



## AGENDA ITEM NO 16

REPORT NO 12/25

### ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 2025

#### ANGUS SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN (2023-2026) – YEAR 1 UPDATE

REPORT BY JILLIAN GALLOWAY, CHIEF OFFICER

##### 1. ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide Angus Integration Joint Board (AIJB) with an update on the progress made in Year 1 to deliver the Angus Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2023 - 2026).

##### 2. ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This report contributes to the following strategic priorities in the Angus IJB strategic Commissioning Plan

- Priority 3 - Mental Health & Wellbeing and Substance Use specifically
- Deliver the ambitions of the Angus Living Life Well Improvement Plan, and
- Support people to manage their condition

##### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- (i) Note the contents of this report and acknowledge the progress made in relation to the Angus Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2023-2026);
- (ii) Acknowledge the continued development of the Suicide Prevention Workstream and its effort in driving suicide prevention work forward in Angus; and
- (iii) Note and agree that this report offers a significant level of assurance.

##### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Angus three-year action plan (Plan) sets out the high-level suicide prevention priorities for Angus. This Plan is aligned to [Creating Hope Together: Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2032](#) and [Creating Hope Together: Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2022-2025](#). Alongside the Plan is a detailed three-year implementation plan to meet the priority actions. Delivery of these actions is the responsibility of the Angus Suicide Prevention Workstream. The workstream is a subgroup of Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network (AMHAWN), and is a multidisciplinary/multiagency group of people, including statutory services, third sector, carers and people affected by suicide.

##### 5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Evaluation of Year 1 is extremely positive with all priority actions being progressed with no areas of immediate concern. The collaboration and partnership working between the members of the Suicide Prevention Workstream has been essential in driving many pieces or work forward, and this will continue to grow further in Year 2. A full update of the Year 1 Action Plan can be found at **Appendix 1**.

5.2 There are a total of 31 actions in Year 1 of the plan with the following RAG status:

**Green – 28**

**Amber – 3**

**Red – 0**

A summary of the rag status against the four national outcomes is provided below:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>No of Actions</b>	<b>RAG Status</b>
1. The environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk. This includes out psychological, social, cultural, economic, and physical environment	3	Green - 3 Amber - 0 Red - 0
2. Our Communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk factors and its prevention, so that people and organisations are more able to respond in helpful and informed ways when they, or others, need support	10	Green – 8 Amber - 2 Red - 0
3. Everyone affected by suicide is able to access high quality, compassionate and timely support – which promotes wellbeing and recovery. This applies to all children, young people and adults who experience suicidal thoughts and behaviour, anyone who cares for them, and anyone affected by suicide in other ways	12	Green – 11 Amber – 1 Red - 0
4. Our approach to suicide prevention is well planned and delivered, through close collaboration between national, local, and sectoral partners. Our work is designed with lived experience insight, practice, data, research, and intelligence. We improve our approach through regular monitoring, evaluation, and review.	6	Green – 6 Amber - 0 Red - 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Green – 28</b> <b>Amber – 3</b> <b>Red – 0</b>

5.3 From the evaluation of the Year 1 local actions and comparison to the national delivery plan, no areas of concern have been identified. This has been largely due to the increased capacity to drive this work forward due to the Development Officer; Suicide Prevention post being increased from part time to full time from March 2024 and the formation of the suicide prevention workstream. Funding to secure the Development Officer post on a permanent basis has been secured which will ensure the ongoing development of suicide prevention work in Angus.

5.4 The Year 2 Angus Implementation Plan has been reviewed in line with Year 2 National Implementation Plans and the Suicide Prevention Workstream will take forward Year 2 priorities.

5.5 Significant work has contributed to several actions within all outcome areas within the action plan is the design, launch and rollout of the ARE YOU OK? campaign.

5.5.1 The campaign was derived from a social media campaign due to a higher number of suicides than expected in Angus in 2023. This work saw the creation of a new mental health & wellbeing and suicide prevention page on Angus Council's website with a range of support available for adults in relation to their mental health and wellbeing.

Continued monitoring of statistics relating to number of visits to the web page is taking place and work is in progress to analyse this in relation to activity on social media and in the community. The number of visits since March 2024 are detailed below with a clear indication that the website is being used more with the most hits being 399 in September which correlates with our promotion work at the Park Runs throughout Angus for Suicide Prevention Week.

MONTH	NO OF HITS
March 24	123
April 24	151
May 24	452
June 24	224
July 24	191
August 24	293
September 24	399
October 24	276
November 24	398
December 24	258

5.5.2 Promotional resources were developed containing the QR code to take people straight to the support page and also the QR code for the existing Tayside Suicide? Help! app and website. Following successful pilots of the campaign, we launched in May 2024 and are currently rolling the campaign out to target areas informed by suicide related data.

5.5.3 Continued monitoring of statistics relating to number of visits to the web page is taking place and work is in progress to analyse this in relation to activity on social media and in the community. The number of visits since March 2024 are 2765.

