

<b>Report title:</b> Suicide Prevention Strategy	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Health and Wellbeing Board	
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<b>Date:</b> 16 March 2022	<b>For:</b> Agreement
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) Suicide Prevention Board is undertaking a programme of work in line with the key ambitions of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board. The purpose of this item is to update Board members on progress made against the Suicide Prevention Programme, inform members on how data analysis is informing work being undertaken, and to seek the Board's continued support and advocacy on this hugely important issue.

## **2 Recommendations**

The Board is asked:

- 2.1 To note the new SET Suicide Prevention Board Chair and progress being made around actions taken within the Suicide Prevention Programme of work
- 2.2 To continue to fulfil an advocacy role in their respective organisations around Zero-Suicide Alliance training.
- 2.3 To consider nominating a EHWB Suicide Prevention Sponsor to champion the work of the programme in wider forums of strategic significance
- 2.4 To agree timescales for regular reviews of the Suicide Prevention agenda, in particular (i) training uptake reported across partnership organisations represented on EHWB (as an indicator of partnership buy-in to the agenda).and (ii) sustainability plans beyond NHSE wave funding arrangements

## **3 Summary of issue**

- 3.1 Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, as chair of the SET Suicide Prevention Board (SPB) wishes to bring a verbal update to the EHWB on the SPB's programme of work.

- 3.2 A wide programme of suicide prevention work is being delivered across the three ICS footprints. This has been funded predominantly by NHSE. However, the funding is due to end in the three areas covering Essex over the next three years: in 2022 for North-East Essex; in 2023 for Mid & South Essex; and in 2024 for West Essex.
- 3.3 A refresh of the governance for the SPB has been undertaken to enable a clear, unified, SET-wide programme under the strategic oversight of the SPB – with a SET-wide membership and, as mentioned above, Jane Gardner now in the role of chair to provide that central oversight across the Greater Essex geography. The SPB is seeking ways to continue its activity as the central funding streams are removed.
- 3.4 *Figures for the current funding streams across SET, and the amount that will be required to support the work in the future have been sought and will be shared with the Board either prior to the HWB meeting or during the discussion.*
- 3.5 The governance refresh to put the SPB on a SET-wide footing has enabled Essex to expand the ICS pilots into a SET-wide implementation of gold-standard, evidence-based suicide prevention practice as used in other areas of the country. The need for these interventions is evidenced by a historically significantly higher rates of suicide than other areas of the country.
- 3.6 A successful partnership workshop was facilitated at the meeting of SPB in February 2022; the outcome was themed working groups across the partnership that will be steered by ongoing thematic data analysis provided by the Essex Police-led Real Time Suicide Surveillance System (RTSS) and partnership data reports. HWB members will be updated on these themes at the meeting. This latest development means the board can be assured that priority SET Suicide Prevention Programme activity is reactive to local need.
- 3.7 Suicide Prevention is a system partnership piece of work, and this new governance structure will enable more frequent opportunities to communicate cross partnership learning around suicide prevention that could be of strategic interest to EHWP.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Slide showing SET approach to suicide prevention