# INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

# SERVICE UPDATE

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| **Name of Function:** | Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership |
| **Date:** | 1st July 2025 |
| **Title of Update:** | Creating Hope Together: Scotland's Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan. |
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## UPDATE:

## Service Update: Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation (2025–2026)

## Purpose

This update provides an overview of Aberdeen City’s progress in implementing the national Suicide Prevention Strategy, Creating Hope Together, and outlines planned activities for 2025–2026. It also offers assurance to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on local delivery efforts.

## National and Local Strategic Context

- The Scottish Government and COSLA launched the 10-year Creating Hope Together strategy in 2022, supported by a 3-year action plan (2022–2025).  
- Suicide prevention is embedded in Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership’s (ACHSCP) Delivery Plan and is aligned with the Grampian-wide Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Portfolio Board.  
- The strategy complements other national and local frameworks, including the Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Self-Harm Strategy and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

## Strategic Outcomes

The national strategy outlines four long-term outcomes:  
1. Protective environments that reduce suicide risk.  
2. Informed communities capable of responding to suicide risk.  
3. Accessible, compassionate support for those affected by suicide.  
4. Collaborative, evidence-based delivery of suicide prevention efforts.

## Action Areas

The strategy’s six action areas guide implementation:  
1. Whole-of-government and society approach  
2. Access to means  
3. Media reporting  
4. Learning and capacity building  
5. Compassionate responses  
6. Data, evidence, and planning

## Key Progress in Aberdeen City (2024–2025)

- North-East Suicide Prevention Leadership Group (NESPLG) continued quarterly meetings, sharing regional data and co-ordinating training and campaigns.  
- Aberdeen City Suicide Prevention Delivery Group was established in January 2024, with multi-agency representation including Police Scotland, NHS, education, housing, and third sector partners.  
- QES Suicide Surveillance System pilot launched in partnership with Public Health Scotland, first of its kind in Scotland, enabling real-time, multi-agency data sharing to identify trends and risk factors.  
- Continued alignment with LOIP Stretch Outcome 10.1: Reduce the 5-year rolling average number of suicides in Aberdeen by at least 5% by 2026.

- Completed suicides (local data) last 3 years: 31 in 2022, 33 in 2023, 32 in 2024, currently out with parameters for 5% reduction (1 to 2 less suicides are required during 2025 and 2026 to meet stretch outcome target).

## Planned Activities in Aberdeen City (2025–2026)

- Renew and restructure SAMH’s contract (May 2025–April 2026) in collaboration with Moray HSCP, including new governance and reporting structures.  
- Update the Aberdeen City Suicide Prevention Delivery Group’s action plan to reflect local priorities with SAMH’s new contract.

## Planned Activities in Aberdeen City (2025–2026) (continued)

- Expand use of the QES system to enhance data-driven decision-making.  
- Maintain alignment with LOIP and national strategy outcomes.

- Continue to monitor and analyse completed suicides quarterly and over 5 year periods against the LOIP stretch outcome target.

- Continue to target suicide prevention work to support 5% reduction target.

## Governance and Risk

- Oversight is provided by the Grampian Suicide Prevention Oversight Group and NESPLG.  
- Risks include any potential reductions to current funding (£100,000 per year), which supports delivery of actions.  
- Mitigation includes ongoing monitoring and adaptive planning.

## Equality and Impact

- An Inequalities Impact Assessment (IAA) is in place (July 2024) and will be updated.  
- Suicide disproportionately affects men (approx. 75%), those aged 35–54, and individuals in socio-economically deprived areas.  
- 88% of suicide deaths are among working-age individuals, with two-thirds in employment.

## Conclusion

Aberdeen City continues to make significant strides in suicide prevention through strategic partnerships, data-driven approaches, and community engagement. Continued investment, collaboration, and lived experience involvement are essential to sustaining progress and achieving long-term outcomes.