

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services**

### **Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership:**

**9 August 2006**

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**Subject: Choose Life Progress Report: 2003 - 2006**

#### **1. Purpose of Report:**

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- to inform the Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership of the Choose Life Progress Report: 2003-2006 submitted to the National Choose Life Implementation Unit by the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership Board.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Choose Life is an evolving national strategy and action plan aimed at preventing suicide in Scotland. It is the first phase in a 10-year plan aimed at reducing the suicide rate in Scotland by 20% by 2013.
- 2.2 It is a key component in the Scottish Executive's National Programme to Improve Mental Health and Well Being which forms part of the work aimed at achieving the Scottish Executive's policies on health improvement and social justice.
- 2.3 At national level, the Scottish Executive is setting up a National Implementation Support Team to implement the national action plan and to provide support to local partnerships in taking forward local strategies and action plans.
- 2.4 At a local level, all community planning partners are involved in making the strategy work.
- 2.5 The Scottish Executive, through the Health Improvement Fund, has set up a Choose Life Local Community Support Fund to invigorate and support local actions. Local authorities take the lead and manage the fund on behalf of community planning partners.
- 2.6 The allocation to West Dunbartonshire through the local government revenue settlement was £76K in 03/04; £80K in 04/05; and £84K in 05/06. Funding continues in 06/07 and 07/08 at £84K per year. The fund is to

support the development and implementation of local action plans focused on three main local actions and activities:

- I. supporting the improved co-ordination of efforts by local agencies to develop and implement local suicide prevention action plans
  - II. encouraging and supporting (more) innovative local voluntary services, and self help initiatives that contribute to the prevention of suicide in local neighbourhoods and communities funding community based services, initiatives and supports (the emphasis is on supporting voluntary organisations, community groups and self help groups and commissioning agencies are asked to plan sustainable funding beyond 2006) and
  - III. developing and implementing local training programmes
- 2.7 Guidance states that the fund should not be used to provide additional finance for mainstream statutory NHS and local authority services.

### **3. Sustainability**

- 3.1 Community planning partners are asked to identify, in the coming years, new investment and changes to existing services that will support the strategy in the long term.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Partnership is asked:
- I. to note progress in suicide prevention activity in West Dunbartonshire outlined in the progress report appended.

William W Clark  
Acting Director of Social Work Services  
West Dunbartonshire Council

Keith Redpath  
Director of CHP

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#### **Background papers:**

Choose Life in West Dunbartonshire: Progress Report 2003-06

**Wards Affected:** All