

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport submission 28 June 2023

PE1871/L: Full review of mental health services

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee: Follow-up information on the Suicide Prevention Strategy (linked with PE1871)

During a session with the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on 21 December 2022, Humza Yousaf MSP – in his previous capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – offered to provide the committee with additional information on a number of issues raised in relation to the Scottish Government's and COSLA's new Suicide Prevention Strategy, [Creating Hope Together](#), and the first three year [action plan](#). The additional information was sent to the committee in February 2023, along with a covering letter which referred to an outcomes framework, as a key element of our approach to implementation of the new strategy and action plan. I am delighted to let you know that the Outcomes Framework will be published on Wednesday 28 June, and will be available [here](#).

To provide the committee with some context, the outcomes framework was developed with technical expertise from Public Health Scotland and the Suicide Prevention Academic Advisory Group. It recognises - and gives visibility to - the range of changes (outcomes) that we understand are needed to prevent suicide and achieve our vision. This is expressed in the four [outcomes](#) set out in the strategy. The outcomes framework, sets out how our actions will build over the 10 years of this strategy to deliver these outcomes, and the overarching vision, which is:

To reduce the number of suicide deaths in Scotland, whilst tackling the inequalities which contribute to suicide.

To achieve this, all sectors must come together in partnership, and we must support our communities so they become safe, compassionate, inclusive, and free of stigma.

Our aim is for any child, young person or adult who has thoughts of taking their own life, or are affected by suicide, to get the help they need and feel a sense of hope.

The value of using the outcome-focused approach set out in the framework allows for priorities to be reviewed in a systematic and

ongoing basis, drawing on clear evidence of impact and any significant changes to the context in which we are operating. The approach we have taken to developing a rolling suite of action plans also provides built-in opportunities to refocus activity over the 10 year period, to ensure our approach is driving change across the long term outcomes and vision. We will use the framework to prioritise our work, measure progress, and assess where we may need to adjust our plans. We will also use it to report progress against, and will publish the first annual report in July 2024.

I am also attaching an update on our delivery priorities for the current year, as well as membership of our new National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group, and the organisations we have appointed to lead in the strategic delivery of the four long-term outcomes, and details of our key new post of Suicide Prevention National Delivery Lead, working jointly for Scottish Government and COSLA.

I hope this information is of interest, and I would be more than happy to provide further detail if required.

**Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd
MSP**