

Revised draft (Covid)

Public Health Agency Involvement Plan for Protect Life 2

For PHA commissioned services under Protect Life 2

This involvement and engagement strategy has been amended in light of restrictions implemented due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic

January 2021

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Glossary of Terms

There are a number of abbreviations within this document. The following list will help to identify what they mean.

BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (ethnic minority groups)
C&V	Community and Voluntary organisations
Col	Community of Interest – Belfast and South Eastern Trust areas have a number of Col groups which is made up of individuals and organisations with an interest in the area of suicide prevention.
D&A	Drugs & Alcohol
FLARE	Facilitating Life and Resilience Education – a regional programme aimed at 11-25 year olds.
Flourish!	A regional programme aimed at clergy
HSCT	Health & Social Care Trust - NI has 5 Trusts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Northern HSCT- Western HSCT- Southern HSCT- South Eastern HSCT- Belfast HSCT
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Lifeline	NI regional crisis helpline
NI	Northern Ireland
PHA	Public Health Agency
PL	Protect Life
PL2	Protect Life 2 – the title of the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy
PLIG	Protect Life Implementation Group – each Health & Social Care Trust has a local PLIG who review the implementation of the strategy in their area. PLIG members can include Health & Social Care professionals, C&V organisations, service users, clergy etc.
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
SHIP	Self-Harm Intervention Programme

Stakeholder

Those who feel they have an interest or concern in the issue. This may be because they have been affected by the issue itself or by decisions which may be made. Stakeholders may be individuals or organisational representatives.

Background

Protect Life 2 – A Strategy for Preventing Suicide and Self Harm in Northern Ireland 2019 – 2024 was formally launched on 10 September 2019. The Strategy contains 2 key aims and 10 objectives as outlined below.

PL2 Aims:

1. Reduce the suicide rate in Northern Ireland by 10% by 2024.
2. Ensure suicide prevention services and support is delivered appropriately in deprived areas where suicide and self-harm rates are highest.

PL2 Objectives:

1. Ensure a collaborative, co-ordinated cross departmental approach to suicide prevention.
2. Improve awareness of suicide prevention and associated services.
3. Enhance responsible media reporting on suicide.
4. Enhance community capacity to prevent and respond to suicidal behaviour within local communities.
5. Reduce incidence of suicide amongst people under the care of mental health services.
6. Restrict access to the means of suicide.
7. Enhance the initial response to, and care and recovery of people who are suicidal.
8. Enhance services for people who self-harm, particularly for those who do so repeatedly.
9. Ensure the provision of effective support for those who are exposed to suicide or suicidal behaviour.
10. Strengthen the local evidence on suicide patterns, trends and risk, and on effective interventions to prevent suicide and self-harm.

Purpose of this Involvement Plan

This involvement plan has been amended in light of restrictions implemented due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

This Involvement Plan sets out how the PHA will engage with stakeholders to determine how the Protect Life 2 Strategy actions for which the PHA is responsible can be delivered. This will involve agreeing specific commissioning priorities that PHA will support with the funding available. Through the development and implementation of the involvement plan, PHA will build on the strong working relationships that have already been established in taking forward the original Protect Life Strategy.

The PHA want to actively engage with stakeholders who have a role in helping reduce levels of suicide. In developing future services it is important that the views of service users, local communities and providers are taken into account in a meaningful and appropriate manner. It is important that there is a clear understanding of the challenges that exist when reviewing or designing services for the community with the financial resources available.

It is important that local, national and international evidence is considered when developing or re-designing any service. There is also a need to have open conversations about how existing services are being delivered, and consider where there are gaps. Discussions are required in relation to looking at opportunities for restructuring and refocusing services to achieve better outcomes for service users as well as ensuring the strategy objectives are met. In building the evidence-base, PHA will be reviewing and validating evidence in relation to suicide prevention and as part of this process will engage with key stakeholders where appropriate. This will ensure that decision-making around commissioning of suicide prevention services in the future will be evidence-based and fully informed.

By meaningfully involving stakeholders in developing an implementation plan, PHA seek to build consensus and support for how future services are shaped and commissioned with the levels of investment available.

The Protect Life 2 Strategy recognises a multi-agency/sector approach is essential to ensure the objectives and actions are delivered. Whilst the PHA will be leading on progressing a number of actions, the majority of objectives require multiple agencies and partners to work together to ensure the actions set out in the strategy are delivered.

The aim of this Involvement Plan is to:

- Outline the PHA's approach to identifying, delivering and evaluating the engagement plan with service users and carers, stakeholders and the general public in 2021 and beyond.
- Maximise the opportunity for stakeholders to engage and be more involved in planning future services in mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention, as well as specific service areas and postvention support.

The objectives of this Involvement Plan are:

- Outline an approach to involvement and engagement that is consistent and structured across Northern Ireland taking into account restrictions imposed due to Covid-19;
- Identify priority areas and key stakeholders for strategic engagement;

- To create the opportunity for stakeholders to influence and shape the design and delivery of services.
- Support priority setting and decision making when reviewing or designing services for the community with the financial resources available.
- Provide public health colleagues and strategic partners with the key messages to support engagement in each of these areas;
- Outline how feedback on the effectiveness of the approach will be sought and used.

