. The Lancet. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(20\)30232-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30232-2)

<sup>26</sup> Marionneau, V. and Nikkinen, J. (2022) *Gambling-related suicides and suicidality: A systematic review of qualitative evidence*. National Library of Medicine. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.980303>.

This data has important caveats to consider. The figures outlined are likely to be an underestimate because individuals can hide gambling behaviours and not disclose gambling problems due to factors such as guilt and shame. The figures are not a direct measure of local prevalence rate because the methodology involves applying national data to the local population which provides an estimate. The Gambling Commission data was incomplete for people aged 65 and over, which limits understanding of prevalence numbers for this cohort. Finally, the data is extracted from a survey which provides a snapshot of prevalence.

**Table 3: Estimated prevalence of gambling participation and gambling problems among people aged 16 and over in Nottinghamshire**

Metric		M	F	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All 16+
People surveyed	%	47.8	52.2	10.1	14.4	16.2	18.9	16.9	23.6	100
	n	1,915	2,092	403	577	651	754	677	945	4,007
Gambling in last 4 weeks	%	44.5	39.6	31.2	39.0	45.8	48.4	46.5	39.1	<b>34.9</b>
	n	149,217	140,266	26,151	39,899	46,218	54,419	52,927	68,906	288,520
Moderate risk of a gambling problem	%	1.3	0.6	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.0	<b>0.9</b>
	n	4,359	2,125	1,844	1,535	1,110	787	1,024	0	<b>6,300</b>
Gambling problem (PGSI $\geq 4$ ) <sup>27</sup>	%	0.6	0.03*	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	<b>0.3</b>
	n	2,012	99*	419	205	807	225	455	0	<b>2,111</b>

\*Not officially reported in survey data. Calculated by subtracting number who are male from total age 16+

Source: 2020 Gambling Commission national data applied to ONS 2021 Census Population Statistics.

<sup>27</sup> The Problem Gambling Severity Index is a standardised, screening tool for a gambling problem.

**Table 4: Estimated prevalence of gambling participation and gambling problems among people aged 16 and over in Nottingham**

Metric		M	F	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All 16+
People surveyed	%	47.8	52.2	10.1	14.4	16.2	18.9	16.9	23.6	100
	n	1,915	2,092	403	577	651	754	677	945	4,007
Gambling in last 4 weeks	%	44.5	39.6	31.2	39.0	45.8	48.4	46.5	39.1	<b>39.9</b>
	n	62,148	53,454	23,422	22,173	17,334	17,011	14,152	15,288	109,380
Moderate risk of a gambling problem	%	1.3	0.6	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.0	<b>1.3</b>
	n	1,816	800	1,652	862	418	253	261	0	<b>3,447</b>
Gambling problem (PGSI ≥4)	%	0.6	0.1 <sup>28</sup>	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.0	<b>0.4</b>
	n	838	212	402	139	311	76	122	0	<b>1,050</b>

Not officially reported in survey data. Calculated by subtracting number who are male from total age 16+

Source: 2020 Gambling Commission national data applied to ONS mid-2020 population estimates.

### 2.3.6 Financial wellbeing

#### Nationally reported data

According to the NCISH Annual report for 2023, there were 373 deaths per year between 2016 and 2020 in mental healthcare patients who had experienced recent economic adversity such as serious financial problems and loss of job, benefits or housing. The number increased over this five-year period.

The increases in the cost of living mean there is a potential for increased numbers of patients and the wider population experiencing economic adversity. The NCISH report recommends training for frontline staff on the risks associated with the loss of jobs, benefits and housing, among other issues, and information to signpost patients to sources of financial support and advice.<sup>29</sup>

#### Research

There is evidence further linking financial stress, unemployment, and suicide in a recent systematic review and meta-analysis which reported significantly elevated suicide risks following financial stress (23 studies) and unemployment (43 studies).<sup>30</sup> After controlling for physical and mental health, financial stress and unemployment remained weakly associated with suicide, suggesting financial wellbeing is more significant as a factor when combined with other risk factors.

<sup>29</sup> Annual report 2023: UK patient and general population data 2010-2020. March 2023 Available from <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

<sup>30</sup> **Financial stress, unemployment, and suicide—A meta-analysis**, Roelfs, David J. and Shor, Eran, Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention, 2023.

### Local data

Issues relating to work/employment and finances were mentioned in 15% of all narrative reports analysed within the RTSSS dataset. Mentions relating to work/employment encompass a range of experiences such as loss of job, recent retirement, being off work due to mental or physical ill-health, bullying, stress and issues relating to self-employment.

### **2.3.7 Those in contact with the criminal justice system**

There are four closed male national prisons operating across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire:<sup>31</sup>

- Lowdham Grange is a privately run male prison in Lowdham, Nottingham.
- Nottingham Prison is a men's prison in the Sherwood area of Nottingham.
- Ranby is a men's prison in Retford, Nottinghamshire.
- Whatton is a prison in Nottingham for men convicted of a sex offence.

### National data

The current national dataset reports up to 2019. Between 2008 and 2019, 677 deaths were reported as suicide in prison custody according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) death registrations database. This equates to around 56 deaths a year.<sup>32</sup>

Of the 677 deaths in prison custody between 2008 to 2019, the large majority were male deaths, accounting for 97% (657 deaths) compared with 20 female deaths. The risk of suicide was 3.9 times higher between 2008 and 2019 in the male prison population, compared with the general male population.

### Local data

It is important to note that the Real Time Surveillance for suspected suicides was set up from 2019. There are no overlapping reporting periods with national data. Suspected suicides reported in RTSSS data show that 2% of male suicides in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire occurred in prison. This equates to seven people dying by suicide. There was no pattern to suicides that highlighted a particular prison within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

### **2.3.8 Multimorbidity**

#### Nationally reported data

According to the NCISH Annual report for 2022, the number of mental healthcare patients with a comorbid physical illness has been increasing since 2014, accounting for 25% of all patient suicides in 2009-2019 overall. The risk profile of these patients is not the same as for patients generally; they are older, common risk factors such as self-harm or alcohol/drug misuse are less often present, and a higher proportion are women.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 26 January 2023, ONS website, article, [Drug-related deaths and suicide in prison custody in England and Wales: 2008 to 2019](#)

<sup>32</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 26 January 2023, ONS website, article, Drug-related deaths and suicide in prison custody in England and Wales: 2008 to 2019

<sup>33</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Annual report 2022. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2022/>

### Research

Multimorbidity is classed as the presence of multiple chronic health conditions and confers additional risk of suicide.<sup>34 35</sup>

In a large sample of UK adults, physical multimorbidity was associated with significantly higher odds for suicidal ideation and suicide attempts (more than six-fold for four health conditions). Researchers found cognitive problems and disability explained the largest proportion between multimorbidity and suicidal ideation. Pain and cognitive problems explained the largest proportion between multimorbidity and suicide attempts.

### Local data

Within suspected suicides reported in RTSSS data, health conditions were mentioned in 15% of narrative reports analysed, covering a range of health conditions that are not specified in all cases. Where information or indication of the health condition is provided, the most common health condition mentioned related to a cancer diagnosis with experiencing physical pain being the second most commonly cited health condition within the narrative reports.

## **2.3.9 Children and Young people**

### National Data

A report drawing on data from the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) identified common characteristics of children and young people who die by suicide as well as factors associated with these deaths. The 'Suicide in Children and Young People' report drew key findings from deaths that occurred or were reviewed by a child death overview panel between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 and found that:<sup>36</sup>

- Child suicide is not limited to certain groups; rates of suicide were similar across all areas, and regions in England, including urban and rural environments, and across deprived and affluent neighbourhoods.
- 62% of children or young people reviewed had suffered a significant personal loss in their life prior to their death, this includes bereavement and "living losses" such as loss of friendships and routine due to moving home or school or other close relationship breakdown.
- Over one third of the children and young people reviewed had never been in contact with mental health services. This suggests that mental health needs or risks were not identified prior to the child or young person's death.
- 16% of children or young people reviewed had a confirmed diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental condition at the time of their death. For example, autism

<sup>34</sup> The association of physical multimorbidity with suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in England: A mediation analysis of influential factors, Smith, L., et al., The International journal of social psychiatry, 2023. 69(3): p. 523-531.

<sup>35</sup> Identification of Risk Factors for Suicide and Insights for Developing Suicide Prevention Technologies: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, Jha, S., G. Chan, and R. Orji, Human Behavior & Emerging Technologies, 2023: p. 1-18.

<sup>36</sup> Suicide in Children and Young People. NCMD Programme. Available from: <https://www.ncmd.info/publications/child-suicide-report/>

spectrum disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. This appears higher than found in the general population.

- Almost a quarter of children and young people reviewed had experienced bullying either face to face or cyber bullying. The majority of reported bullying occurred in school, highlighting the need for clear anti-bullying policies in schools.

#### Local engagement

Local stakeholders have highlighted inappropriately met or unmet needs of young people who are in crisis, with some children and young people (CYP) experiencing long waits on physical health wards whilst appropriate provision was sought. Looked after young people and those transitioning from CYP to adult services, were identified as an area of particular need.

#### Research

Suicide prevention efforts generally target acute precipitants of suicide, though emerging evidence suggests that vulnerability to suicide is partly established early in life before acute precipitants can be identified. A systematic review of longitudinal studies published in 2022 found evidence consistently supported the link between sociodemographic, obstetric, parental and child developmental factors to higher risk of suicide death later in life.<sup>37</sup>

- Sociodemographic: young maternal age at birth, low parental education, and higher birth order
- Obstetric: low birth weight
- Parental: exposure to parental death by external causes
- Child developmental factors: exposure to emotional adversity

Researchers stated additional research into how early life factors interact with acute precipitants and increase vulnerability to suicide.

### **2.3.10 LGBTQ+ communities**

#### Nationally reported data

According to the NCISH Annual report for 2023, there were 223 deaths by mental healthcare patients who identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and 37 patients within a trans group, an average of 49 deaths per year (between 2016 and 2020). In general LGBT patients were younger than other patients and a high proportion had experienced childhood abuse.<sup>25</sup>

#### Research

Within the last few years larger pieces of research, such as systematic reviews, have been published around the risk of suicidality and self-harm in the LGBTQ+ community.

In 2022, the International Review of Psychiatry journal published a systematic review and meta-analysis which quantified the risk of suicidality in LGBTQ+ people compared to their

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<sup>37</sup> The developmental origins of suicide mortality: A systematic review of longitudinal studies, Vidal-Ribas, Pablo; et al. , European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2022.

cisgender or heterosexual peers.<sup>38</sup> Researchers reported that the LGBTQ+ people had over four times the risk of attempting suicide over cisgender/heterosexual groups. The reported statistics were statistically significant however the overall quality of evidence included within the systematic review ranged from low to moderate.

Another systematic review aimed to elicit risk and protective factors for suicide attempts among sexual minority youth.<sup>39</sup> The identified risk factors associated with suicide attempts were:

- early coming out
- being unaccepted by family
- dissatisfaction with sexual minority friendships
- loneliness and bullying
- physical abuse and/or sexual abuse.

The identified protective factors for suicide attempts were:

- feeling safe at school
- teacher support
- anti-bullying policy
- other adult support.

Similar risk factors around victimisation, bullying (including cyber-bullying) and mental health difficulties, were highlighted in research looking at the risk profile of LGBTQ+ young people with self-harm, suicidal ideation or suicidal behaviour.<sup>40</sup> Considering this research, it seems clear that risk and protective factors for suicide attempts in the LGBTQ+ community stem directly from the environments in which youth grow up: family, school, and the internet.

#### Local data

Information around sexuality was only regularly collected in RTSSS data from 2022. Any inference from analysis is precluded due to high levels of 'unknown' status being reported.

### **2.3.11 Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities**

In the 2021 census, 0.3% of population identified as 'Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller', however these figures are thought to be an underrepresentation, with estimates of up to 300,000 Gypsy or Traveller people and up to 200,000 Roma people living in the UK.<sup>41</sup>

In the UK, these communities are recognised to have some of the poorest life outcomes with severe health inequalities. When considering mental health in these communities there are reported to be even larger disparities.<sup>42</sup> Suicide risk in the Gypsy, Roma or Traveller

<sup>38</sup> Self-harm and suicidality among LGBTIQ people: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Marchi, M et al. 2022. International Review of Psychiatry 34(3-4), pp. 240-256

<sup>39</sup> A systematic review of the factors associated with suicide attempts among sexual-minority youth. Wang, X. X et al. 2023. European Journal of Psychiatry 37(2), pp. 72-83

<sup>40</sup> A systematic review and meta-analysis of victimisation and mental health prevalence among LGBTQ+ young people with experiences of self-harm and suicide. Williams, A. Jess et al. 2021. PLoS ONE [Electronic Resource] 16(1), pp. e0245268

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/summaries/gypsy-roma-irish-traveller>

<sup>42</sup> Parry et al. Health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England. J Epidemiology Community Health. 2007 Mar;61(3):198-204. doi: 10.1136/jech.2006.045997.

communities has been reported to be 6.6 times higher than the general population's risk of suicide.

### National data

At present mortality data published by the ONS does not include the ethnicity of the deceased, there are no official data on deaths by suicide among the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals in England and Wales.<sup>43</sup>

### Research

Nottinghamshire County council's public health team undertook a literature review in 2023 on suicide risk and the barriers to receiving suicide prevention support in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK. The findings were:

- Lack of data: An understanding of risk, cause, and prevention of suicide in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community is greatly hampered by the absence of systemic data monitoring of these populations by health authorities.<sup>44</sup>
- Discrimination: A survey targeting the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by the Traveller Movement charity highlighted high levels of direct discrimination related to ethnicity (91% reported by 214 community members).<sup>23</sup> Current suicide prevention and health services can also indirectly discriminate through digital exclusion and reliance on patient literacy.
- Barriers to healthcare access: Systematic review research and engagement with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities highlights digital exclusion and difficulty in registration with primary care, particularly when online registration is required and where proof of identity or proof of fixed address is essential.<sup>45</sup>
- Culture: In the Traveller Movement Policy Briefing, three patterns of suicide were identified as being closely linked to Travellers. These included bereavement suicides, where 40% of those who died by suicide had recently lost someone close to them to suicide. This also included 'violent suicide' following domestic feuding and thirdly, shamed suicide which occurred after disclosure of an alleged criminal act or awaiting a trial for a criminal act.<sup>23</sup>

## **2.3.12 Domestic abuse**

### Nationally reported data

The majority of people who died by suicide between 2009 and 2019 with a history of domestic violence were female, according to NCISH data.<sup>29</sup> This group was more often younger, single or divorced, living alone and unemployed than other women. Self-harm, previous alcohol or drug misuse and personality disorder diagnosis were more common in this group, potentially reflecting previous trauma or abuse.

