



Advantage Suicide Prevention Policy

Purpose

This policy aims to guide the assessment, intervention and care for young people at risk of suicide. This includes:

- Review of national policy and research into suicidal behaviour in young people;
- Outline a framework where risk is acknowledged and plans are developed to manage risk effectively;
- To set out appropriate procedures for staff to support a young person who presents with suicidal thoughts and behaviours in the short and long term;
- To outline suicide prevention strategies within a group setting/education provision;
- To support staff members who come into contact with people who present with suicidal thoughts and behaviours;
- To provide clear procedures for staff around issues of suicide, including procedures for recording and sharing of information;
- To outline working within a multi-agency framework.

Terminology and Definitions

- **Attempted Suicide:** Any act with the intent to take life, resulting in non- fatal injury.
- **Suicidal Intent:** The desire or intention to take one's own life. Intent is indicated by evidence of advanced planning and premeditation taking care to avoid discovery, failing to alert potential helpers, carrying out final acts (such as writing a will) and choosing a violent or aggressive means of deliberate self- harm allowing little chance of survival.
- **Suicidal Ideation:** Having thoughts about taking one's own life, ranging from fleeting (occasional and easy to distract from) thoughts, to pre-occupation (intense and hard to distract from) with suicide. Suicidal ideation should be distinguished from intentions as thoughts about suicide can be present without any intentions to act upon them.
- **Suicide:** is an intentional, self-inflicted, life-threatening act resulting in death from a number of means.

Roles and Responsibilities

The organisation will:

- Promote a culture which is tolerant of emotional distress and promotes emotional wellbeing.
- Support all staff to manage the suicidal thoughts, intentions and behaviours of young people effectively and safely.
- Consider factors associated with suicide.
- Provide appropriate training in relation to self- harm, crisis management and suicide prevention.

The person responsible for the site where the risks of suicide behaviour are present / or the staff on shift will:

- Keep records of all incidents.
- Ensure procedures are followed in accordance with this policy.
- Report the matter to all designated managers.

All Young People will be encouraged to:

- Talk to the appropriate staff member if they are in emotional distress.
- Alert a member of staff if they suspect a fellow young person of being suicidal or at serious risk of harm to themselves.
- To be guided about issues of when confidentiality must be broken to safeguard another young person.

Internal reporting systems

Incidents of attempted suicide should all be reported within 2 hours using a Self Harm and Suicide Attempt Report form. This process will ensure that incidents of self-harm and suicide are responded to appropriately and safely.

The Self Harm and Suicide Attempt Report Form should be followed up with the completion of an Incident Report form which requires more in depth information.

Notifications of Serious or Persistent Self-Harming

All attempts of suicide should be treated as serious or persistent self-harming and therefore deemed to be an incident; and must be notified immediately to the Manager or Director within 24 hours or as soon as practicable thereafter.

In the case of all serious or persistent self-Harming the internal reporting system should be followed within 2 hours of the incident occurring and an Incident Report Form should also be completed within 24 hours of the incident.