The plan aims to promote active involvement through having conversations with a wide range of stakeholders. Some of which include: service users and carers, general public, communities, voluntary organisations, key staff/volunteers working in the area of mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention, training providers. The plan will also engage with those involved in the commissioning of mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention services, PSNI, Education, Faith based organisations, the Departmental Working Group and more.

Timeline of involvement

It is anticipated that there will be three opportunities for involvement:

Pre-consultation: Commencing February 2021

During this time there will be an 8 week pre-consultation period. The pre-consultation is an opportunity to reflect on feedback from previous involvements and consider what future models may look like. There will be multiple methodologies of involvement for this stage. These are outlined on [page 9](#) of this plan. The outcome of the pre-consultation will result in a discussion paper.

Discussion paper: Commencing May 2021

Following the pre-consultation period, a discussion paper will be developed. This paper will outline the feedback from the pre-consultation involvement events and the considerations being made ahead of the next consultation period. This will be a public document available online with the opportunity to feedback any comments anyone may have.

Consultation period: Commencing November 2021

Consultation documents will be developed and made available for comment. These documents will be informed by the feedback from the previous involvement stages highlighted above. The consultation documents will outline the proposed models of service in which the PHA intend to invest in. Individuals and groups will have further opportunity to comment on these documents over a 12 week period. It is estimated

that the consultation period will begin in November 2021. The methodologies of involvement for this period are outlined on [page 9](#).

Additional Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to the involvement process outlined [above](#), PHA intends to commission a third party organisation to undertake a stakeholder engagement with community and voluntary (C&V) agencies and academics working in the field of suicide prevention.

This engagement process will help further understanding of effective community-based suicide prevention interventions by focusing on gaps in the national and international evidence base. The findings will be validated and contribute to informed decision-making around future service provision.

It is envisaged that the stakeholder engagement will commence in December 2020.

Methodology of Involvement

This plan aims to ensure appropriate methods of involvement are used to gain the views of as many people as possible that may be impacted by the Protect Life 2 Strategy.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 all methods of involvement will be done remotely.

Involvement methodology for the pre-consultation and consultation stages

Online video

A video will be produced to outline each stage of involvement and how people can contribute. The video will outline each stage; the background/evidence and how people can feed back. Subtitles will also be used.

Social Media

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will be used as a means of engaging and communicating with the wider public.

Online Survey/questionnaire

A survey/questionnaire will be developed using a programme called Citizen Space. Citizen Space is an online tool which facilitates engagement in a democratic way through the use of, policy consultations; resident and user surveys; spatial planning; permitting and licensing processes; calls for evidence and publishing responses and outcomes. Translations, large text and braille will be offered as alternative formats.

Post

Hard copies of the above survey/questionnaire will be posted out on request along with a freepost envelope for return.

Engagement Events

A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand. Interpreters and signers will be available if required. Supporting documents will be made available in braille and large text if required. Appropriate timeframes will be provided for recruitment of focus group members.

Focus Groups

Small focus group sessions (up to 5 people) will be held via video link for identified groups. Interpreters and signers will be available if required. Supporting documents will be made available in braille and large text if required. The option of focus groups will only be available to services users and carers.

One – to – one (1:1)

There will be opportunities available throughout the planning process for 1:1 direct involvement. Interpreters and/or signers will be available if required and supporting documents will be provided in braille or large text. The option of 1:1 contribution will only be available to service users & carers.

Involvement methodology for [discussion paper](#)

The feedback from the pre-consultation stage will be analysed and summarised into a discussion paper which will be available online. All participants of the pre-consultation stage will be offered an email link to this paper.

Involvement methodology for the stakeholder engagement evidence work

This stage is to ensure that decision-making around commissioning of suicide prevention services in the future is evidence-based and fully informed by exploring gaps identified in the literature. This will be achieved via one-to-one in-depth interviews.

In building the evidence-base, PHA will review and validate evidence identified by providers of services delivered in the C&V sector and academics working in the field of suicide prevention.

C&V sector providers will be selected using specific criteria that is based on evidence-base requirements. C&V organisations will be required to complete a short telephone proforma to help identify those organisations who meet the criteria for inclusion. Any C&V sector agencies not selected for engagement will be contacted via email to advise them of the pre-consultation and consultation phases which will ensure they have the opportunity to contribute to the wider consultation.

The stakeholder engagement evidence work will provide greater insight into the types of services deemed effective and will feed into the consultation stage alongside the feedback from the pre-consultation stages.

Methodology outline

This section outlines the target groups, types of methodology to be used and how this will be done.