<sup>43</sup> <https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Mental-Health-and-Suicide-among-GRT-communities-in-England-Briefing-2019.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> Millan, M. and Smith, D., 2019. A comparative sociology of Gypsy Traveller health in the UK. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(3), p.379.

<sup>45</sup> Gypsy, Roma and Traveller access to and engagement with health services: a systematic review | *European Journal of Public Health* | Oxford Academic (oup.com)

### Research

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is strongly associated with self-harm and suicidality.<sup>46</sup> Furthermore there is a disproportionate impact on women which is exacerbated by experiences of multiple unmet needs and poverty. Findings included:

- Over a quarter (27%) of women report experience of IPV in their lifetimes
- Women who have experienced IPV are three times more likely to have made a suicide attempt in the past year compared to women who have not experienced IPV
- Sexual IPV is ten times more common in women than men and is an IPV type particularly associated with self-harm and suicidality
- IPV often occurs in a context of poverty and multiple unmet needs, trapping women with fewer resources for escape.

### Local data

A small number of RTSSS narrative reports mentioned domestic abuse. It is important to note that not all narrative reports where domestic abuse is mentioned have had police involvement or convictions related to domestic abuse and it appears that in some cases the information has been disclosed by the next of kin, family members or friends.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) can also be instructed where a suicide is deemed to have resulted from ongoing domestic abuse. The percentage of DHRs in Nottinghamshire County that are identified as survivor suicides are 27% and perpetrator suicides are 13% (these figures exclude Gedling district data which was unavailable).

## **2.3.13 Relationship breakdown**

### Local data

Within suspected suicides reported in RTSSS data, intimate partner relationships were the fourth most common theme identified within narrative reports and encompass a range of issues such as divorce, separation and arguments between partners.

### Research

Stressful life events increase the risk of subsequently reported suicidal ideation and behaviours, based on systematic review and meta-analysis data.<sup>47</sup> Researchers reported after a stressful life event, there was a 37% significantly higher odds of reported suicidal ideation and behaviours combined, and a 45% significantly increased risk for suicidal ideation. The association is stronger in males, young adults, and studies with shorter term follow-up. These findings suggest that the experience of stressful life events should be incorporated into clinical suicide risk assessments and suicide interventions could include a component on developing resilience and adaptive coping to stressful life events.

## **2.3.14 Serving UK Armed Forces and Veterans**

<sup>46</sup> Intimate partner violence, suicidality, and self-harm: a probability sample survey of the general population in England Sally McManus et al. Published: June 07, 2022 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(22\)00151-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00151-1)

<sup>47</sup> Are stressful life events prospectively associated with increased suicidal ideation and behaviour? A systematic review and meta-analysis, Howarth, Emma J.; et al. , Journal of Affective Disorders, 04 01 ,2020. 266, pp. 731-742

### National data

Annual summaries and trends of suicides in the UK regular armed forces were investigated from Ministry of Defence data covering 2002-2021.<sup>48</sup> In this period, 285 suicides occurred in the serving armed forces personnel. Suicides were male dominated (264 out of 285 suicide deaths). The report concluded suicide remains a rare event in the UK armed forces; confirmed suicides in 2021 representing less than one death per 1,000 armed forces personnel.

The UK regular armed forces have seen a declining trend in male suicide rates since the 1990s and were consistently lower than the UK general population over the last 35 years. However, in the last five years the number of army male suicides have been increasing and since 2017, the risk of suicide among army males was the same as the UK general population for the first time since the mid 1990's.

### Research

A cohort study exploring suicide after leaving the UK Armed Forces (1996-2018) concluded that as a cohort, veterans are at no greater risk of suicide than the general population.<sup>49</sup> There are associated factors within this cohort that increases risk, such as age, where veterans under the age of 25 are at a two to four times greater risk than the same age group within the general population. Veterans over the age of 35 are at a lower risk than the same age group within the general population.

## **2.3.15 Alcohol and substance use**

### Nationally reported data

Alcohol and drugs are common antecedents of suicide. According to the 2019 NCISH annual report, in 2017 there were 866 suicides by mental healthcare patients who had a history of alcohol or drug misuse. This was 57% of all mental healthcare suicides and only a minority were in contact with specialist substance misuse services.<sup>50</sup>

### Local data

Alcohol and drug use were the second most common theme identified within RTSSS narrative reports (34% of all narrative reports analysed), with alcohol use being more commonly cited than drug use.

Alcohol use included long-term use, alcohol use immediately prior to the time of death, and evidence of alcohol use at the location/time of death. Where drug use is mentioned within the narrative report this includes ongoing problems with drug use including Class A drug use, drug use that might be considered 'recreational' and evidence of drug use at the location/time of death.

<sup>48</sup> Suicides in the UK regular armed forces: Annual summary and trends over time (Ministry of Defence) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6241903be90e075f142546aa/20220331\\_UK\\_AF\\_Suicides.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6241903be90e075f142546aa/20220331_UK_AF_Suicides.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> Suicide after leaving the UK Armed Forces 1996–2018: A cohort study. Cathryn Rodway August 8, 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004273>

<sup>50</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Annual report 2019. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2019-england-northern-ireland-scotland-and-wales/>

### 3. Targets and performance

The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy for 2019-2023 sets out the high-level priorities and objectives for delivery across the partnership. The areas of significant progress made by local authority public health teams and local partners against the strategy priorities have been summarised in table 5.

#### Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2023

The overall aim of the strategy was to reduce the rate of suicide and self-harm in the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire population, by proactively improving the population's mental health and wellbeing, and by responding to known risks for suicide in the population. The following priorities were identified as the local key areas for action:

- **Priority 1: At-risk groups:** Identify early those in groups at risk of suicide, and ensure they have access to evidence-based interventions.
- **Priority 2: Use of data:** Collect and review suicide and self-harm data in a timely manner, using it to inform local practice, particularly via real-time surveillance.
- **Priority 3: Bereavement support:** Ensure the availability of prompt bereavement support for those affected by suicide.
- **Priority 4: Staff training:** Provide effective training for frontline staff to recognise and respond to suicide risks, integrating current research into practice.
- **Priority 5: Media:** Foster close engagement with media personnel to ensure that suicide and suicidal behaviour are reported with sensible, sensitive approaches.

**Table 5: Summary of progress against the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2023**

Priority	Areas of significant progress
<b>Identifying and addressing at-risk groups</b>	<p>Findings of evidence reviews on at-risk groups regularly fed back to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention strategy group for wider stakeholder input and alignment of new priorities.</p> <p>Development and implementation of Wave 4 pilots targeted towards men and older boys, parents/carers of CYP who self-harm, LGBTQ+ groups, Gypsy Roma Traveller communities, those experiencing relationship breakdown, and people with bereavement through suicide.</p>
<b>Sensible use of local data</b>	<p>Local RTSSS response process map and guide developed to support a consistent and systematic approach in identifying and responding to concerns in RTSSS data.</p> <p>RTSSS Working Group has regular attendance of key partners ensuring a robust multi-agency approach, including, to respond to suspected suicide deaths in public places and implementation of local Suicide Cluster Response Plan Guidance.</p>

<b>Bereavement support</b>	An evaluation was undertaken in 2020/21 which highlighted areas of good practice and provided evidence of interventions that can reduce the suicide risk of people bereaved by suicide.
<b>Staff training</b>	Development and circulation of a suicide prevention primary care and pharmacy resource pack.  Bespoke and tailored training is being developed for organisations who work with particular at-risk groups (including males, those experiencing relationship breakdown and bereavement services).
<b>Working with the media</b>	Development of a close working relationship with the Samaritans, who produce responsible media reporting guidance including sharing findings of an audit into how suicide was reported in local media.

The NHS England Wave 4 funding for suicide prevention activity has contributed to the delivery of this strategy. An evaluation of the impact of the local Wave 4 programme activity is being commissioned and will be completed in early 2024.

#### **4. Current activity, service provision and assets**

##### **4.1 Assets**

##### **4.1.1 Partnership Working**

##### Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group

The Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group (SPSSG) is responsible for the development and implementation of a suicide prevention strategy and action plan across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. Membership includes representatives from Public Health, Adult Social Care, Nottinghamshire ICB, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Police, and local universities.

##### Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS)

As part of the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County suicide prevention strategic plan, Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) was established in 2019. The RTSSS is collated with real time Police and British Transport Police intelligence and coroner reports. Public health teams from Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City have oversight of the data and response. A multi-agency Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Real Time Surveillance Working Group (RTSSS Working Group) is in place with responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of RTSSS data processes, analysis of data and information to identify risks, patterns and trends, and to make recommendations for and implement timely action to respond to identified suicide risks. Membership includes representatives from public health Nottinghamshire Police, British Transport Police, Network Rail, Highways, the [NHS LeDeR programme](#), Tomorrow Project local bereavement services, Integrated Care Board and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.



Since its inception, RTSSS has facilitated responsive postvention and cluster response, as well as providing insights to identify and target interventions for high-risk groups.

### Stakeholder Network

The Network consists of approximately 250 members and brings together representatives from a broad range of organisations and groups who work with people across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The role of the network is to help shape local suicide prevention work, share good practice, and foster links with other professionals.

### Wave 4 Suicide Prevention Funding

In 2020, the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Strategic Strategy Group successfully secured NHS England Wave 4 Suicide Prevention Funding. Since 2021, local Wave 4 funding has supported the following activities:

- Commissioned pilot projects to support high-risk groups (including males, self-harm parents and carers group, children and young people, and people with history of self-harm).
- Development of a local recognisable suicide prevention brand and communications campaign.
- Commissioned suicide prevention, self-harm prevention and suicide bereavement training for front line professionals across the system.
- Small grants (up to £500) allocated to pilot projects to prevent suicide within identified at-risk groups. Due to low uptake, plans are now in place to increase the grant allocation and improve engagement.

### Suicide Prevention Charter Task & Finish Group

The aim of the group is to plan, co-ordinate and support the development of a Nottingham and Nottinghamshire suicide prevention charter by people with lived experiences. This group will be responsible for delivering engagement activities with individuals with lived experiences, capturing the outputs from these activities, consulting with the Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group and informing the new suicide prevention strategy.

## **4.1.2 Resources to promote good mental health for all**

### National resources

**Better Health - Every Mind Matters:** This campaign aims to improve people's mental health, by directing them to free, practical tips and advice.

[Better mental health for all](#)<sup>51</sup>: This report focuses on what can be done individually and collectively to enhance the mental health of individuals, families, and communities by using a public health approach.

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<sup>51</sup> Mental Health Foundation (2022) *Better Mental Health For All A public health approach to mental health improvement*. Available at: [MHF-better-mental-health-for-all.pdf](#) ([mentalhealth.org.uk](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk))

**Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health:** The Concordat focus is on evidence-based planning to reducing health inequalities and address the social determinants of health.

#### Local resources

There are range of evidence-based interventions, assets and public health initiatives in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham that contribute to mental wellbeing, such as:

- Initiatives to reduce domestic abuse.
- Interventions to reduce drugs, alcohol, and gambling related harm.
- Interventions supporting people experiencing severe multiple disadvantage.
- Tackling Loneliness Collaborative: Campaigns and work to end loneliness and isolation.
- Workplace wellbeing initiatives: In 2023, a workplace mental wellbeing project for Nottingham City employers of all sizes and sectors was initiated to build on the success of the Time to Change social movement and campaign.
- Nottingham Better Mental Health Collaborative: In 2021, Nottingham City local authority along with system-wide partners, committed to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health for All. Nottingham's Collaborative for Better Mental Health was subsequently established, with the aim to work in partnership to focus on what matters to people and improve mental health services and support and people's lives.

#### **4.1.3 Mental Health Transformation**

The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) (2019) outlined plans to improve and widen access to care for children and adults needing mental health support implemented through a series of transformation programmes delivered up to March 2024. Each transformation area has a multi-partner steering group from across the Integrated Care System (ICS). The transformation programmes are as follows:

- Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health: Expansion of specialist community perinatal mental health teams, increasing access to evidence-based psychological therapies and extending the period of care from 12 to 24 months.
- Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health: Expansion and transformation of specialist community services, including expansion of Mental Health Support Teams in schools; Expansion of specialist community Eating Disorder Services and implementation of Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (AFRID) pathway; 24/7 mental health crisis provision for CYP. Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County partners have committed to using the [Thrive Framework](#)<sup>52</sup> model to support its CYP mental health transformation.
- Adult Severe Mental Illnesses (SMI) Community Care: Transform and enhance community services with the aim of developing enhanced primary care based

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<sup>52</sup> Thrive (2019) Thrive Framework for system change. Available at: [THRIVE-Framework-for-system-change-2019.pdf](https://thriveworkspace.org/) (implementingthrive.org)

integrated support to help manage fluctuating needs. This includes the transformation of Adult Eating Disorder Services.

- Adult Common Mental Illnesses (NHS Talking Therapies): Expand service availability to meet the local demand and national targets for people entering treatment; maintain waiting times and recovery rates.
- Mental Health Crisis Care and Liaison: Maintain coverage of 24/7 Adult Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment (CRHTs); commission a range of complementary and alternative crisis services (including VCSE/Local Authority provided services); develop a model with EMAS to improve the ambulance response to mental health; maintain 24/7 mental health liaison services within acute hospitals; eliminate all out of area placements (OAPs).
- Therapeutic Acute Mental Health Inpatient Care: Therapeutic approach to improve outcomes and experience from inpatient care and reduce length of stay. Eliminate all inappropriate adult acute out of area placements (OAPs).
- Suicide Reduction and Bereavement Support: Develop and implement multi-agency suicide prevention plans, to reduce suicides for people in contact with mental health services; deliver suicide bereavement support services.

