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Connecting for Life

Report to the
**National Cross Sectoral Steering and
Implementation Group**
Q3 2019

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (9th October 2019)

INTRODUCTION

This report gives an outline of *Connecting for Life (CfL)* activity during Quarter 3 of 2019. *CfL* action lead agents were requested to provide an update on the activity of their relevant lead actions during the period Q3, 2019. They were also requested to give an outline of activity proposed to take place in Q4. The purpose of this report is to focus primarily on the 'red flag' issues that are hindering the implementation of *CfL*. A bi-annual implementation progress report (published in July and December) gives a more detailed analysis of overall implementation activity.

Dashboard Templates received and included in this report from:

- HSE Mental Health
- HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention
- HSE Primary Care
- HSE Health & Wellbeing
- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
- Press Council of Ireland
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Communications Climate Action & Environment
- Department of Defence
- Health and Safety Authority/ Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- Higher Education Authority
- Department of Justice/Irish Probation Service/Irish Prison Service
- Department of Education and Skills
- Department of Health
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Local Authorities

Dashboard Templates not received from the following:

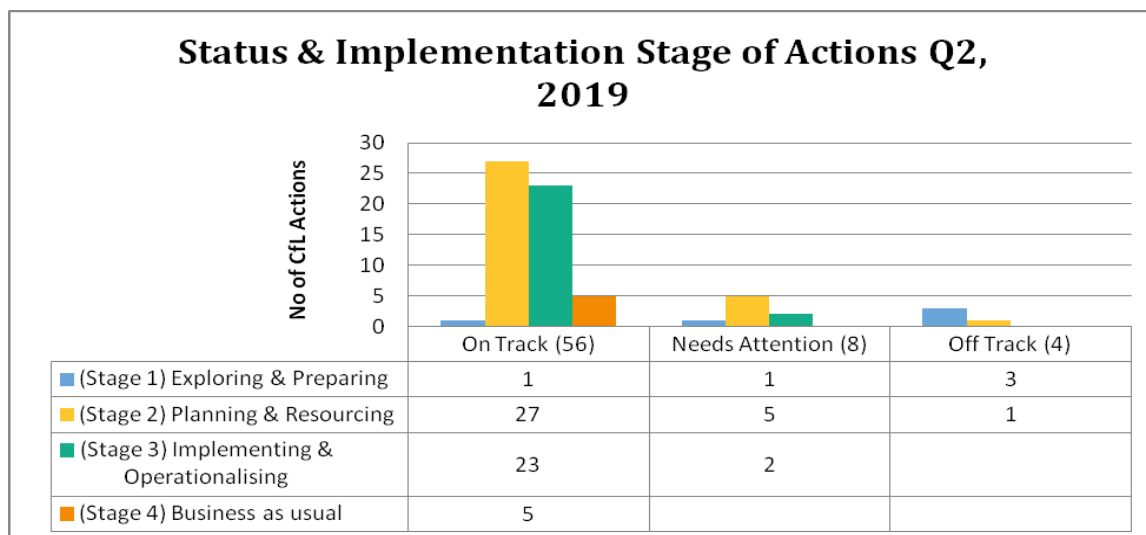
- HSE Acute Hospitals
- TUSLA

OUTLINE OF CFL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The graphs below give an overview of the status (i.e. On Track, Needs Attention, Off Track) and implementation stage (based on the Centre for Effective Services stages of implementation) of *CfL* actions as of Q2, 2019 and Q3, 2019. It is important to note that the status and implementation stage of actions is self-reported by *CfL* Lead Agents and not linear.

