

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 03/03/2025

**Subject:** Hammersmith & Fulham Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024–2027

**Report of:** Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

**Report author:** Eve Penman, Project Officer, Public Health

**Responsible Director:** Dr Nicola Lang, Director of Public Health

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## SUMMARY

Producing a plan for suicide prevention is a requirement of local authorities, as detailed in the Government’s 2023 National Suicide Prevention Strategy. Hammersmith & Fulham Public Health have worked with internal and external partners, including NHS, Metropolitan Police, VCSE sector, and people with lived experience, to produce this three-year strategy which outlines a collaborative approach to reducing suicide, prioritising those most at risk.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet agrees to adopt the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024–2027 for the borough.
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**Wards Affected:** All

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<b>Our Values</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the <a href="#">H&amp;F Corporate Plan</a> and the H&amp;F Values</b>
Building shared prosperity	This strategy aims to reduce death by suicide and promote better mental wellbeing for residents. Experiencing poor mental health limits one’s ability to engage in employment. The partnership approach taken in this strategy will strengthen referral pathways between

	<p>employment and debt services with mental health services, meaning that residents struggling with their mental health can access financial support, and residents experiencing financial strain will have access to mental health support. It encourages the use of local services within the borough.</p>
<p>Creating a compassionate and inclusive council</p>	<p>Supporting the Suicide Prevention Strategy aligns with the Council's commitment to being a compassionate and inclusive council. It will improve support available to residents who are experiencing suicidality, with specific considerations taken for residents experiencing domestic abuse, bereavement, mental illness, and long-term health conditions.</p>
<p>Doing things with local residents, not to them</p>	<p>This strategy has been informed by the voices of residents with lived experience and has been coproduced within a partnership. It is aligned with the Council's commitment to working with third sector organisations to deliver shared priorities and enhance our partnerships with them.</p>
<p>Being ruthlessly financially efficient</p>	<p>The partnership approach taken to this strategy will mean that services are more integrated, access to support is more streamlined, and burden on acute care costs will be alleviated.</p>
<p>Taking pride in H&amp;F</p>	<p>Reducing suicide in H&amp;F means improving health, wellbeing, and social outcomes across the borough. The strategy promotes quality, sustainable, local support options being available.</p>
<p>Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency</p>	<p>The collaborative, localised approach taken to suicide prevention means that H&amp;F residents can find and receive support within the borough rather than travelling long distances to services.</p>

## Financial Impact

This strategy has been developed by Public Health, in conjunction with key partners, within existing approved service budgets. Actions within the action plan are expected to be contained within existing service budgets.

### *Finance Comments*

*The financial implications of this procurement strategy will be included as part of the overall evaluation which will include legal, risk management and finance, once the contract award report is available.*

*Cheryl Anglin-Thompson, Principal Accountant ASC Commissioning & PH,  
23 January 2025*

*Verified by James Newman, AD Finance, 28 January 2025*

## Legal Implications

The strategy proposed in this report will better enable H&F to carry out a range of its functions. It is both incidental to these functions and conducive to their exercise as it will enable individuals to engage with the Council more effectively. This strategy upholds the guidance of the Government's 2023 National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

*Joginder Bola, Senior Solicitor (Contracts & Procurement), 21 January 2025*

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## Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

[H&F Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment 2022](#)

[H&F Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029](#)

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## DETAILED ANALYSIS

### Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. Approve the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024 – 2027 to provide the borough with a strategic approach to reducing deaths by suicide amongst Hammersmith & Fulham residents – **recommended**. This will ensure better collaboration between relevant stakeholders and improve mental health provision within the borough. It will ensure that partners are delivering priorities that are aligned, and data-driven. Outcomes will be improved in relation to the wider determinants of suicide.
2. Do nothing – **not recommended**. Hammersmith & Fulham currently has the highest suicide rate in London and a strategy is required to drive work in this

area. It is vital that a multi-agency partnership approach is taken to effectively prevent suicide, and this strategy enables that.

### **Reasons for Decision**

3. Hammersmith & Fulham Council is committed to supporting residents to have long, healthy and fulfilling lives.
4. Suicide prevention is a key priority for Hammersmith & Fulham where, currently, the local suicide rate is the highest across London. Nationally, suicide rates have increased meaning that action is required to reduce the risk of suicide and support residents.
5. Previously, stakeholders working on suicide prevention within the borough haven't shared data or aligned priorities. This strategy acts as a driver for a more collaborative approach, in which data and insights will be shared and referral pathways between services will be strengthened. Ultimately this will improve the quality of support that residents can access and reduce suicides.

### **Equality Implications**

6. The H&F Equality Impact Analysis (EIA) has been completed for this strategy and is attached below. It has concluded no direct negative implications for groups who share protected characteristics as listed under the 2010 Equality Act and would have positive consequences.

*Verified by Mary Lamont, Assistant Director People & Talent, 2 January 2025*

[Suicide Prevention Strategy EIA .docx](#)

### **Risk Management Implications**

7. Hammersmith & Fulham currently has the highest local suicide rate in London. This strategy aims to protect the borough's residents from the risk of death or bereavement by suicide. The strategy will deliver a more collaborative approach, working closely with local support organisations and other stakeholders. It also considers many of the wider determinants of suicide and works with stakeholders to reduce risk in these areas, too.
8. There is a risk that some groups may react negatively to the strategy. Where this occurs, the situation will be dealt with sensitively and practically, actions taken where appropriate and all responses recorded.

*David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, 20 January 2025*

## **Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications**

9. The H&F Equality Climate Implications Toolkit has been completed for this strategy and is attached below. It has concluded no direct negative implications for the climate.

*Verified by Hinesh Mehta, Assistant Director of Climate Change, 24 January 2025*

[Suicide Prevention Strategy - Climate implications .xlsx](#)

## **Consultation**

10. Hammersmith & Fulham Council is committed to doing things with residents, not to them, and understand that a co-ordinated community response is required to tackle suicide.
11. This strategy has been coproduced within a borough-wide multi-agency suicide prevention steering group. Public Health have conducted frequent consultations with stakeholders including NHS, Metropolitan Police, third sector organisations, and residents with lived experience.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024–2027