

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHCP

Report by the Director of the Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee : November 2012

Subject: Blue Triangle Housing Project

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the CHCP Committee of the actions being taken following the deaths of 3 residents of the Blue Triangle Housing Support Project by suicide between July 2012 and September 2012.

2. Recommendations

The Committee are recommended to note the current position and that a further report will come to a future meeting once the multi-agency review has been completed.

3. Background

3.1 The Blue Triangle is an Independent Housing Support Project. The project is based in 3 separate locations. Bonhill, Alexandria and Clydebank. The project exists to support vulnerable individuals and referrals are received from West Dunbartonshire Homeless Services.

3.2 Between July and September 3 residents of the Project died as a result of suicide. The deaths were widely reported in the local and national press and other media after the third death in September.

4. Main Issues

4.1 Following notice of the above deaths a multi-agency review was instructed by The Chief Executive of the Council and The Director of the CHCP. The Review is being led by the CHCP's Head of Mental Health Learning Disability and Addictions.

4.2 The Remit of the review is as follows:

- to review each case and explore the input of all statutory and voluntary sector agencies with each individual;
- to identify any evidence of gaps in relation to the provision of services for these individuals specifically and generically for this client group;
- to gather the views of family members of those who died;
- to review the relationship and exchange of information between agencies/services;
- to identify any issues of common concern; and
- to explore any alternative methods of providing support to this client group.

- 4.3** We have acknowledged the individual and personal tragedies that each of these deaths represented and the impact that this has on their families, friends and the broader community. Our sympathies remain with the families and friends of those who died.
- 4.4** Providing support to young vulnerable adults is one of the most challenging areas of service provision and striking a balance between a general 'duty of care' and having to respect (if not always approve) of lifestyle choices being made is an extremely difficult task - not just for the agencies who provide support but for families and friends too.
- 4.5** The CHCP and other partners already engage in active Suicide Prevention programmes and have a particular relationship with Choose Life. We run extensive training and awareness programmes for staff in statutory and other third sector organisations.
- 4.6** The CHCP has been working with Choose Life Co-ordinator and we have delivered a number of successful suicide prevention and awareness sessions to our local schools and plan to roll this out.
- 4.7** Housing and Mental Health Services have reviewed their joint protocols and are working together to ensure vulnerable people are supported appropriately.
- 4.8** However given the intense awareness around these deaths we will be working with local partners to identify additional opportunities for suicide prevention activities and will look to sustain an increased level of activity over the next few months.
- 4.9** It is expected that the review, as set out above, will be completed in the next few weeks.
- 4.10** The Review will be formally reported to the Chief Officers (Public Protection) group, chaired by the Chief Executive, from which any action plan will be developed. The outcome of that will be reported to a future CHCP Committee.
- 4.11** The Report will also need to be formally submitted to a range of other agencies/individuals including the Procurator Fiscal; the Central Fatalities Unit; and the Care Inspectorate. It would also be our intention to make extracts from the review that concern each individual available to their immediate family if they wish access. As an element of the Review will be to gather the views of families about the support their relative received, we feel it is vital to be prepared to share our findings with them.

5. People Implications

None arising directly from this report.

6. Financial Implications

None directly arising from this report.

7. Risk Analysis

Providing care and support for this client group is all about managing risks and presents some of the most significant challenges to service providers and to families and friends.

An essential element in managing risk and learning for the future is gaining a full understanding of situations/circumstances where outcomes are less than ideal – and in these cases – tragic.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

Not required for this report.

9. Consultation

Not required for this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

Not required for this report.

Keith Redpath
CHCP Director
2nd November 2012.

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Wards Affected: All