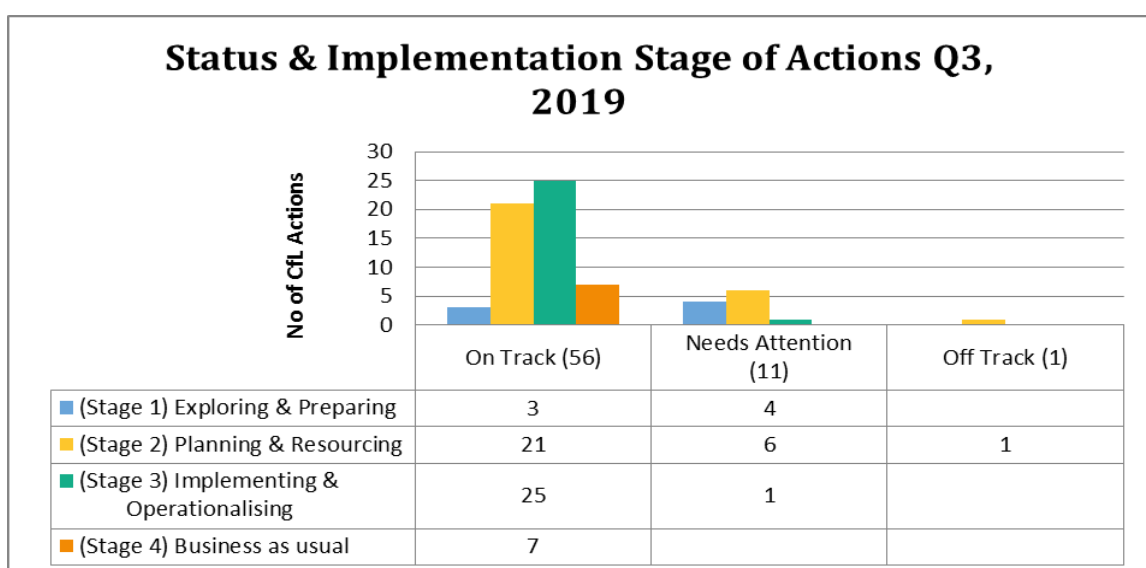
As part of the Q2, 2019 reporting period, out of 69 actions within *CfL*, an update on progress was received for 68 actions. Based on *CfL* activity reported for Q2 2019, the majority of actions (n=33) are in 'Stage 2' implementation.

As of Q2, 2019



As part of the Q3, 2019 reporting period, out of 69 actions within *CfL*, an update on progress was received for 68 actions. Based on *CfL* activity reported for Q3 2019, the majority of actions (n=28) are in 'Stage 2' implementation.

As of Q3, 2019



OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS, Q3 2019

Goal 1: TO IMPROVE THE NATION'S UNDERSTANDING OF, AND ATTITUDES TO, SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Campaigns & Communications - evidence of progress

- Targeted media activity/placements around World Suicide Prevention Day drove traffic to yourmentalhealth.ie (ACTION 1.1.3)
- Social media campaign targeting LGBTQI + developed by HSE MH & BelongTo to promote the new crisis text line service. (ACTION 1.1.2)
- Effective campaign highlighting harm reduction (re: drugs & alcohol) targeting festival goers, college students etc. was implemented over summer period. As part of this, the National Social Inclusion Office also provided training on emerging drug trends and substances for festival medics. The Drugs.ie/festivals page has received 5,604 hits (as at Oct 2019). (ACTION 1.1.4)
- Successful collaboration between HSE Social Inclusion/USI/HSE NOSP/ for International Drug Overdose Awareness Day; activities included events at DOH & media engagement. (ACTION 1.1.4)
- Post primary Mind Monster campaign which was launched in May has now been translated into Irish – for implementation in October 2019. (ACTION 1.2.2)
- Mental Health (HSE & HI) Representation at Ploughing Championships. (ACTION 1.2.2)
- There were no complaints to the BAI pertaining to self-harm and suicide. The newspaper that breached the requirement about reporting excessive detail of the means of suicide published in full the decisions of the Press Ombudsman and the appeal to the full Press Council. (ACTION 1.4)

Implementation Capacity - evidence of progress

- Programme lead for Mental Health & Wellbeing formally appointed to drive the development of the HSE National Mental Health & Wellbeing Promotion Plan. Working group has been convened. (ACTION 1.1.4)

Goal 2: TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES' CAPACITY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR

CfL local area planning/implementation processes - evidence of progress

- CfL Area level Implementation Survey published by HSE NOSP. (ACTION 2.1.1)

Improved service delivery - evidence of progress

- Tender awarded re: evaluability of social prescribing in Ireland (and the development of a minimum data set). (ACTION 2.3.3)

Capacity Building - evidence of progress

- The HSE ROSPs hosted a Learning Community of Practice workshop in Derry at the IASP International Congress. (ACTION 2.1.1)
- 1855 people have attended SafeTALK training; 631 have attended ASIST; 179 have attended Understanding Self-Harm; 69 have attended STORM; 257 have attended Community Bereavement; and 17 attended have attended the Professionals Bereavement course. (ACTION 2.3)

