

CCG5. Suicide and Drug Death Prevention

The Committee considered a report by the Strategic Prevention Coordinator for Suicide and Drug Death which provided an update on the work that had been progressed in relation to suicide and drug death prevention. The most recent published data was provided along with an update on the key tasks being progressed at the time.

Published data from the National Records of Scotland confirmed that the number of drug related deaths (DRDs) in 2020 was 77 across Forth Valley. The Local Authority breakdown was. During the period 1 January to 20 April 2022 there had been 20 suspected DRDs across Forth Valley. Published data from Public Health Scotland reported that in 2020, there were 43 probable suicides across Forth Valley. The Local Authority breakdown was Falkirk (22), Clackmannanshire (12) and Stirling (9).

Significant work had been undertaken to streamline the DRD review process so that all cases were reviewed through a single multi-agency process. A range of partners were involved in each review, which included, NHS Forth Valley (various services), Social Work, Housing, Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Substance Use Services and the Forth Valley Recovery Community. In the six-month period from December 2021, there had been five DRD review meetings which reviewed 49 cases. A further 9 cases were scheduled for review at the end of April 2022.

A positive development of the review process had been the quicker return of post-mortem reports, as the cause of death was required to determine if the case could be taken forward for DRD review. A significant number of actions and learning points had been identified over the course of the 5 DRD review meetings. Going forward, the plan had been for alcohol related deaths to be reviewed using the same model.

At the time, suicide reviews took place where the individual was known to statutory mental health services or substance use services in the 12 months before their death. Moving forward, all deaths by suicide would be reviewed. It was anticipated that there would be an agreed model for the review of all probable suicide deaths by the end of 2022.

The output from a comprehensive consultation process, combined with the learning from the local reviews would support the development of the Forth Valley Suicide and Drug Death Prevention Plan. It was anticipated that a draft document would be completed by the end of October 2022.

The Committee commented on the increases in people who had presented to services with poor mental health and wellbeing. In response to a question from the Committee, the Strategic Prevention Coordinator for Suicide and Drug Death Coordinator said that the prevention plan would look across the whole lifespan and had included children and young people.

Decision

The committee noted on the report.