#### 4.1.4 Suicide Prevention Training

##### National

**Samaritans:** The charity promotes a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health. They provide training to organisations on a range of suicide prevention approaches, in addition to engaging with the media and rail networks.

[Zero Suicide Alliance](#) provide suicide prevention training for the general population, as well as university students, veterans, taxi drivers and men in prison.

##### Local

**Primary Care:** Plans are currently progressing to develop and deliver a one-off training session on self-harm to primary care through their practice learning time.

**Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust** delivers suicide awareness and response training for its mental health staff.

**Harmless** is commissioned to provide mental health awareness, suicide prevention awareness, self-harm awareness and suicide bereavement training to frontline workers (including within the voluntary and community sector) across the system. The training is free to people living or working within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (note: mental health awareness training is not currently commissioned for people living/working in Nottingham City).

#### 4.2 Service Provision

##### 4.2.1 Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT)

[Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust](#) (NHCFT) provides community, outpatient, day and inpatient services for all ages of the population for people with mental health problems. These services are delivered in line with the NICE stepped-care model for managing common mental health disorders. The stepped-care model is used to organise provision based on scale of severity and complexity of need, with recommendations for complex and severe mental health disorders focused on specialist mental health services. Access to support in a mental health crisis is available in both Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

NHCFT services include:

- Acute Mental Health Inpatient Care
- Psychiatric Intensive Care Inpatient Facilities
- S136 Places of Safety
- Community Mental Health Services.
- Mental Health Crisis Services
- A&E Liaison Services
- Psychology And Psychotherapy
- Day Care services
- Recovery College

The Trust-wide suicide prevention strategy (Towards Zero Suicide Strategy 2020-2023) was written in consultation with key stakeholders and sets out our aims for reducing the incidence of suicide across the Trust whilst providing meaningful, effective, and compassionate care. In line with the strategy, NHCFT has developed suicide awareness and response training for its staff. NHCFT have a mechanism in place whereby all unexpected deaths for patients in contact with the service are reported and examined to ascertain the circumstances and cause of the patient death. This scrutiny process aims to look at any lessons that could be learnt to prevent any unexpected deaths in the future. This work is in addition to the RTSSS led by public health leads for all local suspected suicides. The training offer, strategic development and suicide response is led by the Trust-wide Clinical Lead for Suicide Prevention.

#### **4.2.2 Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment (CRHT)**

The CRHT provides a 24 hour, 7 days a week crisis resolution service, offering assessment to adults (18-65 years of age) with severe mental illness. The multidisciplinary team provide short-term home treatment and support to facilitate crisis recovery at home and reduce the need for hospital admission.

#### **4.2.3 Talking Therapies**

[NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Talking Therapies](#) is a free and confidential NHS treatment service designed to help with common mental health problems such as stress, anxiety, and depression. Therapeutic approaches include Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), Guided self-help, Counselling for depression, Eye Movement and Desensitisation

and Reprocessing (EMDR), Talking therapies for couples, Dynamic interpersonal therapy, as well as employment support.

#### **4.2.4 Primary Care**

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) was introduced in England in 2019 with the aim to expand general practice capacity and widen their offer. The scheme aligned with the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) and [NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24](#)<sup>53</sup>, which set out new and integrated modes of primary and community mental health care. As a result, Primary Care Networks (PCNs) had the option to select and fund Mental Health Practitioners to meet the needs of their local population. Mental health practitioners help to bridge the gap between adults whose needs cannot be met by local talking therapies, but who may not need ongoing care from secondary mental health services.

#### **4.2.5 Children and Young People Mental Health**

Nottinghamshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are for people up to 18 years old and include the following services provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare:

- Community CAMHS:
  - Looked After and Adoption Team
  - Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team
  - Developmental Neuropsychiatry and Tourette's Clinic
  - Eating Disorder Team
  - Intellectual Disability Team
  - Paediatric Liaison Team
  - Head 2 Head is an assertive outreach team for young people who: present symptoms that could indicate early onset psychosis; are on an order within the criminal justice system and have co-morbid mental health or learning difficulties; are experiencing mental health difficulties and have co-morbid substance use needs (dual diagnosis); have harmful sexual behaviour as well as mental health difficulties and/or a learning disability.
- The Lookout Adolescent Unit
- Music therapy

A targeted CAMHS service in Nottingham City is provided by Nottingham City Council.

#### **4.2.6 CAMHS Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment**

The [CAMHS CRHT](#) provides intensive home treatment for young people who have acute psychiatric/psychological problems or whose mental health is getting worse and who are at high risk of experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis. When young people are admitted to a psychiatric hospital, the CRHT can facilitate the transition to home.

#### **4.2.7 Mental Health Support Teams**

<sup>53</sup> NHS (2019), *NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24*. Available at: NHS Long Term Plan » NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24

From 2019, local NHS commissioners initiated the roll out of [Mental Health Support Teams](#) (MHSTs) in over 100 schools across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The MHSTs aim to deliver evidence-based interventions for mild to moderate mental health issues, support the development of a [whole school approach](#)<sup>54</sup> to mental health and help children and young people access the right support by providing timely advice to educational staff.

#### **4.2.8 Be U Notts**

Since April 2022 [Be U Notts](#) has delivered a free mental health and emotional wellbeing service to Children and Young People with low to mild emotional needs in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

#### **4.2.9 Student Mental Health Services**

The two universities and three further education colleges in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have differing models but all offer some form of mental health support or coaching, in addition to links with external provision. There is an opportunity within the Further Education and Higher Education network to map mental health provision to develop an understanding of met and unmet need for students.

#### **4.2.10 NottAlone**

[NottAlone](#) is the first point of contact for children and young people, parents, carers and professionals seeking mental health information, including self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

#### **4.2.11 HMP Whatton, Lowdham Grange, Ranby and Nottingham Prisons**

All Nottinghamshire Prisons adhere to the Prison Service Order Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention and the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is an individualised care planning and cross agency approach for prisoners at risk of suicide or self-harm. ACCT also aims to improve staff training in case management and in assessing and understanding at-risk prisoners.

#### **4.2.12 Harmless and The Tomorrow Project**

[Harmless](#) is commissioned by the ICB to deliver The Tomorrow Project. The Tomorrow Project provides confidential support to people bereaved by suicide via self-referral. A referral mechanism has also been established with local police and regional railway operators to promote awareness of The Tomorrow Project where appropriate, and to facilitate self-referrals. Harmless also provides self-harm and suicide crisis support to the local population.

#### **4.2.13 Text SHOUT**

[Text SHOUT](#) is a national service that has also been commissioned locally to provide 24 hours a day and seven-days a week confidential support from a trained volunteer via text.

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<sup>54</sup> PHE (2015), *Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing*. Available at: Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



The service is intended to help with: anxiety and stress, depression or sadness, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, panic attacks, loneliness or isolation, abuse and bullying.

#### **4.2.14 Crisis Line**

[Crisis Line](#) is available to anyone in [mental health crisis](#) at anytime, anywhere across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It's open to people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. Local health workers operate the line and can provide access to mental health profession and signpost to other relevant services.

#### **4.2.15 Nottinghamshire Crisis Sanctuaries**

The Crisis Sanctuaries provide support, information, and guidance to people over 18 years old experiencing mental health issues or in a mental health crisis. Crisis Intervention Workers can provide recovery-focused crisis support and community referral as appropriate. The Sanctuaries are delivered through a partnership of three VSCE organisations: Framework, Turning Point and Mind. People can attend in person by dropping into the one of the sanctuary sites at Chilwell, Mansfield, Worksop or Nottingham City. Phone and video call options are also available.

### **4.3 Activity**

#### **4.3.1 Rail companies**

In partnership with Network Rail, the Samaritans deliver a Managing Suicidal Contact course to rail staff on how to identify, approach and support a person potentially experiencing suicidality. Samaritans also provides Trauma Support Training to managers to assist staff recovery post-incident support and a 24hour post-incident call-out service at stations delivered by volunteers. Samaritans also works with the media and has developed a [range of guidance](#), including reporting on suicides and self-harm, clusters and rail suicides.

## **5. Local Views**

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### **5.1 Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**

Healthwatch is the independent consumer champion for both health and social care. The aim of local Healthwatch is to give citizens and communities a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within their locality.<sup>55</sup>

At the beginning of the planning process for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire were presented with the Nottinghamshire County JSNA: Project Initiation Document (PID) to consider ways in which relevant patient experience and evidence could be included. Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire liaised with the Population Health Management team at the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to

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<sup>55</sup> Healthwatch 2023. Available from: <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/our-history-and-functions>

share local views of mental health service use (including barriers around access), as well as data at the level of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS, used earlier in this report.

Healthwatch also shared that a service evaluation of the Specialist Mental Health services provided and commissioned by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Report was being undertaken at the time of engagement. This was due to be published out of the timeframe for inclusion within the JSNA. The service evaluation will be shared once available and will feature into development of the local strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in 2024.

## **5.2 Suicide Prevention Stakeholder network**

The Suicide Prevention Stakeholder network was set up by Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health team and consists of over two hundred organisations that work within suicide prevention.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, the overall findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment were shared in a presentation to virtual attendees at the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder network event, held on MS Teams by Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health. The presentation was subsequently shared through email to the network for those who could not attend. Opportunities to feedback on findings were invited via email, or directly at the stakeholder network event.

## **6. Evidence of what works**

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### **6.1 National strategy and guidance context**

#### **6.1.1 Suicide prevention**

The [Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy](#) is the national suicide prevention strategy published in September 2023. It highlights the role of national government, NHS, local government VSCE sector, employers and individuals in suicide prevention. The strategy has key objectives and action areas, outlined as follows:

Key objectives:

- Reduce the suicide rate over the next 5 years – with initial reductions observed within half this time or sooner.
- Improve support for people who have self-harmed.
- Improve support for people bereaved by suicide.

Eight key areas for actions:

- Improve data and evidence to ensure that effective, evidence-informed and timely interventions continue to be adapted.

- Provide tailored, targeted support to priority groups, including those at higher risk. At a national level, this includes:
  - Children and young people
  - Middle-aged men
  - People who have self-harmed
  - People in contact with mental health services
  - People in contact with the justice system
  - Autistic people
  - Pregnant women and new mothers
- Address common risk factors linked to suicide at a population level by providing early intervention and tailored support. These are:
  - Physical illness
  - Financial difficulty and economic adversity
  - Gambling
  - Alcohol and drug misuse
  - Social isolation and loneliness
  - Domestic abuse
- Promote online safety and responsible media content to reduce harms, improve support and signposting, and provide helpful messages about suicide and self-harm.
- Provide effective crisis support across sectors for those who reach crisis point.
- Reduce access to means and methods of suicide where this is appropriate and necessary as an intervention to prevent suicides.
- Provide effective bereavement support to those affected by suicide.
- Make suicide everybody's business so that we can maximise our collective impact and support to prevent suicides.

The [NCISH Safer Services toolkit](#) provides comprehensive evidence based guidance for self-harm and safety practices in mental health services and primary care. Ten key themes emerged from a UK study of clinicians' views on good practice in mental health services and secondary care services provide a best practice framework:

- Safer wards
- Early follow-up
- No out-of-area admissions
- 24-hour crisis teams
- Family involvement
- Guidance on depression
- Personalised risk management
- Outreach teams
- Low staff turnover
- Reducing alcohol and drug misuse

NCISH toolkit also provides recommendations for:

- Psychosocial assessment for self-harm
- Safer prescribing
- Diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems especially depression in primary care
- Additional measures for men with mental ill-health
- Children and young people

[‘Aiming for Zero Suicides’ – Centre for Mental Health report \(2015\)](#) <sup>56</sup>: Commissioned by the East of England Strategic Clinical Network, the Centre for Mental Health has published an evaluation report on a whole-system approach to suicide prevention being piloted in four local areas in the East of England. The ‘zero suicide’ pilot programme, which looks to take suicide prevention into local communities, is based on an approach developed by Dr Ed Coffey in Detroit, Michigan.

[Suicide prevention: identifying and responding to suicide clusters \(2015, updated 2019\)](#): This PHE toolkit, based on suicide cluster research describes steps to identify and respond to suicide clusters.

[Suicide prevention: suicides in public places](#) sets out PHE’s guidance for local authorities for reducing suicide deaths in public places. It reports that reducing access to means is one of the most effective methods of preventing suicide and sets out four main steps:

- Identify locations and prioritise based on frequency.
- Plan and take action at priority locations.
- Apply the same thinking to similar locations.
- Evaluate and reflect.

PHE guidance also identifies four areas of action to eliminate suicides at frequently used locations:

- Restrict access to the site and the means of suicide.
- Increase opportunity and capacity for human intervention.
- Increase opportunities for help seeking by the suicidal individual.
- Change the public image of the site; dispel its reputation as a ‘suicide site’.

[Suicide-safer universities \(2018\)](#): Developed by Universities UK, the document provides guidance to universities on developing a suicide prevention strategy covering the following areas:

- Steps to prevent student suicide.
- Intervening when students get into difficulties.
- Best practice for responding to student suicides.
- Case studies on approaches to suicide prevention through partnership working.
- Checklist highlighting steps university leaders can take to make their communities safe.

### Online safety

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<sup>56</sup> Centre for Mental Health (2015), *Aiming for Zero Suicides*. Available at: [Aiming for ‘zero suicides’ – Centre for Mental Health](#)

The Samaritans completed research into [how social media users experience self-harm and suicide content](#), which has informed their [online excellence programme](#).<sup>57</sup> The research report acknowledged that the internet can be valuable to some for accessing information and support, for others experiencing self-harm and suicidal feelings it can present a risk, by glorifying and promoting self-harm and suicide. Many of the key research recommendations are beyond the scope of local organisations and are informing the online safety bill. However, the following recommendations provide opportunities at local level:

When signposting individuals to appropriate support, platforms should include:

- Information about local services.
- Options for live chat and messaging services.
- The option for someone to contact you.
- Platforms should also consider ways to make signposting to support more visible to users across their site.

