

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

**BOD 48/2022**

(Agenda item: 10)

# Board of Directors

**20 July 2022**

**Suicide Prevention Strategy progress report**

**For: Information**

**Executive Summary**

This report presents the Trust Suicide Prevention Strategy. Suicide prevention is a fundamental component of mental health care and is a key feature of many of our Trust clinical developments. Moreover, suicide prevention is a societal and public health issue and not solely the domain of mental healthcare. To contribute to the wider community endeavour to address the health and social determinants of suicide and reduce associated deaths, Oxford Health is represented on the Local Authority multi-agency suicide prevention groups and participates in the development and delivery of related action plans. In addition, as a key stakeholder in the ICS Oxford Health will influence community objectives around suicide prevention.

Oxford Health suicide prevention strategy, informed by a theory of change model, is concerned with influencing clinical practice and supporting improvement and innovation. The previous strategy (2018 – 2021) resulted in successfully achieved objectives which are now part of service delivery and continue to be audited and improved as appropriate. The 2018 - 2021 objectives included:

* Implementing face to face **48 hour follow up** after discharge from inpatient care
* Implementing **safety planning interventions** for patients who are identified as being at risk of self-harm and suicide
* Provision of suicide awareness and prevention **training**
* **Carers managing suicide risk** at home are offered supportive and educative interventions
* **Families bereaved by suicide** are offered appropriate support and signposting
* **Staff affected by suicide** are offered appropriate support and signposting

The current 2022 – 2025/6 strategy is in its early stages; however a steering group is in place, key workstreams have been identified and working groups established. Coproduction is core to this strategy and service users and carers’ are represented on the steering group and workstreams. The co-chair of the group is a family member bereaved by suicide.

The workstreams are:

* **Gender**: this workstream will establish objectives focused on improving mental health care delivery for men who may be at risk of suicide, women with autistic spectrum disorder and LGBTQ+ patients
* **Substance misuse**: this workstream is concerned with addressing gaps in supporting people with substance misuse issues, including harmful and hazardous drinking, which are known to be increase suicide.
* **Access and Inclusion**: this workstream will establish objectives around improving access to services for patients in suicidal crises and their families, and addressing barriers which can lead to patients and families feeling excluded from services
* **Research, quality and comms** – the aim of this workstream is to ensure regular monitoring of service delivery against relevant research and quality standards and contribute outcomes to associated quality improvement plans, develop mechanisms to enable staff and service users to be aware of research activity and opportunities relevant to suicide prevention, support research activity within the Trust, including the translation of research into practice, and support research collaborations with external bodies.

**Current position**

* It is anticipated that the workstreams will have established objectives by September 2022. Objectives will be presented to the steering group for oversight and agreement, following which steps will be taken to identify clinical areas to support implementation. This aim is to deliver small-scale SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) projects with the aim of spreading good practice over time.

**Risks**

* Current staffing shortages are significant and reliance on agency staff in some areas is high. This means that some teams may not be in a position to actively embark on new projects. Workstreams will ensure sensitivity to this issue whilst ensuring suicide prevention objectives remain a key priority of the Trust. Efforts will be made to ensure that the teams which become involved in projects are adequately supported to optimise achievement of successful outcomes.
* Administrative support for the steering group and workstream groups is required to support the group leads with oversight and dissemination. Currently we do not have this support for all groups.

**Governance Route/Escalation Process**

This report was presented at the meeting of the Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee/group on 31 May 2022 and is a quarterly report.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to confirm that it is assured with progress towards development of a comprehensive suicide prevention strategy.

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1. A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this report presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors
2. **Strategic Objectives/Priorities** – this report relates to or provides assurance and evidence against the following Strategic Objective)/Priorities of the Trust:

1) Quality - Deliver the best possible care and health outcomes

2) People - Be a great place to work

4) Research and Education – Become a leader in healthcare research and education