

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 24 AUGUST 2022

### CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE

#### Suicide Prevention Strategy Consultation

The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) will publish a new Suicide prevention Strategy and Action Plan in September 2022. This will replace the current Suicide Prevention Action Plan: Every Life Matters which was published in 2018. The draft strategy is being consulted on with a closing date for comments of 23 August 2022. Aberdeenshire HSCP staff are preparing a response on behalf of the IJB. Due to this date being in advance of the IJB meeting on 24 August, a draft response is being circulated to IJB Members for comments prior to submission.

This Suicide Prevention strategy sets out intentions for suicide prevention in Scotland over the next ten years and what the Scottish Government aims to achieve.

The strategy will be supported by a shorter term (3 year) action plan which details the key activity required to achieve the outcomes set. While the Scottish Government and COSLA recognise they have responsibility for ensuring the delivery of this strategy, it is noted that they can only achieve the vision by working collaboratively with partners across a range of public service and third sectors and with communities across Scotland.

The actions and a delivery structure set out cover suicide prevention for the whole population through all life stages from childhood through to older years and builds on existing partnership working and opens opportunities for new and innovative practice.

The vision set out is:

“Our ambition is a Scotland where everyone works together to prevent suicide.

To achieve this, we will work with communities to become safe, resilient, and inclusive - where people who have thoughts of taking their own lives, or people affected by suicide, are offered effective, compassionate, and timely support, and a sense of hope.”

At the time of writing this brief, some of the themes coming up through our engagement on the draft are:

- Aberdeenshire HSCP respondents agree with the overall vision for the Strategy and generally with all the proposals.
- There were some areas where additional comments were made including that the Priority Areas could be more focused.
- In relation to the new Scottish Delivery Collaborative, one respondent asked to ensure local practitioners who work alongside the national team recognise the differences between localities and the need to develop plans specific to localities.
- There were concerns raised about the ambition of the plan without additional funding and resources (such as staff and facilities).



- There was concurrence with the Strategy's focus on voices of those with lived experience and their family/loved ones
- Agreement with the importance of early intervention before a crisis point is reached.

### **Felt Fine Project – Dawson Court**

Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) identified developer obligations monies that could be used for a community Arts project in Turriff. Dawson Court was selected and LLA commissioned a textile artist, Frieda Strachan, and film maker, Jason Sinclair, to support tenants to create a textile representation of a rural landscape while capturing the use of Doric. The project ran during April and the artwork has been delivered to the service and the film is linked below. One of the aims was to reduce social isolation following the pandemic and to support building relationships between tenants and staff.

The tenants and staff very much enjoyed working with Frieda and Jason and staff noted improvements in the tenant's sleep patterns and appetites. The project has now been shortlisted for a SSSC Award in the Rural Ways of Working Category.

<https://bit.ly/3bmGU5E>

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