### **6.1.2 Mental Health**

The strategic direction for mental health in England is described in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) (LTP) published in 2019; the 10 year plan includes measures to improve access for mental health services for adults and children. The [NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan](#) (2019/20 – 2023/24) consolidated LTP ambitions and actions, building on the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health Plan. In addition to a commitment to advancing mental health equality, the Plan outlined a Suicide Reduction and Bereavement Support programme to:

- Deliver against multi-agency suicide prevention plans, working towards a national 10% reduction in suicides by 2020/21.
- Work closely with mental health providers to ensure plans are in place for a 'zero suicide' ambition for mental health inpatients.
- Cover every local area in the country.
- Have suicide bereavement support services providing timely and appropriate support to families and staff.

The Implementation Plan identified that other mental health service improvements outlined in the LTP would further support their suicide reduction plan such as:

- 24/7 crisis care for all ages available via 111.
- integrated community models for severe mental illness which will include meeting needs for those who self-harm and with co-morbid substance use.
- improving the therapeutic environment in inpatient settings

[Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health](#) was published in 2017 and refreshed in 2022, in recognition of the long-standing inequalities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The

<sup>57</sup> Samaritans (2023), How social media users experience self-harm and suicide content.

concordat takes a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health, addressing wider social determinants of health and tackling health inequalities.

### 6.1.3 Clinical guidelines and quality standards

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) issues clinical guidelines and quality standards drawn from the best available evidence. Key points are highlighted below.

[Suicide Prevention \(2019\)](#) NICE Quality Standard 189:

- Multi-agency suicide prevention partnerships have a strategic suicide prevention group and clear governance and accountability structures.
- Multi-agency suicide prevention partnerships reduce access to suicides based on local information.
- Multi-agency suicide prevention partnerships have a local media plan.
- Adults presenting with suicidal thoughts or plans discuss whether they would like their family, carers or friends to be involved in their care and are made aware of the limits of confidentiality.
- People bereaved or affected by a suspected suicide are given information and offered tailored support.

[Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings](#) (2018)<sup>58</sup>, NICE Guideline 105: This guideline includes recommendations on partnerships, strategies and action plans, which largely reflect general overarching national suicide prevention approaches, with specific advice for some custodial settings.

[Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence](#) (2022), NICE Guidelines 225<sup>59</sup>. The guideline includes those with a mental health problem, neurodevelopmental disorder or learning disability and applies to all sectors that work with people who have self-harmed including recommendations on:

- Information and support; consent and confidentiality
- Safeguarding
- Involving family members and carers
- Psychosocial assessment and care by mental health professionals
- Risk assessment tools and scales; assessment and care by healthcare professionals and social care practitioners; assessment and care by professionals from other sectors
- Admission to and discharge from hospital; initial aftercare after an episode of self-harm; interventions for self-harm
- Supporting people to be safe after self-harm; safer prescribing and dispensing; training and supervision

<sup>58</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2018), *Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings*. Available at: [Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/105) (nice.org.uk).

<sup>59</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2022), *Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence*.

[Depression in adults: treatment and management \(2022\)](#), NICE Guidelines 222 <sup>60</sup>. This guideline provides recommendations for adults for: first-line treatment for less and more severe depression; relapse prevention, further-line treatment, treatment options for chronic depression, depression with personality disorder or psychotic depression and the “matched care model”.

[Depression in children and young people: identification and management \(2019\)](#) <sup>61</sup>, NICE guideline 134. This guidance provides recommendations on: psychological therapies for mild and moderate to severe depression; care for all children and young people with depression; the stepped-care model; detection, risk profiling and referral; recognition; transfer to adult services.

[Depression in adults with a chronic physical health problem: recognition and management. \(2009\)](#) <sup>62</sup> NICE clinical guideline 91. This outlines recommended care for all people with depression, as well as application of the stepped-care model.

#### **6.1.4 Local level strategy**

Key Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City documents related to suicide prevention include:

[ICS Mental Health \(COVID-19\) \(July 2020\)](#)

[Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System Mental Health and Social Care Strategy \(2019-2024\)](#)

[Nottingham Director of Public Health \(Annual Report 2021\) - Tackling Severe Multiple Disadvantage](#)

[Nottingham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2022 – 2025\)](#)

[Nottingham Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2019 – 2023\)](#)

[Nottinghamshire Guide to Championing Suicide & Self-harm Prevention & Mental health \(2022\)](#)

[Nottinghamshire Joint Health Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026](#)

Nottinghamshire JSNA Chapters:

[Domestic Abuse \(2019\)](#)

[Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People \(2021\)](#)

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<sup>60</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2022), *Depression in adults: treatment and management*.

<sup>61</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2019), *Depression in children and young people: identification and management*.

<sup>62</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2009), *Depression in adults with a chronic physical health problem: recognition and management*.

[Mental Health - Adults and Older People \(2017\)](#)

[Self-Harm \(2019\)](#)

[Nottinghamshire Mental Health Promotion Action Plan \(2022-25\)](#)

### **6.1.5 Research evidence**

#### Community based and clinical suicide prevention interventions.

A literature search of CINAHL, EMBASE, Epistemonikos, Medline, Public Health Database (ProQuest), PsycINFO, Social Policy & Practice and TripPro was completed to find the best available evidence relating to the question: What interventions are effective in preventing suicide? The following key search terms were used: suicide prevention, suicidal, suicide risk, prevent, intervention, program, community mental health, primary care, primary health care, general practice, GP, accident and emergency, emergency department, post hospital, post discharge, psychotherapy, psychological therapy, serious mental illness, mental illness, mental disorder, systematic review, United Kingdom. The search was conducted between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The search included interventions conducted in the community; schools; primary care; clinical settings; and online. The results included UK and international publications of systematic review evidence, case studies and primary research.

#### Effective suicide prevention interventions

Although there is evidence that suicide prevention interventions can be effective in preventing suicidal behaviour, it is not always possible to determine which specific approaches are creating a difference.<sup>63</sup> Also, some approaches may work for some groups at-risk, but not others. Research and evaluation of suicide-related interventions provide useful insights. Combining this knowledge with an understanding of local determinants of suicidal behaviour, helps us understand the need and ways we can address it.<sup>64</sup>

Some population level and community-based interventions have a consistent evidence base and are listed below.

- Training primary care physicians in depression recognition
- Educating young people on depression and suicidal behaviour
- Active outreach to psychiatric patients after discharge or a suicidal crisis
- Interventions that reduce access to lethal means

#### Suicide Prevention and Awareness training

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<sup>63</sup> Effectiveness of suicide prevention interventions: A systematic review and meta-analysis, Hofstra, E., et al., General hospital psychiatry, 2020. 63: p. 127-140

<sup>64</sup> Effective Programs on Suicide Prevention: Combination of Review of Systematic Reviews with Expert Opinions, Fakhari, A., et al., International journal of preventive medicine, 2022. 13: p. 39.

Suicide prevention and awareness training provides people with skills to identify early warning signs of suicidality, how to engage in conversation and signpost people to appropriate support and services. Due to the wide variation in training between providers, the effectiveness of this approach remains unclear.<sup>65</sup> Where effectiveness is apparent, it diminishes with time, eventually reaching pre-test levels.<sup>66</sup> Directly educating young people about depression and suicide, was found to be more effective than suicide prevention and awareness training for the same population. There is some evidence for exploring training for railway staff and rail commuters.<sup>67</sup>

### Public Awareness

Suicide prevention media campaigns may improve awareness of suicide, but their effectiveness as a means of changing suicide related behaviour is less clear. One systematic review identified found that:

- Campaign exposure may improve knowledge and awareness of suicide.
- Campaign materials can improve attitudes to suicide, although there were some exceptions. In this context attitudes were described as precursors to behaviour change.
- Research on the impact of media campaigns on help-seeking behaviour was inconclusive.

Rigorous evaluation is recommended when embarking on a media campaign, with consideration given to the messaging and target audience; measuring knowledge, attitudes, behavioural intentions, and actual behaviours.<sup>68</sup> These evaluations should aim to explore the messaging contained within campaigns, to understand which do and do not work well. They should also consider the reach of the campaign, to ascertain if it is having the desired effect.

### Means Restriction

Means restriction aims to reduce suicide by limiting public access to lethal methods<sup>69</sup>. Reducing access to poisons and medications (especially common and lethal methods) can reduce death by suicide and was not associated with an increase suicide by other means.<sup>70</sup> Strategies to restricting access to poison and medication included “banning or withdrawing

<sup>65</sup> Gatekeeper training for suicidal behaviors: A systematic review, Yonemoto, N., et al., Journal of Affective Disorders, 2019. 246: p. 506-514.

<sup>66</sup> Evaluating the Longitudinal Efficacy of SafeTALK Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training in a General Community Sample, Holmes, G., et al., Suicide & life-threatening behavior, 2021. 51(5): p. 844-853.

<sup>67</sup> Intervening to prevent suicide at railway locations: findings from a qualitative study with front-line staff and rail commuters, Katsampa, D., et al., BJPsych open, 2022. 8(2): p. e62.

<sup>68</sup> Suicide Prevention Media Campaigns: A Systematic Literature Review, Pirkis, J., et al., Health communication, 2019. 34(4): p. 402-414.

<sup>69</sup> Public Health England (2015) *Preventing suicides in public places*. Available at: Preventing suicides in public places (publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>70</sup> Universal interventions for suicide prevention in high-income Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries: a systematic review, Ishimo, M.-C., et al., Injury prevention: journal of the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention, 2021. 27(2): p. 184-193.

them from the market, reducing concentration, limiting the quantity sold, and allowing access for only a specific occupation or medical condition”<sup>71</sup>.

The use of barriers such as fencing as a method of restricting access to sites used for suicide by jumping may be a cost-effective approach to suicide reduction.

There was limited research related to means restriction and suicide by road traffic<sup>72</sup>.

Interventions to reduce rail deaths may be effective, but where multiple approaches were implemented simultaneously it was not clear which particular approaches made an impact.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>74</sup> A small-scale study found that physical barriers and bystander interruptions, including frontline staff or commuters may prevent rail deaths.<sup>75</sup> <sup>76</sup> The study recommended clear help points, visibility of station staff and suicide prevention training for the public to facilitate bystander interventions.

### Social and Peer Support

In this context social support interventions are described as providing social support, enhancing social connectedness or tackling feelings of loneliness. Social support can prevent suicide in people with a high suicide risk.<sup>77</sup> A scoping review identified a range of peer-based interventions targeting suicide prevention, such as:

- One-to-one interventions delivered by lay people or professionals, via email, text, face-to-face or telephone.
- Face-to-face group interventions which met regularly and often engaged in an activity.
- Online groups providing opportunities for conversation.

However, research into the use of peer support for suicide prevention lacked methodological rigour and more rigorous evaluation methods are recommended to identify effective approaches.<sup>78</sup>

### Suicide Surveillance

Real time suspected suicide surveillance (RTSSS) allows for rapid data-driven postvention responses. In particular, RTSSS is proven to support access to timely and effective services

<sup>71</sup> Association Between Means Restriction of Poison and Method-Specific Suicide Rates: A Systematic Review, Lim, J.S., et al., JAMA health forum, 2021. 2(10): p. e213042.

<sup>72</sup> Means restriction for the prevention of suicide on roads, Okolie, C., et al., The Cochrane database of systematic reviews, 2020. 9: p. CD013738.

<sup>73</sup> Intervening to prevent suicide at railway locations: findings from a qualitative study with front-line staff and rail commuters, Katsampa, D., et al., BJPsych open, 2022. 8(2): p. e62.

<sup>74</sup> Intervening to prevent suicide at railway locations: findings from a qualitative study with front-line staff and rail commuters, Katsampa, D., et al., BJPsych open, 2022. 8(2): p. e62.

<sup>75</sup> Railway suicide in the Netherlands lower than expected: Are preventive measures effective?, van Houwelingen, C.A.J., et al., Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention, 2021.

<sup>76</sup> Intervening to prevent suicide at railway locations: findings from a qualitative study with front-line staff and rail commuters, Katsampa, D., et al., BJPsych open, 2022. 8(2): p. e62.

<sup>77</sup> Methods and efficacy of social support interventions in preventing suicide: a systematic review and meta-analysis, Hou, X., et al., Evidence-based mental health, 2022. 25(1): p. 29-35.

<sup>78</sup> Peer-based interventions targeting suicide prevention: A scoping review, Bowersox, N.W., et al., American journal of community psychology, 2021. 68(1-2): p. 232-248.

for those bereaved by suicide.<sup>79</sup> People bereaved by suicide are at an increased risk of suicide behaviour, consequently RTSSS approaches have the potential to prevent further deaths by suicide. Further research and evaluation are needed to understand the impact of other actions taken in response to RTSSS.

### Risk assessment by health professionals

A high proportion of people are in contact with healthcare services in the year leading up to death by suicide. Consequently, interactions between patients and healthcare providers present an opportunity to identify and support those at risk. Risk assessment tools have regularly been used to predict self-harm and suicide behaviour, however there is now strong evidence that such tools are ineffective predictors<sup>80</sup>. Healthcare providers may instead benefit from specialist and soft-skills training to support conversations about mental health and the development of collaborative personalised safety plans with patients.<sup>81 82 83</sup>

### Primary care

Primary care healthcare providers are often the first point of contact for people seeking help for suicidal ideation. There is evidence that the development of the following in primary care settings can prevent suicide<sup>84 85</sup>:

- Training and educating healthcare providers to raise awareness of suicide.
- Screening for suicide risk and/or mood disturbance.
- Managing depression symptoms and mental disorders, through collaborative treatment from multidisciplinary teams.
- Managing suicide attempts and at-risk cases, for example through follow-up monitoring and [Brief Contact Interventions](#) (BCIs)<sup>86</sup> of people attempting suicide. BCI make use of phone calls, letters, postcards, or text messages to maintain scheduled long-term contact with a service user.

<sup>79</sup> Real-Time Suicide Surveillance: Comparison of International Surveillance Systems and Recommended Best Practice, Benson, R., et al., Archives of suicide research: official journal of the International Academy for Suicide Research, 2022: p. 1-27

<sup>80</sup> Suicide risk assessment in UK mental health services: a national mixed-methods study, Graney, J., et al., The Lancet Psychiatry, 2020. 7(12): p. 1046-1053.

