



NORTH AYRSHIRE

Child Protection Committee

CARE, PROTECTION, COMMITMENT TO NORTH AYRSHIRE'S CHILDREN



Young People's Suicide Taskforce



Format

Background to Taskforce

Current circumstances

What can the Taskforce do for you?

What can you do for the Taskforce?



Scotland's new approach to suicide prevention needs all of us.

Find out how you
can get involved

Background

- Over an 18 month period between 2017/2019 a number of young teenagers died in North Ayrshire
- After the initial deaths the Child Protection Committee Chair coordinated a response
- Young People's Strategic Suicide Prevention Group (YPSSPG) was formed
- Assessment of guidance and advice from NHS England and other areas
- Priority-to prevent further deaths



Background (cont)

- Setting up of 2 groups
- These groups met every 1-2 weeks initially
- To take forward actions-Young People's Operational Suicide Prevention Group (YPOSPG)
- This group developed an Action Plan for a series of actions to respond and be pro-active to prevent young people **completing** suicide
- Responding to a death and preventing further deaths are intertwined and in early days-difficult to separate



Strength of structure



- Regular one/two weekly meetings for 1 year-3 weekly for further year
- Strong infrastructure and leadership of CPC
- Strong trusted relationships in operational group-core 4 people to push forward. Choose Life, Police, Ed Psych, CPC lead
- Operational group have supported each other emotionally, professionally and creatively
- Accountability, support and often challenge from Strategic group
- Pro-active and ground level responses
- Work directly with young people
- Head Teacher is included in the group

Challenges

- Meaningful connection with wider workforce
- Meaningful connection with communities
- Regular attendance at all meetings of everyone
- Stigma and view of suicide
- Strategic group authority and challenge to operational group
- Post event analysis difficult for those affected
- Age range for response



Scotland's new approach to suicide prevention needs all of us.

Find out how you can get involved

Some significant developments

- Crisis Response document developed - lengthy and thorough process - reviews
- Crisis Response put into action (sadly) and felt to be effective - each death is unique - constant review
- For police it was a key point of contact to share intelligence in immediate aftermath, timelines, collective response
- Wellbeing checks for those affected at regular intervals - police and school – if necessary - other services

Care
Protection
Commitment

To North Ayrshire's Children



Significant Developments (cont)

- Involvement of young people to support each other-lengthy and involved process to develop 13 ways campaign-ownership by young people
- Campaign was developed, voiced, reviewed and shared by young people
- Launched and used now on regular occasions, embedded within schools-familiar
- The group co-ordinates responses at critical times e.g. prior to school holidays- joined up/standard messages for school staff. Connected Communities target activities



Scotland's new approach to suicide prevention needs all of us.

Find out how you can get involved

Current Situation



- The Strategic Group (Young People's Strategic Suicide Prevention Group) continue to meet bi monthly and is chaired by the North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Independent Chair
- The YPOSPG (Young People's Operational Suicide Prevention Group) changed its name to the Young Peoples Suicide Taskforce
- Sustaining momentum is more difficult - thankfully because no recent deaths
- Taskforce meets monthly –chaired by the CPC lead Officer
- Trimmed down Action Plan and standing agenda items

Future Developments

1. Data collection
2. Bereavement support and post suicide support
3. Build on 13 ways work-with young people
4. Pathways and co-ordination for young people attempting suicide
5. Raise awareness of the Taskforce

Standing items:

- a) Information sharing/good practice/general
- b) Crisis Response review
- c) Adult deaths with significant impact

How can we help you?



- Frontline staff express some isolation and lack of support -we hope to take that feeling away-at least to re-assure you are not alone-better still – share information and resources
- Provide any new resources and consistent messages about suicide awareness for young people
- A co-ordinated response to any young death making quick and relevant decisions
- Provide guidance and clarity after a young death by suicide
- Provide a collaborative and open response and discussion on issues raised-with feedback where appropriate

How can you help us?

- Check who are the representatives on the Taskforce
- The taskforce does not replace any of your normal routine procedural processes- it doesn't deal with individual concerns and you can't refer young people into the Taskforce – e.g. child protection
- If you have some general issues or questions around suicide and suicide prevention for young people-these can be fed into the group
- Feedback any good practice or where things have worked well in your view –we want to improve all practice

Example



A worker is wondering how they should discuss with other young people a recent death of a young person especially when asked the question why did they do it?



If this is just taken to one team and discussed and dealt with-a small group of workers respond.



If it can be taken to the Taskforce then they can agree some universal, good practice and shared messages which can be cascaded through teams in all partners.

Example



A worker is concerned that sometimes parents aren't supportive after a young person attempts suicide. The parents won't allow the young person to access services.



The taskforce discusses and sets up a short working group to understand and review and identify a better pathway which might help workers support young people



A good practice pathway is established and agreed which clarifies the process and can be supported

Example



A school nurse informs a representative that she can't access the 13 ways animations because the NHS is blocking access.



The taskforce can raise this quickly and directly with the Strategic group



A Senior NHS manager can address it at a senior IT level for all NHS staff



For more information on the YP suicide Taskforce or to find out who your agency representative is on the group, please email -

cpc@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Thank you!