

Report of the Chief Executive**SUICIDE PREVENTION****1. Purpose of report**

To advise Members of the measures available to help and support those affected by concerns of suicide, or are bereaved by suicide.

2. Detail

Suicide, which is defined as death from intentional self-harm and deaths caused by injury or poisoning where the intent was undetermined, is a tragic consequence where an individual becomes desperate in attempting to escape suffering that has become unbearable.

Suicide is a major health problem, and the global suicide mortality rate amounts to 1.4% of all deaths, almost 800,000, worldwide (World Health Organisation 2016). Most suicides are related to psychiatric disease, with depression, substance use disorders and psychosis being the most relevant risk factors (Bachmann S. Epidemiology of Suicide and the Psychiatric Perspective. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health. 2018). Of these conditions, depression is known to be the most common disorder among people who die by suicide.

In 2019, there were 5,691 suicides registered in England and Wales, an age-standardised rate of 11.0 deaths per 100,000 of population (Office of National Statistics). Around three-quarters of registered deaths in 2019 were among men (4,303 deaths), which follows a consistent trend back to the mid-1990s.

Further statistics, including those for the local authority areas in Nottinghamshire, are shown in the appendix.

The Samaritans are collaborating with the Suicidal Behaviour Research Laboratory at The University of Glasgow and Scottish Association for Mental Health to understand the impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on the mental health and wellbeing of the UK.

There are a number of agencies locally and on-line which provide help and assistance to those contemplating suicide, having suicidal thoughts, or bereaved as a result of suicide. Details of these organisations and the services they provide are given in the appendix.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

Background papers

Nil