<sup>81</sup> Effective suicide prevention strategies in primary healthcare settings: a systematic review, Azizi, H., et al., Middle East Current Psychiatry, 2022. 29(1): p. 101.

<sup>82</sup> The Effectiveness of the Safety Planning Intervention for Adults Experiencing Suicide-Related Distress: A Systematic Review, Ferguson, M., et al., Archives of suicide research: official journal of the International Academy for Suicide Research, 2022. 26(3): p. 1022-1045.

<sup>83</sup> Safety planning-type interventions for suicide prevention: Meta-analysis, Nuij, C., et al., The British Journal of Psychiatry, 2021. 219(2): p. 419-426.

<sup>84</sup> Effective suicide prevention strategies in primary healthcare settings: a systematic review, Azizi, H., et al., Middle East Current Psychiatry, 2022. 29(1): p. 101.

<sup>85</sup> Suicide interventions in primary care: A selective review of the evidence, Dueweke, A.R. and A.J. Bridges, Families, systems & health: the journal of collaborative family healthcare, 2018. 36(3): p. 289-302

<sup>86</sup> Milner A, Spittal MJ, Kapur N, Witt K, Pirkis J, Carter G (2016) Mechanisms of brief contact interventions in clinical populations: a systematic review. BMC Psychiatry 16:1–10

Again, it should be noted that risk assessments, are not reliable predictors of suicide behaviour,<sup>87</sup> A systematic review identified barriers to young adults (18-26 years of age) in raising and addressing suicide ideation. Unique to this group, was the finding that young people expected GP's to initiate conversations about suicide.<sup>88</sup>

### Emergency Department (ED)

Recent research demonstrated a significant decrease in suicide behaviours through the use of continuous quality improvement methods to identify and implement improvements, such as the use of collaborative safety plans.<sup>89</sup>

In paediatric ED settings there is some evidence that family-based and motivational interviewing interventions may reduce suicidal ideation and risk in children and adolescents; however further research is needed<sup>90</sup>.

Brief psychological interventions for people attending ED or following a suicide attempt may reduce suicide behaviours<sup>91</sup>.

The use of combined safety-planning and telephone follow-up post hospital admission for a suicide attempt was recently piloted. This preliminary study shows promise, and the approach warrants further exploration<sup>92 93</sup>.

Caring Contacts makes use of periodic personalised texts to enquire about former patients' well-being without expectation of response. This approach may facilitate engagement with health services and have a protective effect<sup>94</sup>.

### Psychological therapies

Studies into the effectiveness of psychosocial and psychological interventions (such as cognitive-behavioural therapy, dialectical behaviour therapy and psychodynamic

<sup>87</sup> Suicide risk assessment in UK mental health services: a national mixed-methods study, Graney, J., et al., The Lancet Psychiatry, 2020. 7(12): p. 1046-1053.

<sup>88</sup> Raising Suicide in Medical Appointments-Barriers and Facilitators Experienced by Young Adults and GPs: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review, Osborne, D., et al., Int J Environ Res Public Health, 2023. 20(1).

<sup>89</sup> Effect of an Emergency Department Process Improvement Package on Suicide Prevention: The ED-SAFE 2 Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial, Boudreaux, E.D., et al., JAMA Psychiatry, 2023.

<sup>90</sup> A rapid review of emergency department interventions for children and young people presenting with suicidal ideation, Virk, F., J. Waine, and C. Berry, BJPsych open, 2022. 8(2): p. e56.

<sup>91</sup> Effectiveness of brief psychological interventions for suicidal presentations: a systematic review, McCabe, R., et al., BMC psychiatry, 2018. 18(1): p. 120.

<sup>92</sup> Association of Suicide Prevention Interventions With Subsequent Suicide Attempts, Linkage to Follow-up Care, and Depression Symptoms for Acute Care Settings: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, Doupnik, S.K., et al., JAMA psychiatry, 2020. 77(10): p. 1021-1030.

<sup>93</sup> SAFETEL: a pilot randomised controlled trial to assess the feasibility and acceptability of a safety planning and telephone follow-up intervention to reduce suicidal behaviour, O'Connor, R.C., et al., Pilot and feasibility studies, 2022. 8(1): p. 156

<sup>94</sup> Caring contacts for suicide prevention: A systematic review and meta-analysis, Skopp, N.A., et al., Psychological services, 2023. 20(1): p. 74-83.

psychotherapies) on suicide and self-harm behaviours were contradictory and inconclusive.

95 96

### Digital interventions

There is some support for the use of digital interventions in the reduction of suicide and self-harm, with the strongest evidence for iCBT (internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy).<sup>97 98</sup> Further research is needed to understand the implementation and impact of this intervention.

### Population sub-groups

A literature search of CINAHL, EMBASE, Epistemonikos, Medline, Public Health Database (ProQuest), PsycINFO, Social Policy & Practice and TripPro was completed to find the best available evidence relating to the question: What interventions are effective in preventing suicide? The following key search terms were used: suicide prevention, suicidal, prevent, intervention, program, at risk, risk group, men, LGBTQ, gender diverse, substance use, financial, unemployed, systematic review, review, United Kingdom and UK. The search was conducted between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The results included UK and international publications of systematic review evidence, case studies and primary research.

### Older adults

Some evidence supports physical activity and the use of collaborative care for depression management and reduction of suicide ideation. Collaborative care is the use of multidisciplinary teams working jointly.<sup>99</sup>

### Children and young people

Psycho-educational interventions delivered in clinical, community and educational settings may reduce suicidal ideation and behaviour in young people.<sup>100 101</sup> It is recommended that interventions are coproduced and are acceptable to young people. These interventions show some signs of mid-to-long term effects, have the potential to reach a wide audience and may

<sup>95</sup> A systematic review and meta-analysis of psychosocial interventions aiming to reduce risks of suicide and self-harm in psychiatric inpatients, Yiu, H.W., S. Rowe, and L. Wood, *Psychiatry research*, 2021. 305: p. 114175

<sup>96</sup> The effectiveness of psychoanalytic/psychodynamic psychotherapy for reducing suicide attempts and self-harm: systematic review and meta-analysis, Briggs, S., et al., *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 2019. 214(6): p. 320-328.

<sup>97</sup> Effectiveness of internet-based cognitive behavioral therapy for suicide: a systematic review and meta-analysis of RCTs, Yu, T., et al., *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 2022. 27(10): p. 2186-2203.

<sup>98</sup> Internet-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Reduce Suicidal Ideation: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, Buscher, R., et al., *JAMA network open*, 2020. 3(4): p. e203933.

<sup>99</sup> Prevention of suicidal behavior in older people: A systematic review of reviews, Laflamme, L., et al., *PLoS ONE*, 2022. 17(1): p. 1-14.

<sup>100</sup> A Systematic Review of School-Based Suicide Prevention Interventions for Adolescents, and Intervention and Contextual Factors in Prevention, Walsh, E.H., M.P. Herring, and J. McMahon, *Prevention science : the official journal of the Society for Prevention Research*, 2023. 24(2): p. 365-381.

<sup>101</sup> Research Review: The effect of school-based suicide prevention on suicidal ideation and suicide attempts and the role of intervention and contextual factors among adolescents: a meta-analysis and meta-regression, Walsh, E.H., J. McMahon, and M.P. Herring, *Journal of child psychology and psychiatry, and allied disciplines*, 2022. 63(8): p. 836-845.

help identify and address suicide risk factors.<sup>102 103104</sup> Lack of input from school staff and young people in the development of the programme is a limiting factor in the intervention's effectiveness.

The use of psychosocial approaches and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy for Adolescents (DBT-A) may reduce suicide risk.<sup>105 106</sup> Further research and evaluation of suicide prevention programmes is needed in this area.

### Men

Interventions have been developed to address some of the barriers to health seeking behaviour amongst men.<sup>107</sup> For example, campaigns to destigmatise mental illness, increase awareness and health seeking-behaviours, promoting talking to others and coping strategies have been implemented in various forms across the UK. However, studies and evaluation of these types of approaches have not been robust enough to draw conclusion on their effectiveness.<sup>108 109</sup> Coproducing services with men, developing targeted communications promoting social connections and delivering interventions in informal settings did show some promise.<sup>110</sup>

Another potential intervention included offering psychosocial and practical support to men with financial difficulties and at risk of suicide. The intervention showed a reduction in depression and suicide ideation, in addition to increased financial self-efficacy.<sup>111</sup>

Misdiagnosed or unidentified depression are barriers to health-seeking in men. Training GPs to identify and support depression/suicidality in men is one opportunity to address this.<sup>112</sup>

### LGBTQ+

The evidence reviewed predominately identified research for children and young people. School based approaches promoting safe community, connectedness and acceptance may

<sup>102</sup> Effectiveness of school-based preventive programs in suicidal thoughts and behaviors: A meta-analysis, Gijzen, M.W.M., et al., *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2022. 298(Part A): p. 408-420.

<sup>103</sup> The effects of educational interventions on suicide: A systematic review and meta-analysis, Pistone, I., et al., *The International journal of social psychiatry*, 2019. 65(5): p. 399-412.

<sup>104</sup> The effects of interventions preventing self-harm and suicide in children and adolescents: an overview of systematic reviews, Morken, I.S., et al., *F1000Research*, 2019. 8: p. 890.

<sup>105</sup> Suicide in young people: screening, risk assessment, and intervention, Hughes, J.L., et al., *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*, 2023. **381**: p. e070630

<sup>106</sup> Adapted Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Adolescents with a High Risk of Suicide in a Community Clinic: A Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial, Santamarina-Perez, P., et al., *Suicide & life-threatening behavior*, 2020. 50(3): p. 652-667.

<sup>107</sup> Barriers to help-seeking in suicidal men: A systematic literature review. Jones LJ, Iqbal Z, Airey ND, Brown SR, Burbidge F *International Journal of Psychiatry*. 2019 Dec 27;4(2):1-5.

<sup>108</sup> Kayikci S et al. Suicide Prevention Campaign in Barnet: Evaluation Report 2021-22. London Borough of Barnet, 2022

<sup>109</sup> A rapid review to determine the suicide risk of separated men and the effectiveness of targeted suicide prevention interventions, King, Kylie; Krysinska, Karolina and Nicholas, Angela, *Advances in Mental Health*, 2022. 20(3), pp. 184-199

<sup>110</sup> Men and suicide prevention: a scoping review, Struszczyk, S., P.M. Galdas, and P.A. Tiffin, *Journal of mental health (Abingdon, England)*, 2019. 28(1): p. 80-88.

<sup>111</sup> Preventing male suicide through a psychosocial intervention that provides psychological support and tackles financial difficulties: a mixed method evaluation, Jackson, J., et al., *BMC psychiatry*, 2022. 22(1): p. 333.

<sup>112</sup> Men and suicide prevention: a scoping review, Struszczyk, S., P.M. Galdas, and P.A. Tiffin, *Journal of mental health (Abingdon, England)*, 2019. 28(1): p. 80-88.

address suicide behaviour for LGBTQ+ young people<sup>113 114</sup> The limited evidence in these areas warrants further exploration.

### Substance Use

Evidence is currently limited on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide and self-harm in people using substances <sup>115</sup>. Further research is needed in this field.

### Finance and unemployment

Unemployment benefits, employment protection legislation, higher minimum wage and active labour market programmes may reduce suicide at the population level, however the evidence for financial-focused suicide prevention interventions is inconclusive.<sup>116</sup> A pilot programme using brief psychosocial interventions for people presenting with self-harm or acute distress to emergency departments due to financial difficulties, showed some early potential. <sup>117</sup>

### In contact with the criminal justice system

The evidence search did not identify robust and strong evidence for approaches for reducing suicidality in people in contact with criminal justice system.<sup>118</sup> It is worth noting that the term “in contact with the criminal justice system” encompasses a broad spectrum of experiences and interactions.

## **7. What is on the horizon?**

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### **7.1 Resourcing for the Suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023 to 2028**

The new national Suicide Prevention strategy and action plan (see section 6.1.2) sets out over 100 actions across sectors, agencies, and the general public, in promoting suicide prevention as everybody's business. The government has made resource commitments that are expected over the coming months, including:

- Establishing a new nationwide near real-time suspected suicide surveillance system will improve the early detection of and timely action to address changes in suicide rates or trends (expected to launch November 2023).
- A £10 million Suicide Prevention Grant Fund is to support Voluntary Community Sector organisations to deliver suicide prevention activity.

<sup>113</sup> Systematic Review of Interventions to Reduce Suicide Risk in Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth, Christensen, J.A., et al., Child psychiatry and human development, 2023.

<sup>114</sup> The roles of school in supporting LGBTQ+ youth: A systematic review and ecological framework for understanding risk for suicide-related thoughts and behaviors, Marraccini, M.E., et al., Journal of school psychology, 2022. 91: p. 27-49.

<sup>115</sup> Psychosocial Interventions for Reducing Suicidal Behaviour and Alcohol Consumption in Patients With Alcohol Problems: A Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials, Hurzeler, T., et al., Alcohol & Alcoholism, 2021. 56(1): p. 17-27.

<sup>116</sup> The Role of Unemployment, Financial Hardship, and Economic Recession on Suicidal Behaviors and Interventions to Mitigate Their Impact: A Review, Mathieu, S., et al., Frontiers in public health, 2022. 10: p. 907052.

<sup>117</sup> The help for people with money, employment or housing problems (HOPE) intervention: pilot randomised trial with mixed methods feasibility research, Barnes, M.C., et al., Pilot and feasibility studies, 2018. 4: p. 172

<sup>118</sup> Interventions to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours among people in contact with the criminal justice system: A global systematic review, Carter, A., et al., eClinicalMedicine, 2022. 44: p. 101266.

- NHSE is taking forward improvements to the mental health crisis support offer, supported by an investment of £150 million. This includes procuring specialised mental health ambulances and investing in a range of infrastructure schemes, including alternatives to A&E, crisis cafés, and new and refurbished mental health assessment and liaison spaces.
- Funding the government's proposed Online Safety Bill which will introduce legislation to tackle harmful online suicide and self-harm content.