Goal 3: TO TARGET APPROACHES TO REDUCE SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR AND IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG PRIORITY GROUPS

Improved service delivery - evidence of progress

- The Irish Probation Service has completed a survey of approx. 3000 clients to measure the level of substance misuse to improve service delivery. CSO analysing data and awaiting publication. (ACTION 3.1.1)
- 3rd Meeting of Cross Sectoral Policy/Protocols Working Group convened in September. Draft staff guidance and proposed policy proofing process tabled. (ACTION 3.1.1 & 3.1.2)
- STORM training being rolled out to Drug & Alcohol Staff across CHO 4 (ACTION 3.1.3)
- CAMHS Operating Guidelines have been launched and are being implemented. Nine briefings have been delivered to mental health service staff in each of the CHOs (ACTION 3.3.7)
- Guidelines for schools and support services on the role of student support teams in relation to wellbeing promotion in schools have been prepared. (ACTION 3.3.2)
- Researchers have been appointed to develop national guidance for higher education institutions in

relation to suicide risk and critical incident response, thereby helping to address any gaps which may exist in the prevention of suicide in higher education. Stakeholder engagement event planned for March 2020. (ACTION 3.3.3)

Goal 4: TO ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY, CONSISTENCY AND CARE PATHWAYS OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR

Improved service delivery - evidence of progress

- A consultant Forensic Psychiatrist has been appointed to Castlerea Prison. (ACTION 4.1.3)
- Five HSE Staff consultation events – to assess staff awareness of suicide and self-harm risk in health care - settings took place; attended by 150 staff across the Health Service Executive. (ACTION 4.1.4)
- Poster presentation (by Dr. Jeffers) at IASP Conference on Clinical Care Programme for the assessment and management of patients presenting with self-harm to ED. (ACTION 4.1.5)

Goal 5: TO ENSURE SAFE AND HIGH QUALITY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO SUICIDE

Improved service delivery - evidence of progress

- Best Practice Guidance Implementation Plan completed & training with NGO partners has commenced. (ACTION 5.1.1)

Capacity Building - evidence of progress

- Irish Probation Service hosting second annual Conference on World Mental Health Day. (ACTION 5.4.2)
- 185 staff in the Dept of Employment Affairs Social Protection have completed SafeTALK as of Q1 to Q3. (ACTION 5.4.2)
- 16 Defence Forces' candidates have successfully passed NOSP screening for inclusion in SafeTALK Trainers' programme. Train the trainer commences in November and roll out of training in the New Year. (ACTION 5.4.2)

Goal 6: TO REDUCE AND RESTRICT ACCESS TO MEANS OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR

Improved service delivery - evidence of progress

- Based on the Mental Health Commission's data on Regulation 22 (premises) 45 approved centres were non-compliant in 2017 and ligature risk was cited in 30 of those cases of non-compliance. In 2018 the overall figure for non-compliance fell to 40 approved centres with ligature risk cited in 17 of these cases (ACTION 6.2.2)
- Irish Prison Service prioritising resources for window replacement programme (as part of ligature auditing) (ACTION 6.2.3)
- The Medical Council have met to examine inappropriate prescribing practices. They also issued a public statement about their concerns. (ACTION 6.1.1)

Goal 7: TO IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE, EVALUATION AND HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH RELATING TO SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR

Engaging with evidence - evidence of progress

- Presentation on the CfL Interim Strategy Review at IASP conference (ACTION 7.1.1)
- Contract awarded for the identify and showcasing of innovation under CfL area-level action plans (ACTION 7.1.1)
- Presentation on value of coroners data to suicide prevention by HSE NOSP to the Coroners' Society Annual Conference (ACTION 7.2.3 & 7.4.1)
- NSRF early career researchers' conference taking place in October. (ACTION 7.4.2)

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS BY CFL ACTION LEAD AGENT

The table below gives an outline of the self-reported implementation progress by *Cfl* action Lead Agent for Q3, as well as outlining as to whether or not activity is planned to take place in Q4.

