

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Diane Morton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health

DECISION NUMBER:

25/00105

Executive Decision – key

Kent & Medway Suicide And Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2026-2030 (25/00105)

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to:
APPROVE the adoption of the Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2026-2030

Reasons for decision:

The Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2026-2030 is a continuation of the existing strategy (2021-2025) and combines local data about who is dying by suicide in Kent and Medway with national research and policy direction.

To increase the likelihood of reducing the number of lives lost to suicide in Kent & Medway, it is essential to implement new strategy for 2026-2030 that uses data, evidence and established Networks to shape the future direction of this essential work.

The draft Strategy went out for public consultation between 23rd July to 6th October 2025. A consultation report was produced and is published on the [Let's Talk Kent](#) website along with the You Said, We Did document, which outlines the changes made to the Strategy post consultation, which are minimal, due to the support for the Strategy demonstrated during the consultation.

Adoption of the 2026-2030 suicide and self-harm prevention strategy will shape the direction of the Kent & Medway Suicide Prevention Programme's work for the next five years.

The Suicide Prevention Oversight Board, which includes representatives from Medway Council, Kent and Medway Mental Health NHS Trust, and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) (who fund this programme) are fully supportive of this proposal.

Financial implications:

The Suicide Prevention team and programme is funded via the NHS through the Kent and Medway ICB, therefore there are minimal financial implications to Kent County Council (KCC).

KCC funds the Programme Manager role and occasionally provides financial support to individual projects.

The Samaritans estimate that each individual suicide has associated costs of £1.46 million (consisting of lost employment productivity, healthcare costs and legal and administrative expenses). Suicide prevention activity plays an important role in mitigating these costs.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications for KCC, or its partners associated with the development of the strategy

Equalities implications:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed as part of the strategy development process. This was reviewed and amended following the consultation. It identifies that there are some groups at higher risk of suicide, which are reflected in the priorities of the new strategy. However, as this strategy seeks to serve all residents there is no potential for discrimination and all appropriate measures have been taken to advance equality and foster good relations between the protected groups.

Data Protection implications:

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is not required for the Strategy as the Programme does not deliver direct support to Kent residents. DPIAs will be implemented across commissioned services where identified as a requirement following screening.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Cabinet Committee member for Adult Social Care & Public Health on 21st January 2026

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

No other options were considered as the Strategy is necessary to the Kent & Medway Suicide Prevention Programme.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

No other interests declared.

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Signed

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Date