## **7.2 Suicide and self-harm service**

The Integrated Care Board is commissioning a new integrated, all age suicide and self-harm service across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire aiming to provide timely, evidence-based support for people experiencing suicidal ideation, self-harm or have been bereaved by suicide.

Learning from the wave 4 programme and wider stakeholder engagement has been incorporated into the new service model including a greater emphasis on community engagement and development, understanding the role and support for parent/carers and improving communications and awareness of the service. The new service will commence in April 2024.

## **7.3 Wave 4 programme delivery**

The Wave 4 suicide prevention programme concludes in October 2024. For the final year of the programme work will focus on:

- Completion of a series of engagement and training pilots being delivered on behalf of the programme by Harmless focussing on organisations and groups who work with and support men, LGBTQ+ communities, Gypsy Roma Traveller communities and those working in suicide bereavement and relationship breakdown.
- Development and delivery of a listening project focussing on higher risk groups of men, people with neurodevelopmental conditions, young people and young adults at risk of self-harm, people experiencing financial vulnerability (including from gambling harm) and suicide bereavement. Findings from the listening event will inform future commissioning decisions, provide qualitative evidence to identify gaps in suicide prevention work and inform the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention strategy.
- Development of targeted communication campaigns and a small community grants programme focussing on the higher risk groups and antecedents to suicide listed above.
- Continuation of training delivered via the Wave 4 Framework Agreement to continue to upskill and increase confidence across a range of groups and organisations who support those who may experience suicidality.
- Evaluation of the Wave 4 suicide prevention programme in its totality.

The work outlined above aims to identify learning and the needs of these at-risk groups and areas of concern to be shared across the system. This will influence key partners. wider

stakeholders and will be incorporated into future suicide prevention activity by the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Steering Group.

#### **7.4 NHS 111**

From April 2024, 111 option 2 will go live and will be promoted as the first contact number for anyone in a mental health crisis. Calls will be diverted to a local Crisis hub for support, advice, triage and linked into CAMHS and AMH Crisis teams for further support. This will be a 24/7 offer.

#### **7.5 Expected activity and provision for Children and Young People**

**Crisis Support and Complex Needs:** A group will be established to review crisis support in children and young people on a complex needs pathway. The group will consist of partners including representatives from acute, health and social care. It will review feedback, embed services within pathways, and focusing on aligning crisis support following presentation at an emergency department.

**Self-Harm Working Group:** This group will review and streamline self-harm provision pathways.

**Mental Health Champions** will be embedded in local hospitals to:

- ensure that mental health has the same focus within acute settings as physical health.
- provide oversight of young people with complex needs attending acute settings
- support appropriate discharge.
- work with system partners to improve pathways.

#### **7.6 Other relevant national strategy and guidance**

##### Updated guidance on suicide cluster responses

In the [Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: 2023-2028](#), OHID committed to updating guidance for local suicide prevention partnerships on suicide clusters and contagion. This will support effective local responses where there may be more suicides than expected in a particular area, or a suspected link between suicides. The publication is expected by 2024.

##### Guidance for Local Authorities on suicide prevention action plans

In the [Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: 2023-2028](#), OHID committed to refreshing local suicide prevention plan guidance by the end of 2024. The updated guidance will support the development of local plans in line with national priorities, including guidance on providing bespoke support to demographic group and communities of concern.

## Major Conditions Strategy

In 2023 the government committed to major conditions strategy which will include mental ill health, along with five other physical health groups of conditions. At the time of writing, it is understood that the major conditions strategy will replace the 'No Health Without Mental health' a cross government health outcomes strategy for all ages. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) published an [interim case for change and strategic framework](#) <sup>119</sup> in August 2023, with the full strategy expected in 2024.

### What does this tell us?

## **8. Unmet needs and service gaps**

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Unmet needs were identified by reflecting on the information presented by this JSNA on local population trends and at-risk groups, local service provision and assets, and by considering the evidence base of what works in suicide prevention. The following unmet needs were identified:

1. Current school-based mental health support does not specifically address suicide prevention. Evidence suggests vulnerability to suicide can be partly established early in life and that taking early intervention and school-based approaches can be preventative.<sup>120</sup> The Whole School Approach and Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Transformation Programme provides an opportunity to integrate suicide prevention within existing emotional wellbeing approaches.
2. There is a need for additional work to tailor support for men to reduce risk factors and antecedents for suicidality. These include economic adversity, alcohol and drug use, relationship stresses and lack of social connections. Current provision exists to support men addressing crisis, self-harm and suicide prevention but could go further to address additional risk factors and antecedents for suicidality.
3. There is a need to support health seeking behaviours in men. National data suggests that 9% of middle-aged men experiencing suicidality are not in contact with any support.<sup>121</sup> Currently there is not a year-round targeted communications strategy to support men to engage with appropriate services and support.
4. Voluntary and community services report a need for increased skills and knowledge in how to help people experiencing self-harm and suicidality access a continuum of appropriate holistic support. Voluntary and community sector providers have reported an increase of self-harm presentations to their services, during the same period that hospital admissions for intentional self-harm have decreased.

<sup>119</sup> Department of Health and Social Care (2023), *Major conditions strategy: case for change and our strategic framework*. Available at: Major conditions strategy: case for change and our strategic framework - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>120</sup> The developmental origins of suicide mortality: A systematic review of longitudinal studies, Vidal-Ribas, Pablo; et al. , European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 2022.

<sup>121</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Suicide by middle-aged men. 2021. The University of Manchester.

5. Ensure evidence-based approaches support social connectedness and emotional wellbeing to reduce self-harm and suicidality among LGBTQ+ young people in current school-based and community-based locations. A Wave 4 funded pilot project has been established to explore engagement and crisis support for LGBTQ+ people. CAMHS has engaged with local LGBT+ groups to identify and implement ways to support LGBTQ+ young people. There is currently an opportunity to address the risk factors of suicidality for LGBTQ+, such as loneliness, bullying and abuse via whole school approaches and CYP mental health transformation. These are promising developments, which would be bolstered by greater links between the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme, Nottinghamshire Healthcare trust and local authority Public Health.
6. Further collaborative work is needed to improve access to support services for Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities. Evidence suggested that roles embedded in the community are best placed to support Gypsy Roma Traveller groups. There is an opportunity to collaborate with existing Community Champions and other community assets.
7. Systems are needed to ensure professionals in community, healthcare, money help and other public-facing roles have up-to-date knowledge and can support access to financial advice and wellbeing and mental health support. This should include knowledge and pathways at a local level. National and local intelligence suggests that financial adversity is a risk factor for suicide.<sup>122</sup> The rising cost of living is likely to add additional risk and requires timely support to be implemented. Feedback from stakeholders acknowledges challenges for both citizens and professionals in identifying what financial support is available and where to access it.
8. Follow-up support is commissioned after first attendance to emergency departments for suicide ideation, and not for later attendances. Intentional self-harm requiring emergency hospital treatment has been found to be present in about 15% of those who take their own life.<sup>123</sup> Effective follow-up care has the potential to help people who self-harm to access the right support and prevent suicide.
9. There is a need to identify effective interventions to address the mental health needs and prevent suicide for people with long term physical health conditions. National data shows that people with long-term and chronic physical illness may be an at-risk group for low mental wellbeing and suicidality.<sup>124</sup> Local intelligence identified cancer diagnosis and chronic pain as the most cited physical health condition within RTSSS data. Some links exist between physical health and mental health services. However, more needs to be done to support and understand patient's needs.
10. Greater links and shared learning between domestic abuse and suicide prevention teams is needed. National data and research highlight that women are disproportionately affected

<sup>122</sup> Annual report 2023: UK patient and general population data 2010-2020. March 2023 Available from <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

<sup>123</sup> McManus S et al. Suicide and self-harm in Britain: researching risk and resilience. NatCen Social Research, 2019 Available from: <https://nspa.org.uk/resource/suicide-and-self-harm-in-britain-researching-risk-and-resilience-using-uk-surveys-data-and-analysis/>

<sup>124</sup> The association of physical multimorbidity with suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in England: A mediation analysis of influential factors, Smith, L., et al., The International journal of social psychiatry, 2023. 69(3): p. 523-531.

by domestic abuse suicide.<sup>125 126</sup> This group characteristically have multiple unmet needs with fewer resources to escape and seek help.

11. There is a need to better support the needs of children and young people who are in crisis and present to the emergency department with self-harm or suicidal ideation. Local stakeholders have highlighted inappropriately met or unmet needs of young people who are in crisis or emotionally dysregulated, with some CYP experiencing long waits on physical health wards whilst appropriate provision was sought. Looked after young people and those transitioning from CYP to adult services, were identified as groups of particular need.
12. There is a need to address online safety and suicide-related internet use. In the absence of local data, we look to national data which indicates a general increase in suicide-related internet use since 2011. Evidence of suicide-related internet use was evidenced in 8% of the suicides in people who were in contact with mental health services over the past year.<sup>127</sup>

The following knowledge gaps were identified:

- Evidence is currently limited on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide and self-harm in people using substances.
- Limited understanding of the links between gender, domestic abuse and suicide (particularly sexual violence).
- Effective and appropriate links between RTSSS and Mental Healthcare provider self-harm and suicide data to inform antecedent themes and prevention action.
- Prevalence and means of self-harm, including understanding of self-harm presentations to VSCE organisations and the scale of potentially unmet need.
- Understanding gambling harm local intelligence in relation to suicide risk factors to inform targeted interventions.
- Limited understanding of approaches to reducing suicidality in people in contact with probation and youth justice services.

### **What should we do next?**

## **10. Recommendations for consideration**

The following recommendations have been formulated based on the unmet needs and knowledge gaps identified in section 9 and are aligned to components of the new Suicide Prevention Strategy for England (2023 to 2028):

	Recommendations	Lead(s)
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<sup>125</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH). Annual report 2022. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2022/>

<sup>126</sup> Intimate partner violence, suicidality, and self-harm: a probability sample survey of the general population in England Sally McManus et al. June 07, 2022 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(22\)00151-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(22)00151-1)

<sup>127</sup> The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health. Annual Report: UK patient and general population data, 2010-2020. 2023. University of Manchester. Available from: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/reports/annual-report-2023/>

<b>Improved Data and Evidence</b>		
<b>1</b>	Improve data and intelligence sharing between partners including through the local Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system in order to ensure the quality of the RTSSS data and learning reviews after a suicide death has occurred and to improve the understanding of local need and gaps.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust/ partners in RTSSS working group
<b>2</b>	Establish protocols for appropriate sharing and analysis of data on self-harm and suicide attempts among key partners working with groups at increased risk of suicidality, including mental health, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use services to inform preventative actions.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
<b>Reducing access to means and high frequency locations</b>		
<b>3</b>	Continue to prioritise action on reducing access to means for suicide within public places using intelligence from Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) and through the RTSSS Working Group.	Local authority Public Health teams and partners in RTSSS working group
<b>Providing tailored and targeted support to target groups.</b>		
<b>4</b>	Develop integrated suicide prevention approaches for children and young people (CYP) in school settings via the Whole School Approach and CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme	Local authority Public Health and Education teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
<b>5</b>	Facilitate the development of services and support, co-produced with men, to address suicide risk factors and promote social connections in informal settings.	Local authority Public Health teams/VSCE sector
<b>6</b>	Develop targeted suicide prevention communications for men to support engagement in and access to support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
<b>7</b>	Work with partners (including VSCE and primary care) to better understand where people experiencing self-harm or suicide ideation come into contact with services and what further action is needed to identify and support them, particularly for those whose needs do not meet the threshold for secondary mental healthcare.	All commissioners in Local authority Public Health teams
<b>8</b>	Develop communication resources to support people experiencing self-harm to access the right support at the right time.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>9</b>	Integrate evidence-based approaches to supporting social connectedness and emotional wellbeing for LGBTQ+ people into school and community-based approaches and services.	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP

		Mental Health Transformation leads
10	Partner with community champions and existing organisations to improve access to appropriate support services for people from Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>Addressing risk factors</b>		
11	Use learning from local pilot projects and listening events to improve access for groups who are at increased risk of not accessing self-harm and suicide prevention support such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gypsy Roma Traveller groups</li> <li>- LGBTQ+ groups</li> <li>- Men</li> <li>- Those who are financially vulnerable, unemployed or people with a gambling problem</li> <li>- People with neurodevelopmental conditions</li> <li>- Young people/adults at risk of self-harm/suicide</li> <li>- People bereaved by suicide</li> </ul>	Local authority Public Health teams/CYP Mental Health Transformation leads
12	Support the community and voluntary sector to support people from at-risk groups who are experiencing self-harm and suicidality such as: men, people with financial difficulty, LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing loneliness, and people in contact with the criminal justice system.	Local authority Public Health teams/VSCE sector
13	Work with services providing financial support/advice and wellbeing support to improve the pathways between psychosocial support and money help, promote workforce awareness of financial advice and wellbeing support, and strengthen links between financial support and mental health services.	Local authority Public Health teams
14	Identify contacts and foster links with commissioners and providers of chronic pain and cancer pathways to explore how to improve access to appropriate support services.	Local authority Public Health teams/ Nottinghamshire Healthcare trust
15	Develop links with probation, youth justice and community-based services for people in contact with criminal justice system to develop training and involvement with the Suicide Prevention Stakeholder Network and Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
16	Review mechanisms for sharing learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews relating to suicide with the suicide prevention partnership and consider opportunities for links between Assurance Learning Implementation Groups (ALIG) and the Suicide Prevention Strategic Steering Group.	Local authority Public Health teams
<b>Effective crisis support</b>		
17	Work with the Integrated Care Board to identify support following Emergency Department attendance for every incident of suicide ideation.	Integrated Care Board
18	Work with the Integrated Care Board's Children and Young People (CYP) team to identify opportunities to promote the mental health and wellbeing and appropriate crisis support for CYP and looked-after	Integrated Care Board (CYP and looked-after children's team)



	children and ensure pathways for support are aligned to facilitate easy access for CYP.	
	<b>Online safety:</b>	
<b>19</b>	Develop an approach to promote online safety, informed by the national online excellence programme.	Local authority Public Health teams, Education and Children's social care teams.