Name of Government Department/State Agency	No of Lead Actions assigned	No for which update received Q3 2019	Status	Implementation Stage	No of actions for which activity is planned to take place Q2, 2019
HSE Mental Health (MH)	17	17	14 On Track 3 Need Attention	- 9 at Planning and Resourcing - 6 at Implementing and Operationalising - 2 at Business as usual	17
HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)	17	17	14 On Track 3 Need Attention	- 2 at Exploring and Preparing - 7 at Planning and Resourcing - 8 at Implementing and Operationalising	17
HSE Primary Care (PC)	6	6	4 On Track 2 Need Attention	- 1 at Exploring and Preparing - 4 at Planning and Resourcing - 1 at Implementing and Operationalising	6
HSE Health & Wellbeing (H&W)	3	3	3 On Track	- 1 at Exploring and Preparing - 1 Planning & resourcing - 1 at Implementing and Operationalising	3
Department of Education and Skills (DES)	7	7	6 On Track 1 Needs Attention	- 3 at Planning & Resourcing - 4 at Implementing & Operationalising	7
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)	2	2	2 On Track	- 1 at Exploring & Preparing - 1 at Business as usual	2
Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)	2	2	1 On Track 1 Needs Attention	- 1 at Business as usual - 1 at Planning & Resourcing	2
Department of Communications Climate Action & Environment (DCCA)	1	1	1 On Track	- 1 at Planning & Resourcing	1
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)	1	1	1 On Track	- 1 at Business as usual	1
Press Council of Ireland (PCoI)	1	1	1 On Track	- 1 at Business as usual	0
Health & Safety Authority (HSA)	1	1	1 On Track	- 1 at Planning & Resourcing	1
Higher Education Authority (HEA)	3	3	2 On Track 1 Off Track	- 2 at Exploring & Preparing - 1 at Planning & Resourcing	3
Department of Justice/An Garda Síochána/IPS	10	10	10 On Track	- 3 at Planning & Resourcing - 7 at Implementing & Operationalising	10
Department of Defence	2	2	2 On Track	- 2 at Implementing & Operationalising	2
Department of Health (DoH)	9	9	5 On Track 3 Need Attention	- 1 at Exploring & Preparing	9

			1 Off Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 at Planning & Resourcing - 1 at Implementing & Operationalising - 4 at Business as usual 	
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM)	2	2	2 On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 at Planning & Resourcing - 1 at Implementing & Operationalising 	2
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS)	3	3	3 On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 at Exploring & Preparing - 1 at Planning & Resourcing - 1 at Implementing & Operationalising 	3
Department of Children & Youth Affairs/ TUSLA	4	1	1 On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 at Implementing & Operationalising 	1
Local Authorities	2	2	2 Need Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 at Exploring & Preparing 	2

KEY CFL IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Implementation Challenges	CfL Actions Impacted	Lead Agent	Commentary
Project Planning	3.1.2 Stakeholder engagement.	NOSP	<i>(Comment):</i> Delay in getting Garda representative on cross-sectoral policy, protocol working group is impacting on progressing sharing of information protocols.
Recruitment	4.1.1 Provide a co-ordinated, uniform and quality assured 24/7 service.	HSE MH	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> outgoing recruitment challenges.
	4.1.2 Co-ordinated and quality assured service and uniform pathways of care for those with co-morbid addiction and mental health difficulties.	HSE MH	<i>(Comment):</i> Currently no Clinical Lead in place as part of the development of the Model of Care.
	4.1.5 Deliver a comprehensive approach to managing self-harm presentations through the HSE Clinical Care Programme.	HSE MH	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> Unable to complete recruitment process due to issues related to back filling posts.
Engagement	5.2.2 Strengthening data systems to report on incidents of self-harm and deaths of children in care.	DCYA /TUSLA	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> Meeting due to be organised between TUSLA data contact and NOSP M&E team is yet to take place (January 2019).
	3.3.2 Support for management of critical incidences in schools.	DES	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> report suggests that despite repeated invitations some PP schools are not attending training.
Broader Political Context	5.4.2 Delivering training in suicide prevention to relevant Government Departments and Agency staff.	DAFM	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> Brexit related demands resulted in delayed progress with the work positive survey (which was intended in part to identify suicide prevention training needs).
Systems Issue	6.2.1 Restricting access to locations/settings where people are at risk of suicidal behaviour.	LA	<i>(CfL Dashboard entry):</i> Need for a resource for the coordination of local government sector as each local authority is a separate organisation?

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