5.5.4 Historically suicide prevention work has been evaluated by looking at number of deaths; however, it is important to use qualitative data to demonstrate impact. The Suicide Prevention Workstream have been compiling success stories as a means of demonstrating the direct impact on communities.

Two of these success stories which highlight the importance of collaborative and partnership working in driving suicide Prevention work forward in line with the Suicide Prevention Local Action Plan are attached at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

- How direct community engagement and distribution of resources led to someone experiencing suicidal thoughts accessing a commissioned service for support. (Appendix 2)
- How the Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership 'Digital Lifelines' project essentially saved a life and as a result all people within this project are provided with ARE YOU OK? Information. (Appendix 3)

5.6 The following are updates of areas of work being progressed across Adult Integrated Mental Health which contribute to both the Suicide Prevention Action Plan and Priority 3 of the Strategic Commissioning Plan under "Supporting people to recover or manage their condition".

5.6.1 Mental Health and Wellbeing Enhanced Community Support (ECS) Hubs are now operational across all four localities; to improve access to mental health and wellbeing support, psychological therapy, and substance use support. The ECS hubs have the ethos of no wrong door and no rejected referral. There has been a significant increase in self-referrals for support.

ECS Hubs have been shortlisted in this years "Tayside Together" category of the NHS Tayside STAR Awards, and the ceremony is taking place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This is great recognition for the team who have worked so hard to develop and implement this innovative model of care to ensure that the right people of Angus get the right mental health wellbeing support, at the right time by the right person.

5.6.2 The Angus Community Wellbeing Centre (CWC) has now been named "The Beacon". Work continues to be progressed by the Project Board and Project Teams. Hillcrest Futures have been formally awarded the Support Services Contract and are now part of the Project Board and the relevant Project Teams. The contract starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

The tender for the refurbishment work is now closed and has been awarded to Alpha Contracts, with the refurbishment work commencing at the end of February 2025 and opening at the end of May 2025.

An animation for the public was produced and published at the end of December 2024, which can be assessed [HERE](#) and is currently sitting at over 9,000 full views.

## 6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Angus IJB note the progress made in Year 1 of the Angus Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2023-2026) and be assured that further progress will be made in Year 2.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Scottish Government's 2021-22 Programme for Government committed to double the specific funding available for suicide prevention over the course of the current Parliamentary term, from £1.4 million to £2.8 million. Despite this increase at national level, no specific funding is provided to local areas in relation to suicide prevention. Currently any spend is met from the Adult Mental Health budget.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk Description</b>	Failure to deliver on the Angus Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2023-2026) (the Plan)
<b>Risk Category</b>	Strategic
<b>Inherent Risk Level</b>	Level Likelihood 3 x Impact 3 = Risk Scoring 9 (medium risk level).
<b>Mitigating Actions</b>	Work to deliver on the Plan will be progressed and reviewed by the Suicide Prevention Workstream, reporting into Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network (AMHAWN) and the Angus Chief Officers Group (COG)
<b>Residual Risk Level</b>	Likelihood 2 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 8 (medium risk level)
<b>Planned Risk Level</b>	Likelihood 2 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 8 (medium level risk)
<b>Approval recommendation</b>	Given our understanding of this area of work and mitigating factors, this risk is deemed to be medium and manageable at this time.

## 9. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Suicide Prevention in a public health priority. AHSCP work closely with colleagues in Public Health to deliver on the local suicide prevention action plan to ensure a consistent public health approach to suicide prevention.

## 10. CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 11.1 AHSCP utilise a combined Equality Impact, Children's Rights and Fairer Scotland Duty assessment form. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been incorporated into Scots law, this places a requirement on Public Bodies to carry out Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact assessments (CRWIA) when a new strategy, policy, practise or project is being developed, or when there is a change to a service. The Fairer Scotland Duty (FSD) places a legal responsibility on particular Public Bodies in Scotland to actively consider, ('pay due regard' to), how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions only.

## 12. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 12.1 As Suicide Prevention work is known for the strapline “Suicide is Everyone’s Business”, communication and engagement is key in delivering on the local suicide prevention action plan.
- 12.2 There is evidence of extensive engagement in Angus through this area of work which is part of the three-year Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network (AMHAWN) Communications and Engagement Action Plan and discussed at the Communications and Engagement Sub Group meetings on a six-weekly basis.

## 13. DIRECTIONS

- 13.1 The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans, and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from Angus Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1** Year 1 Angus Suicide Prevention Action Plan Update Report
- Appendix 2** How direct community engagement and distribution of resources led to someone experiencing suicidal thoughts accessing a commissioned service for support.
- Appendix 3** How the Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership ‘Digital Lifelines’ project essentially saved a life and as a result all people within this project are provided with ARE YOU OK? Information.
- Appendix 4** EQIA Suicide Prevention IJB Report Feb 25