### Key contacts

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### References

Bookmarked

### Appendix

None



## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health and Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.

#### **Information**

##### **LOCAL**

##### **Create Healthy and Sustainable Places**

##### [Working Well East Midlands - Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care Initiative](#)

1. Nationally there is a drive towards increasing employment support for people with long term health conditions and disabilities. The employment rates for disabled people (52.6%) are significantly lower than the employment rate for non-disabled people (82.5%). This is recognised in the [NHS long term plan](#), with mental health and musculoskeletal conditions remaining the main reasons for increasing sickness absence.
2. In July 2022 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) jointly launched [the Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care \(IPSPC\) initiative](#). A package to fund six programmes of new employment support with a national budget of £40 million. The programme is focussed on adults who have a physical or mental health disability, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, to help them to move into competitive employment and to provide support to maintain employment. The approach is a local authority led model with work first employment support embedded into primary care settings.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council worked jointly with Nottingham City Council and Derby City Council to submit a successful bid and were awarded £5.3 million to develop the local programme 'Working Well East Midlands', which is expected to support more than 2,600 residents with disabilities and long-term health problems. The programme aims to bridge the gap between healthcare services and employment support and is focussed on supporting people who are accessing primary and community health services into work and to retain employment.

4. The contract is split into five lots, covering the five NHS Place-Based Partnership areas of Bassetlaw, Derby City, Mid Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire. Nottingham City Council are the accountable body and have now contracted service delivery partners to deliver the programme. The programme began in September 2023 and it is due to run for 19 months (up to March 2025).
5. Standguide will be delivering across Bassetlaw, Derby City and Mid Nottinghamshire and East Midlands Chamber will be covering Nottingham City and South Nottinghamshire. Both providers are operational, taking referrals and looking to engage with partners. For further information about Working Well East Midlands, please contact: [sonja.smith@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:sonja.smith@nottsc.gov.uk) or you can contact service delivery partners East Midlands Chamber: [workingwell@emc-dnl.co.uk](mailto:workingwell@emc-dnl.co.uk) or Standguide: [workingwellem@standguide.co.uk](mailto:workingwellem@standguide.co.uk) directly.

#### [Young volunteers support local food bank in Broxtowe \(UK Shared Prosperity Fund\)](#)

6. A group of young volunteers have helped improve their local food bank whilst gaining valuable work experience as part of an initiative run by the Broxtowe Community Projects. The initiative received £14,000 from Broxtowe Borough Council's UK Shared Prosperity Funding, after they made an application through its Good Ideas Fund.
7. 23 volunteers from Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) have worked with Broxtowe Community Projects to deliver a two-week project at their base on the High Road in Beeston. VIY is a Community Interest Company (CIC) who challenge young people to learn vocational construction skills, mentored by professional tradespeople, whilst breathing life back into community places.
8. As part of the work, they have created a decked area which will allow private conversations between staff and service users to take place, built and planted vegetable beds to allow volunteers to grow fresh supplies for the foodbank and constructed a canopy and foldable tables which will allow more parcels to be made and more families in the community to be supported.

#### [Bassetlaw communities in line for £50k of grants \(UK Shared Prosperity Fund\)](#)

9. Local organisations and community and voluntary groups from across Bassetlaw have shared almost £50,000 of funding that will deliver arts and heritage-based events and activities in their communities. A total of 10 recipients have benefitted from grants of around £5,000 each thanks to Bassetlaw District Council's Arts and Heritage Grant Programme, which is funded through the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

#### [Community growing in Ashfield \(UK Shared Prosperity Fund\)](#)

10. In November 2023, Ashfield District Council launched the Community Growing grant to enable local organisations to apply for funding to support projects linked to the sustainable food agenda.
11. £5,000 was secured through UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with grants of up to £500 available for community growing, green social prescribing and allotment-based projects. 10 local groups have been allocated funding by the Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership Management Group and will receive the funding ready to start projects in Spring 2024. For groups not set up

to receive funding, growing packs have been purchased so they are able to access these to support their projects.

#### Free family cook and eat classes in Newark and Sherwood

12. Newark and Sherwood District Council, in partnership with the Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) have delivered a series of family cookery sessions and cookery courses in local communities linked to food clubs and hubs.
13. The seven-week course taught families how to cook healthy low-cost meals in a social and informal environment. Funded through the Cost-of-Living project, a further 15 courses will be delivered throughout 2024, supporting families and residents to come together to learn new skills, socialise and create, where possible, lasting legacy through social eating projects or lunch clubs.
14. The authority is also in the process of evaluating their schools growing and wormery project, which has sparked learning and engagement from children on food waste. Schools feedback to date has been positive with a number requesting additional wormeries. Working in partnership with [Urban Worm](#), the authority has submitted a funding bid which would allow expansion of the project into communities and families, enabling people to utilise and recycle food waste better.

#### **Access Right Support to Improve Health**

##### The Nottinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Partnership – new name and new infographic

15. Previously the Nottinghamshire Combatting Substance Misuse Partnership, the strategic partnership agreed to a name change in November 2023 to 'The Nottinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Partnership' to reflect their commitment to adopt non stigmatising language.
16. In December 2021 the Government published a national drug strategy, '[From Harm to Hope](#)' which had three main priorities:
  - a. Reducing the supply of drugs.
  - b. Improving the quality of drug and alcohol treatment services and increasing the number of people they can support.
  - c. Preventing people from becoming dependent on drugs and alcohol.
17. The Nottinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Partnership subsequently had an obligation under the From Harm to Hope Strategy to develop its own local strategy and plan. The Nottinghamshire Strategy and delivery plan for 2023-2025 was approved in March 2023 and added a fourth priority – to focus on the lived and living experiences of those who use drugs and alcohol.
18. In mid-2023, the first annual report of the national drug strategy was published and detailed the progress of the first year of delivery, one year into the government's 10-year plan. Therefore, to celebrate local successes for 2022/23, an infographic has been produced to highlight key progress. The infographic can be found at: [Substance Use \(drugs and alcohol\) - Nottinghamshire Insight](#).

## NHS Lung Health Checks

19. Patients across Mansfield and Ashfield continue to benefit from NHS Lung Health Checks. The health checks are offered to patients between the ages of 55 and 75, who smoke or have previously smoked, with the checks undertaken by specially trained nurses to find out how well patient's lungs are working.
20. Lung health checks can detect potential problems early, meaning treatment could be simpler and more successful. As of November 2023:
- a. 110 cancers have been diagnosed (including 94 lung cancers).
  - b. 665 patients where no cancer was found.
  - c. There is staging data for 90 of the lung cancers. Treatment intent is available for these staged lung cancers. 61 are curative (68%) and 29 palliative (32%). There is a 62% early-stage diagnosis rate.
21. More information on the NHS Lung Health Checks programme can be found at: [Mansfield & Ashfield NHS Lung Health Checks \(malunghealthcheck.nhs.uk\)](https://malunghealthcheck.nhs.uk) or by contacting Dr Thilan Bartholomeuz at: [thilan.bartholomeuz@nhs.net](mailto:thilan.bartholomeuz@nhs.net)

## Bassetlaw cancer awareness campaign

22. A Bassetlaw wide campaign is currently being developed to increase awareness of cancer symptoms across the local population, encourage regular checks for changes in the body and to promote the importance of early cancer diagnosis. The intention is that the campaign will increase the number of people participating in cancer screenings, leading to earlier detection.
23. Training will also be delivered across the Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership, which will improve understanding of key messages around cancer awareness and the impact health inequalities can have on cancer outcomes. It will also develop people's confidence in talking to residents about how they can reduce their cancer risk and support people to understand the importance of screening and spotting cancer early. For more information, please contact: [helen.azar@nhs.net](mailto:helen.azar@nhs.net)

## Newark and Sherwood Barbers Initiative

24. Newark and Sherwood District Council are currently in the process of evaluating their Barbers Initiative project, which has been running in the district for approximately 6 months. Through the initiative, barber shops received information and resources on prostate cancer, supporting them to have conversation and signpost men to health checks. A number of barbers have now asked for information linked to men's mental health to enable them to support their customers further.

## Health Protection Update

25. In July 2024, an update will be provided to Health and Wellbeing Board on outcomes and arrangements for protecting the health of the local population in Nottinghamshire. The report will describe the work undertaken across the system to prevent or reduce the harm caused by communicable diseases and to minimise the health impact of environmental hazards. It will include information relating to routine vaccination and screening programmes, health

emergency preparedness and community infection prevention and control in health and social care settings.

### [Gedling Falls Programme](#)

26. The Gedling Falls Programme has established falls prevention classes in the borough after the coproduction partnership identified a gap in falls prevention services.
27. A project group was set-up with representatives from Gedling Borough Council, the Primary Care Network, Active Notts and a postural stability instructor, who worked in an integrated and collaborative way to use Ageing Well seed funding to set up three falls prevention classes in the community, aiming to improve the physical and mental health of Gedling residents in identified areas of health inequality.
28. 70% of people attending the classes reported an increase in their strength and balance and 97% increased knowledge of how to get up from the floor on their own. Feedback shows they have been empowered to lead a more independent life, become more socially active and have not needed social care.

### [Mental Health First Aid training in Ashfield](#)

29. Ashfield District Council have trained 47 employees as Mental Health First Aiders. The training course enables staff to support colleagues and residents. The courses were delivered both in person and online to provide maximum opportunities for staff across the organisation to attend. Feedback from attendees has been positive both in terms of the knowledge and skills they developed to help others (including colleagues and residents, but also their own friends and family) and providing a platform to develop strong relationships with others from across the council.
30. Attendees remarked in particular they had learned about the council and the roles of others, which had helped them in their own roles, to signpost residents to services and opportunities that they didn't know existed. Equally importantly, it had given them others to talk to when they felt stressed, low or overwhelmed at work or in their personal lives. The council will continue to roll out courses in 2024 and will begin to consider how these courses can be run with local organisations who work within priority places across the district.

### [Supporting the farming community in Rushcliffe with their mental health](#)

31. Work has been taking place in Rushcliffe, led by the Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service (CVS), to look at how best the farming community can be supported with their mental health.
32. The Farming Community Network (FCN) highlighted that the farming community are at higher risk of suicide and mental health challenges. There are a lot of difficulties farmers face, such as rising costs, which are taking a toll on confidence and certainty and contributing to some farmers struggling with their mental health. The FCN works to raise awareness about the free and confidential practical and pastoral support FCN offers farming families and the wider agricultural industry in Nottinghamshire.
33. Rushcliffe CVS is working to raise more awareness of the service and connect FCN with relevant organisations in the county. With a particular request to engage GP practices to enable

partners to share thoughts on how isolated, hard to reach farmers might be more effectively connect with necessary health care and other relevant support networks.

### Tobacco Dependency Programme

34. A targeted population health management project is successfully being delivered through Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's (SFHT) in-house Phoenix Team, to encourage pregnant women (through incentives) to stop smoking and reduce the number of stillbirths, miscarriages, premature births, heart defects and sudden infant deaths.
35. The project is cited as best practice on the NHS England website and can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/prevention/tobacco-dependency-programme/>. A full evaluation is due to be completed. For more information, please contact Mark Yates: [myates@nhs.net](mailto:myates@nhs.net) or Vicky Pickering: [victoria.pickering8@nhs.net](mailto:victoria.pickering8@nhs.net)

## **Give every child the best chance of maximising their potential**

### Multi-agency Best Start Plus Groups

36. Multi-agency Best Start Plus groups are now established in all three districts across Mid Nottinghamshire, providing an opportunity for colleagues to identify, understand and collaborate on locally identified priorities. Rather than focus solely on the original Best Start age group of pre-birth to two, it has been agreed that the groups will work to support improved outcomes for children, young people and families in the 0-19 age range (0-25 if the young person has special educational needs or disabilities).
37. To bring together agreement on where to focus activities across the Mid Nottinghamshire Place Based Partnership (PBP), a workshop was hosted by Newark and Sherwood District Council, including attendees from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Perinatal Psychology, Healthy Families Team, Children's Centre Service, the voluntary sector, Public Health, Early Childhood Services, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Mid Nottinghamshire Locality Team and district councils.
38. Partners came together to discuss proposals for the overarching Best Start Plus Plan, with agreement that efforts should be focused where the greatest impact could be made. Supporting the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people was identified as a key theme, with plans currently being developed for another workshop focused on this, along with a follow up workshop in Spring 2024. Priorities agreed were:
- a. Targeting support for families in priority neighbourhoods/circumstances.
  - b. Developing a whole system approach to Family Hub Networks.
  - c. Supporting the Best Start Strategy: specifically healthy pregnancies and child development.
  - d. Encouraging childhood vaccinations and immunisations.
  - e. Promoting healthier lifestyles for children and families (healthy eating, weight and moving more).
  - f. Supporting positive activities for children and young people (feeling safe and raising aspirations).

39. For further information please contact: Diane Tinklin: [diane.tinklin@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:diane.tinklin@nottsc.gov.uk) or Claire O'Mara: [claire.omara1@nhs.net](mailto:claire.omara1@nhs.net)

## **Keep our Communities Safe & Healthy**

### Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

40. Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) published their 2022/23 annual report in November 2023. The report is produced in line with Care Act requirements and details the work that NSAB and partner agencies have carried out to achieve the aims of the Board's [three-year \(2022-2025\) strategic plan](#).

41. The NSAB is a partnership board responsible for safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire. Core membership includes Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board, district and borough councils, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Nottinghamshire Probationary Delivery Unit, POhWER and Local NHS Trusts.

42. The Board meets quarterly, as well as hosting six monthly partnership events for wider networks and ensures that partners continue to work together to effectively safeguard and promote the wellbeing of Nottinghamshire's at-risk adults. The 2022/23 Annual Report details that all Care Act statutory duties are being undertaken by NSAB, which include:

- a. [Providing a strategic plan](#)
- b. [Publishing an annual report](#)
- c. Undertaking [Section 44 Safeguarding Adult Reviews](#) as required

43. The Board's subgroups support delivery of its strategic plan and the 2022/23 Annual Report outlines partners' contributions to safeguarding Nottinghamshire adults across the plan's key aims, which are prevention, engagement and assurance, as well as key achievements and challenges. Highlights include a review of the Board's membership to widen representation, actions to increase participation of people with lived experience in shaping services and ongoing support to partners through the Board's learning and development offer, including a focus on domestic abuse.

44. Further detail can be found in the [full report](#). For any enquiries about the NSAB Annual Report, please contact Darren Fleetham: [darren.fleetham@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:darren.fleetham@nottsc.gov.uk)

### Newark and Sherwood Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) Multi Agency programme

45. Newark and Sherwood have reformed the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Multi Agency programme. The programme will have a focus on wider determinants of health and wellbeing within the community and £100k funding has been secured to develop an alternative education programme for young people aged 11-16 either not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET.

46. Work will be undertaken with partners to support the delivery of key health and wellbeing messages and learning as part of this offer. Partners have recently co-developed and undertaken a survey with residents of Tolney Lane to determine future support needs and work programmes. The results of this are currently being collated and will be shared once finalised.

## Homelessness review

47. A Homelessness review has been carried out by Newark and Sherwood District Council and the authority will be launching their new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy in March 2024. The plan is to hold a launch event in March and a workshop in April to ensure the action plan is co-produced with partners. The launch will be held throughout Mid Nottinghamshire, with Newark and Sherwood working together with Mansfield and Ashfield district councils to run the workshops.

## Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) - accommodation for rough sleepers

48. Bassetlaw District Council has launched its Severe Weather Emergency Provision, making accommodation available so that no-one has to sleep rough on the streets during the winter months.

49. Working in partnership with HOPE Community Services, the cold weather accommodation runs until 31 March 2024. People who are homeless or rough sleeping can contact the Council's Housing Needs Team, so that a referral can be made and an assessment of their needs and circumstances carried out.

50. The Council and partners aim to provide a full package of support from agencies including the Street Outreach Team, CGL, health professionals and others, so that the winter provision is not a quick fix, drop-in system, but a plan to support people in changing their lifestyle and move away from rough sleeping permanently.

## World Suicide Prevention Day 2023

51. World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness of suicide prevention, tackle the stigma on suicide and encourage individuals to seek help. The theme for this year's campaign was 'Creating Hope Through Action'.

52. Nottinghamshire County Council's Public Health team, with the support of local partners, delivered a co-ordinated programme of communications and events in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to raise awareness of the campaign. The local campaign also supported the promotion of good mental wellbeing, a priority within the Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

53. The campaign was underpinned by a collaborative, partnership-led approach which was effective in widely disseminating and distributing key suicide prevention and mental health messages. A variety of partners were involved, including community and voluntary groups, sports clubs, health partners, service providers and commissioners. The campaign had a presence across all 58 libraries in Nottinghamshire, with staffed stalls arranged in Mansfield, West Bridgford, Worksop and Beeston.

54. The campaign resulted in a significant increase in website traffic to the [Nottinghamshire County Council suicide prevention webpage](#), an uptake in introductory suicide prevention training and rise in use of the Text Notts support service. The online campaign had 16,500 impressions and over 9,000 accounts were reached.

55. An evaluation report has been completed with key recommendations for future campaigns. Sid Basu: [sid.basu@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:sid.basu@nottsc.gov.uk) can be contacted for a copy of the report.

## NATIONAL

### Mental health

#### [New National Suicide Prevention Strategy: 2023 to 2028](#)

56. The new national Suicide Prevention strategy and action plan was published in September 2023 and sets out over 100 actions across sectors, agencies and the general public, in promoting suicide prevention as everybody's business. The government's ambition is to reduce suicide rates over the next 5 years with initial reductions observed within 2 years, by focusing on the following priority areas for action:

- a. Improved data and evidence: A new nationwide near real-time suspected suicide surveillance system will improve the early detection of and timely action to address changes in suicide rates or trends.
- b. Maximising collective impact: A £10 million [Suicide Prevention Grant Fund](#) is to support Voluntary Community Sector organisations to deliver suicide prevention activity. The fund will support non-profit organisations to meet the increased demand seen in recent years through a range of diverse and innovative activity that can prevent suicides.
- c. Priority areas: Actions will look to provide targeted and tailored support for higher risk groups such as children and young people, middle-aged men, pregnant women and new mothers, as well as people who have self-harmed or been in contact with mental health services.
- d. Early intervention: Actions will address common risk factors linked to suicide at a population level by providing early intervention and tailored support. These include physical illness, economic adversity and alcohol and drug misuse.
- e. Effective crisis support: NHS England is taking forward improvements to the mental health crisis support offer, supported by [an investment of £150 million](#). This includes procuring specialised mental health ambulances and investing in a range of infrastructure schemes, including alternatives to A&E, crisis cafés, and new and refurbished mental health assessment and liaison spaces.
- f. Effective bereavement support: Actions will support the roll-out of more consistent, high-quality bereavement support to those affected by suicide. This includes offering bereavement support training for British Transport Police officers who may be the first contact for families, friends and loved ones after someone has died.
- g. Online safety: The government's proposed [Online Safety Bill](#) will introduce legislation to tackle harmful online suicide and self-harm content.

### Physical activity

#### [Sports England Small Grants](#)

57. Grants of up to £15,000 are available to charities, voluntary and community groups, local authorities, clubs, schools, and other not-for-profit organisations delivering sports and physical

activities to improve the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged communities in England. Schools are eligible to apply if their sports facilities are open for use by the wider community.

58. Sport England's Small Grants programme aims to encourage inactive and less active people, regardless of age, background, or level of ability, to become more active. Funding could be used for coaching, volunteer training, service and facility alterations, and equipment.
59. Sport England are also keen to support projects seeking to reduce their impact on the environment through the goods and services they use to deliver the activity. Applications can be submitted until the 31 March 2024.

## **Domestic abuse**

### [Women's Aid welcomes £2 million to help survivors of domestic abuse](#)

60. Women's Aid is working with the Home Office, member services and sector partners to help distribute an additional £2 million in funding to provide one-off payments to survivors of domestic abuse to help them flee and stay fled from abusers.
61. From 31 January 2024, survivors of domestic abuse who do not have the financial means to leave their abusers will be able to apply for a one-off payment of up to £500 through one of over 470 support services, for essential items such as groceries, nappies or support with new accommodation to help them and their children flee to safety.
62. For the first time, survivors can also apply for a further one-off payment of up to £2,500 to help secure a sustainable independent future, such as putting down a deposit for rental accommodation. This could play an important role in preventing homelessness and alleviate some of the financial pressures faced by survivors, providing stability and independence.
63. The fund will be delivered through referrals from a network of local frontline services in England and Wales including organisations, helplines and caseworkers who have a specialist understanding of domestic abuse. The fund, which will initially last until March 2025, builds on a successful pilot from May 2023, delivered by Women's Aid and the Home Office, which helped over 600 women find safety.

## **Every child maximising their potential**

### [Childhood Adversity and Vulnerability](#)

64. This policy position published by the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) discusses childhood adversity and vulnerability. It includes both national and local recommendations on how best to address the determinants of child health.

## **Healthy and sustainable places**

### [Built Environment](#)

65. This policy position published by the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) emphasises that the built environment, encompassing residences, transportation, educational institutions, workplaces and recreational spaces, significantly impacts health throughout life. This policy position sets out their key messages, national and local recommendations.

## Healthy life expectancy

### [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2023: health in an ageing society](#)

66. This report by Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty recommends actions to improve the quality of life for older adults and prioritise areas with the fastest growth in older people. The focus of the report is on how to maximise independence, and minimise time in ill health, between people in England reaching older age and the end of their life. The report is aimed at policy makers (government and professional bodies), health care professionals, medical scientists and the general public.

## Health inequalities

### [Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – a framework for local government action](#)

67. This briefing published by The Health Foundation, aims to support local authorities in England to maximise their local scope for action to improve health and tackle inequalities by addressing tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food.

### [Reducing health inequalities faced by children and young people](#)

68. This report published by NHS Providers, sets out the data and evidence of the health inequalities experienced by children and young people. It outlines the rationale for shifting attention towards this age group to prevent inequalities in later life. It also considers the role Trusts can play in targeting interventions towards improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people who are more likely to experience inequalities.

## Papers to other local committees

69. [Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report](#)

Children and Families Select Committee

16 October 2023

70. [Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(NSAB\) Annual Report](#)

Health Scrutiny Committee

04 December 2023

71. [Nottinghamshire Plan – Annual Delivery Plan Assurance](#)

Cabinet

21 December 2023

72. [Access to NHS Dental Services](#)

Health Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2024

## Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

73. [Board papers](#)

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

11 January 2024

## **Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

74. [Newsletter](#)  
January 2024

### **Other Options Considered**

75. There was the option to not provide the Chair's Report, however this option was discounted as the Chair's Report provides important updates relating to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottinghamshire.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

76. To identify potential opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in Nottinghamshire.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

77. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public-sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

78. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- 1) To consider the Chair's Report and its implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026.
- 2) To establish any actions required by the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the various issues outlined in the Chair's Report.

**Councillor Dr John Doddy**  
**Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board**  
**Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (LW 18/01/24)**

79. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

**Financial Comments (MM 19/01/24)**

80. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All



**07 February 2024****Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE  
AND EMPLOYEES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board's current work programme.

**Information**

2. The work programme (attached as **Appendix 1** to the report) assists in the management of the Board's agenda, the scheduling of its business and its forward planning. It includes business items that can be anticipated at the present time, while arising issues are added as they are identified. The work programme is reviewed and updated regularly with the Chair and Vice Chair, and at each Board meeting, where any Board member is able to suggest items for inclusion.

**Other Options Considered**

3. To not produce a work programme: this option is discounted as a clear work programme is required for the effective management of the Board's agenda, the scheduling of its business and its forward planning.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

4. To assist the Board in managing its business effectively.

**Statutory and Policy Implications**

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and, where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

6. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board's work programme be noted.
- 2) That Board members make any further suggestions for items for inclusion on the work programme for consideration by the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the relevant officers and partners.

**Marjorie Toward**

**Service Director for Customers, Governance and Employees  
Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report, please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (HD)**

7. The Board has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its Terms of Reference.

## **Financial Comments (NS)**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to the Board will contain relevant financial information and comments.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

9. Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All

## WORK PROGRAMME: 2023 – 2024

Please see Nottinghamshire County Council's [website](#) for the board papers, the Healthy Nottinghamshire [website](#) for information on the Health & Wellbeing Board and its Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapters are available on [Nottinghamshire Insight](#).

Report title	Purpose	Lead officer	Report author(s)	Notes
<b>MEETING / WORKSHOP: Wednesday 7 February 2024 (2pm)</b>				
Integrated Care Strategy Review		Dave Briggs	Joanna Cooper Vivienne Robbins	
JSNA Chapter: Suicide Prevention	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Viv Robbins	Safia Ahmed Will Leather	
Chair's Report (Standing Item)	An update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health & Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.	Councillor John Doddy		
<b>WORKSHOP (1hr): Severe Multiple Disadvantage</b>		Viv Robbins	Amanda Fletcher Catherine O'Byrne	
<b>MEETING / WORKSHOP: Wednesday 13 March 2024 (2pm)</b>				
Chair's Report (Standing Item)	An update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health & Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.	Councillor John Doddy		
JHWS Progress Report Ambition 2: Create healthy and sustainable places	To present on progress of the delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy for 2022 – 2026 as part of its monitoring framework.	Councillor John Doddy	Dawn Jenkin Carol Ford	

Report title	Purpose	Lead officer	Report author(s)	Notes
JSNA Profile Pack: Housing	To consider and approve the JSNA profile pack for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Viv Robbins	Will Leather Carol Ford	
JSNA Profile Pack: Food Insecurity	To consider and approve the JSNA profile pack for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Viv Robbins	Will Leather Kathy Holmes	
<b>WORKSHOP (30mins): NHS Joint Forward Plan</b>		Dave Briggs	Joanna Cooper	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>MEETING: Wednesday 17 April 2024 (2pm)</b>				
Chair's Report (Standing Item)	An update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health & Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.	Councillor John Doddy		
JHWS Progress Report Ambition 3: Everyone can access the right support to improve their health	To present on progress of the delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy for 2022 – 2026 as part of its monitoring framework.	Councillor John Doddy	Viv Robbins	<b>To be confirmed</b>
JSNA: Community Capacity and Resilience	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Viv Robbins	Will Leather Kathryn McVicar	
JSNA: Carers	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Councillor John Doddy	Will Leather	
NHS Joint Forward Plan		Dave Briggs	Joanna Cooper	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>MEETING / WORKSHOP: Wednesday 22 May 2024 (2pm)</b>				

Report title	Purpose	Lead officer	Report author(s)	Notes
Chair's Report (Standing Item)	An update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health & Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.	Councillor John Doddy		
JSNA: ASCH Prevention	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Councillor John Doddy	Will Leather	
JSNA: Health and Work	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Councillor John Doddy	Will Leather	
<b>WORKSHOP: Suicide Prevention (1hr)</b>		Viv Robbins	Catherine Pritchard Lucy Jones	
<b>MEETING: Wednesday 3 July 2024 (2pm)</b>				
Chair's Report (Standing Item)	An update by the Chair on local and national issues for consideration by Health & Wellbeing Board members to determine implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 – 2026.	Councillor John Doddy		
JSNA: Children in Care and Care Leavers	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Viv Robbins	Will Leather Katharine Browne Briony Jones Caroline Panto	
JSNA: Youth Justice	To consider and approve the JSNA chapter for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Councillor John Doddy	Will Leather Nicola Suttinwood	
JSNA Profile Pack: Autism & Neurodiversity	To consider and approve the JSNA profile pack for publication on Nottinghamshire Insight.	Councillor John Doddy	Halima Wilson	
Rapid Review: Climate Change		Viv Robbins	Will Leather Jo Marshall	

Report title	Purpose	Lead officer	Report author(s)	Notes
Health Protection Update		Viv Robbins	Geoff Hamilton Viv Robbins	

## Contact

For queries or requests for the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board's work programme, please email [elizabeth.winter@nottscg.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.winter@nottscg.gov.uk)