



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
**Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrìck Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 1547

12 December 2017

Mr

Email: @thegallagherclan.co.uk

Dear Mr

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Prevention of suicides in Derry

I refer to your FOI request as above. Please find below your request and our response to each of the queries raised.

Request:

1. What are some of the things that you have set up or do to help prevent suicides in Derry?
2. Is there much funding given to help prevent suicides in Derry? or is more needed?
3. It seems as though the plans to raise the barriers on the Foyle bridge have been ruled out due to the prohibitive costs, but if you had the money, is there any other measures you would like to put in place to prevent suicides in Derry?

Response:

Question 1

Mental Health Services for those in 'Crisis'

Presently, there are three ways to have an emergency assessment - by going to the accident and emergency department at a local hospital; by contacting your GP or your GP out of hours' service; or if the police take you to a place of safety.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) currently has a contract with CONTACT to provide a 'Lifeline Crisis Response Service'.

The community Response Plan is currently being updated.

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98 Strand Road
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The Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) provide a Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Service (CRHTS) which is available 24/7.

Local Context

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has established a Protect Life Implementation Group (PLIG) which provides cross-sectoral support and direction for the implementation of an action plan in the Western area. It is proposed that this group will collaborate with the new 'Civic Forum' (Mayoral initiative) in relation to developing a multi-sectoral action plan on mental health and emotional wellbeing for the Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) area. This action plan will incorporate actions identified at the Civic Forum Conference 'Every Connection Matters'.

In addition to the work being carried out by the Protect Life Implementation Group (PLIG) and the Civic Forum the Community Planning -Health and Wellbeing Thematic Group has identified a 'Community Crisis Intervention Service' within the Council area as a priority need.

In addition, there have been on-going discussions over the last 12 months with Statutory, community and voluntary organisation on what interventions and support are required to help individuals and families in the Council area who are in need of support at a time of crisis.

Procurement of a Community Crisis Intervention Service (CCIS)

DCSDC set up a multiagency task and finish working group in November 2016 to determine the most appropriate pilot service delivery model for a low threshold responsive Community Crisis Intervention Service (CCIS) for the DC&SDC area over a 12mth period. The aim is to implement an early CCIS which will assist in reducing the incidence of self-harm and suicide, resulting in wide-ranging societal benefits.

It is anticipated that this service will respond to individuals observed to be in distress and potentially vulnerable and who would in all likelihood come to significant harm through self-harm and suicidal behaviour. It is proposed that the service should provide a timely (within 30mins.) non-clinical community response to individuals experiencing social, emotional or situational crisis over the weekend period (Thur/Fri/Sat).

It is envisaged that this service a prominent community aspect and individuals of all ages can be brought to this central facility where they can be supported, receive comfort and individual staff will focus on de-escalation, risk assessment, stabilisation, reconnection eg with family/support or onward referral to statutory services as appropriate.

The Multiagency task and finish group consider that this community service will alleviate pressure on other agencies such as the PSNI, ED including the statutory CRHT, Gateway, GP OOHrs, FSR, CCI and will reduce the unnecessary transfer to a

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'place of safety' ie ED and Police Custody of individuals who are already distressed and in crisis. This is a community response and will facilitate the prompt release of other vital community services.

There will be firm, age appropriate protocols to support this community service, which will direct all the relevant agencies to work together with the local community.

Whilst this service is not perceived to be a service exclusively for those experiencing harmful alcohol and drug misuse it is anticipated that the protocols will reflect the safe and appropriate management of individuals who are under the influence and do not require immediate medical intervention.

Subject to funding being made available, DCSDC aim to carry out a tender exercise to procure a 12mth Pilot CCIS early in 2018.

Question 2

The Public Health Agency and Western Health and Social Care Trust would be in a better position to answer this question.

Funding Pilot CCIS

DCSDC is currently liaising with statutory bodies who wish to contribute to the health and wellbeing of all in the DCSDC area through the community planning process by co-designing and co-funding a pilot CCIS for a 12 month period.

DCSDC has identified a £40,000 contribution to a CCIS pilot through the rates estimates process. It is proposed that the wider Health and Social care family (PHA/WHSC/Health Board) and other stakeholders provide funding as part of a co-design Community Plan package.

This CCIS is expected to result in a reduction in demand for mainstream services as well as assisting in reducing the incidence of self-harm and thus suicide, resultant in wide-ranging societal benefits.

Question 3

Please refer to the answer to question 1. The PHA are also working on a project called 'Future Foyles' which aims to reduce the suicides in the City and District.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie

Chief Executive

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Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Head of Health & Community Wellbeing

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