Methodology for the pre-consultation and consultation stages

The methodology for the pre-consultation and consultation periods is outlined below. Information on how to get involved will be disseminated widely to ensure involvement of:

1. Service users & carers
2. General population
3. Community &/or voluntary groups.
4. Statutory/government organisations
5. Service Providers
6. Political parties

A link to the discussion paper will be sent to all those who have participated in the pre-consultation stage.

Groups	Type	Description	How
1. Service Users & Carers	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	Information will be circulated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Local community organisations and PLIG groups
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. • PHA Corporate website • Engage site – opportunities section
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added	Information will be sent directly to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability NI • Rural Support • Recovery Colleges • Current contract

Groups	Type	Description	How
		dependent on demand.	<p>holders of the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bereaved by suicide ○ LGBT ○ Travellers ○ BAME ○ FLARE ○ Flourish! ○ SHIP ○ Lifeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities will be made available during the pre-consultation and consultation periods to discuss the involvement opportunities at local and regional meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLIG ○ Col ○ D&A ○ SHIP
	Focus Groups	Small focus group sessions (up to 5 people) will be held via video link.	
	1:1 direct involvement	There will be opportunities available throughout the planning process for 1:1 direct involvement.	
2. General population	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	<p>Information will be circulated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social media ● Local community organisations and PLIG groups ● All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. ● PHA Corporate website ● Engage site – opportunities section
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	

Groups	Type	Description	How
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand.	
3. Community and voluntary sector organisations	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	Information will be circulated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Local community organisations and PLIG groups
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. • PHA Corporate website • Engage site – opportunities section
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand.	Information will also be sent directly to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability NI • Rural Support • Recovery Colleges • Current contract holders of the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bereaved by suicide ○ LGBT ○ Travellers ○ BAME ○ FLARE ○ Flourish! ○ SHIP

Groups	Type	Description	How
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lifeline ● Opportunities will be made available during the pre-consultation and consultation periods to discuss the involvement opportunities at local and regional meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLIG ○ Col ○ D&A ○ SHIP
3. Statutory / Government/ Private Sector	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	Information will be circulated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social media ● Local community organisations and PLIG groups ● All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. ● PHA Corporate website ● Engage site – opportunities section ● Opportunities will be made available during the pre-consultation and consultation periods to discuss the involvement opportunities at local and regional meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLIG ○ Col ○ D&A ○ SHIP
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand.	

Groups	Type	Description	How
4. Service Providers	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	Information will be circulated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Local community organisations and PLIG groups • All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. • PHA Corporate website • Engage site – opportunities section Information will also be sent directly to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability NI • Rural Support • Recovery Colleges • Current contract holders of the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bereaved by suicide ○ LGBT ○ Travellers ○ BAME ○ FLARE ○ Flourish! ○ SHIP ○ Lifeline • Opportunities will be made available during the pre-consultation and consultation periods to discuss the involvement opportunities at local and regional meetings including:
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand.	

Groups	Type	Description	How
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLIG ○ Col ○ D&A ○ SHIP
5. Political Parties	Online	The issues to be discussed will be documented online with open access to an online survey/questionnaire	<p>Information on how to access this online survey and engagement events will be circulated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Local community organisations and PLIG groups • All current commissioned contracts under Protect Life. • PHA Corporate website • Engage site –
	Post	Hard copies of supporting documents and questionnaires will be posted out on request accompanied with a freepost return envelope.	

Groups	Type	Description	How
	Engagement events	A minimum of 5 engagement events will take place via video link which will be open to all groups. Additional sessions may be added dependent on demand.	<p>opportunities section</p> <p>Information will also be sent directly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability NI • Rural Support • Recovery Colleges • Opportunities will be made available during the pre-consultation and consultation periods to discuss the involvement opportunities at local and regional meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PLIG ○ Col ○ D&A ○ SHIP

Opportunities for participation throughout any of the involvement events will be advertised and promoted throughout the Public Health Agency’s social media platforms: www.publichealth.hscni.net; Facebook – Public Health Agency; Twitter - @publichealthni; Instagram - @publichealthni. Opportunities can also be viewed on the HSCNI Engage site: www.engage.hscni.net/opportunities

Methodology for the Stakeholder Engagement Evidence work

C&V sector providers will be selected using specific inclusion criteria. C&V organisations will be required to complete a short proforma to help identify those for inclusion in this engagement piece. Any C&V sector agencies who have completed a proforma and have not been selected for engagement will be contacted via email to advise them of the pre-consultation (3.1 & 3.2) and consultation (3.3) phases which will ensure they have the opportunity to contribute to the wider consultation.

Groups	Type	Description	How
1. C&V sector providers	1:1 direct involvement	Organisations will be contacted through 1:1 interviews to gather the required information for the evidence work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations will be identified through the inclusion criteria proforma as outlined above. - Interviews will be scheduled with organisations at a time that suits both the organisation and the interviewer
2. Academics	1:1 direct involvement	Academics will be contacted through 1:1 interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academics who work in the area of suicide prevention in Ulster University and Queens University Belfast will be included. - Interviews will be scheduled with academics at a time that suits both the academic and the interviewer