

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AND DELIBERATE SELF HARM
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 6 th DEC 2001	Ref: EN/LMCK	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the consultation document 'National Framework for the Prevention of Suicide and Deliberate Self Harm' and of proposals to prepare a joint response.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The framework is one element of a national programme, signalled in 'Our National Health 2001' to promote mental health and well being. This consultation document is also linked to a recommendation made in the 'Safety First' Five year report of the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness which was subject of a report to Committee on 4th October 2001.

2.2. The framework was produced by the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health, under the direction of a National Planning Group for Suicide Prevention and Deliberate Self-Harm chaired by the Scottish Executive Health Department. Responses are required by 31st January 2002.

2.3 The aims of the framework are to:

- Develop a national strategic approach to suicide prevention;
- Produce a framework that supports actions at national and local levels as one element of a broader programme of work to promote mental health and well being in Scotland;
- Provide a nationally supported and locally driven framework in order to create the necessary pressure on the system to deliver;
- Enable a co-ordinated national programme of work that encompasses strategic planning, action learning and research and development;
- Produce a national programme given the time and the resources to deliver improved outcomes.

2.4 It is proposed that implementation of the recommendations is phased in over the next three years.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. The Framework has four main parts:

- Suicidal behaviour
- Guiding principles and approach
- Plan of action: proposed steps for implementation
- Priorities for action

3.2 The initial action programme involves two linked phases of action both at local and national levels during the first two years of the framework programme. The main objectives to be achieved in phase 1 are building the required national policy and local implementation infrastructures. The main objective to be achieved in phase 2 is the development of detailed action plans that will identify key 'at risk' groups and offer targeted support through an infrastructure of community based services.

3.3 Part 4 of the framework identifies local priorities for action and takes into consideration the need to look at both long term and short term outcomes. It sets out possible population-based interventions and outlines high risk group interventions.

3.4 There is a need to identify a lead agency to take this framework forward and Health would seem to be the most appropriate given role of primary and secondary care. There does however remain a need for all statutory agencies to work in partnership in order for the framework to offer a multidisciplinary approach. There would also be an opportunity for Social Work specialist mental health teams and other established services involved with 'high risk groups' to play a significant role in the implementation of this framework.

3.5 Given the importance of partnership working in this field of care it is proposed that a joint response be prepared to the consultation document from NHS Lanarkshire, and North and South Lanarkshire Councils.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Nil at this stage.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report and;
- (ii) note that the joint response to the consultation will be the subject of a future report to Committee.



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Director of Social Work
26 November 2001

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care (Adults)
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A copy of the document has been placed in the Members' Library