

Response ID ANON-VZNT-JM3T-G

Submitted to **Engagement Process of the Draft Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018**

Submitted on **2018-04-16 15:30:40**

Action 1

Do you agree that we should establish a “knowledge into action” group for suicide prevention?

Yes

Please explain your answer.:

Victim Support Scotland (VSS) is the largest charity supporting people affected by crime across Scotland through the provision of practical help, emotional support and essential information.

We welcome the Engagement Paper on Themes and draft Actions for possible inclusion in the Scottish Government's new Suicide Prevention Action Plan and recognise the importance of organisations working together to help prevent suicide and the significance of providing effective support to friends, families and communities.

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about improving the use of evidence, data and/or guidance on suicide prevention.

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We note numerous studies and guidance from the World Health Organisation suggesting that suicide rates are lower after the commencement of nationwide evidence based prevention strategies and as such we are supportive of evidence based approach and what the Draft Action Plans set out to achieve.

Action 2

Do you agree that we should develop a new mental health and suicide prevention training programme?

Yes

Please explain your answer.:

Suicide is a major public health issue. We believe responses should be tailored to reflect the devastating impact suicide has on family, friends, and communities. We believe a mental health and suicide programme would assist those at risk of suicide and benefit those with complex needs.

To what extent do you agree that there should be mandatory suicide prevention training for specific professional groups?

2c) - To what extent do you agree that there should be mandatory suicide prevention training for specific professional groups?:

Strongly agree

Please explain your answer.:

This would be helpful at providing direction, enabling groups like VSS to better understand the significance of the issue, so we can provide the most effective response and support to our varied service users.

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about modernising the content and/or accessibility of training on mental health and suicide prevention.

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Action 3

Do you agree that we should establish a Suicide Prevention Confederation?

Yes

Please explain your answer.:

Where do you think local leadership for suicide prevention is best located?

Health & Social Care Partnerships

If other arrangement, please specify. :

Please explain your answer.:

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about maximising the impact of national and/or local suicide prevention activity.

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As this is a public health issue, we should consider wider societal factors such as poverty, substance misuse, and bereavement, effects of adverse childhood experiences, unemployment, education, welfare and overlap into other spheres, such as the criminal justice system.

Action 4

Do you agree that we should develop an online suicide prevention presence across Scotland?

Yes

Please explain your answer.:

Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about developing social media and/or online resources for suicide prevention.

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Additional comments

Please use this space to provide any additional comments that you have about any of the issues raised in this consultation.

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We accept that national suicide prevention strategies are an integral part of suicide prevention and believe that this will assist organisations like VSS in providing a more effective service. Some of our service users have expressed notions of suicidal ideation and a feeling that there is nowhere to turn after becoming a victim especially, although not exclusively, as a result of particularly traumatic and/or repetitive incidents of crime.

Our organisation is committed to providing the most meaningful support to our service users in order to make a lasting difference to their lives and/or signposting to other specialist suicide prevention services.

We are encouraged that the Scottish Government is taking the lead and hope it will provide the resources necessary to ensure that interventions can be delivered in local communities across the country and we look forward to working with other partner organisations to assist with the strategy's implementation.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Kevin Kane

What is your email address?

Email:

kevin.kane@victimsupportsco.org.uk

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Victim Support Scotland

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us what type of organisation:

Third Sector

If other, please specify.:

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: