



Connecting for Life Strategy Implementation Monitoring Report

Q1 2025

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention



Connecting for Life



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1

Introduction and Overview This Period

This is the Q1 2025 implementation monitoring report for Connecting for Life. It will provide an overview of the work carried out by strategy lead agencies from January 2025 - March 2025.

To date in this period, of the 67 actions in CFL, updates were received on 62. Of the 62 actions for which updates were received, 3 were logged as needing attention and 1 was logged as off-track. The majority of actions were considered to be on track. Further detail on the needs attention and off-track actions are provided at the end of this report.

The NGO quarterly CFL implementation report (Q4 2024) has been completed and is available at www.connectingforlifeireland.ie

Some highlights from this period include:

- The National Mental Health Promotion Plan was launched in December 2024.
- The First Fortnight Festival took place in January with 67 events.
- An Coimisiún launched a series of educational materials to inform educators, parents, and children about children's rights online (<https://www.cnam.ie/general-public/guides-resources/>). This includes material relating to protections provided by the Online Safety Code.
- DCRD are continuing to engage to ensure that CfL is central in new Our Rural Futures strategy.
- Tusla workplace suicide prevention guidance is completed and is currently out for consultation with the national HR managers.
- Over 700 participants have completed the On Feirm Ground 2 training in the past 12 months.
- There are 1067 people in HF tenancies with 63 new ones created at the end of Q4 2024. Inclusion MH team continues to operate in Dublin South City with inreach, outreach, a recovery service and a research function. Dublin Simon's Health and Social Care Facility opened at Ushers Island with 51 beds.
- Ligature Risk Reduction Policy and Audit Tool Policy published on HSE website and circulated through HOS, DONs and ECDs.



- Final report for feasibility study for new National Probable Suicide Register signed off by National Steering Group for Clinical Audit. Guidance document relating to probable suicide amongst community mental health service users was published on HSE website & shared with stakeholders.
- The CSO Liaison Group met in January. CSO highlighted changes that they have introduced to the release in 2024 compared to previous years, and plans that they have on enhancing future releases. Rolling tables will be included on an annual basis to assist with reporting late registrations.
- Preventing suicide in public places toolkit launched at the start of February at event in Dublin Castle. The Chair of the CCMA RCCH Committee represented the sector at the launch. The HSE has completed a health impact assessment with Transport Infrastructure Ireland at a bridge of concern. As a result, barriers have received funding.
- The HSE CYMH office published a 3 year Child and Youth Mental Health Action Plan. The plan identifies 16 priority improvement themes and works towards redesigning and delivering services which are safe, easy to access and appropriate and to ensure all children and families have equitable and timely access to high-quality services.

This period, updates were received from 21 partners.

Coimisiún na Meán (CnM)
 Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
 Department of Children, Disability, Integration, Equality and Youth (DCDIEY)
 Department of Defence (DoD)
 Department of Education and Skills (DES)
 Department of Health (DoH)
 Department of Justice (DoJ)
 Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
 Department of Social Protection (DSP)
 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM) - Sports
 Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
 Higher Education Authority (HEA)
 HSE Acute Hospital Operations (HSE Acute Ops)
 HSE Health and Wellbeing (HSE H&W)
 HSE Mental Health Operations (HSE MH Ops)
 HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (HSE NOSP)
 HSE Primary Care (HSE PC)
 Irish Probation Service (PS)
 Local Government Management Authority (LGMA)
 Press Council of Ireland (Press Council of Ireland)
 TUSLA

This period, updates were not received from 1 partner.

Irish Prison Service (IPS)



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2

Overview of Progress on Strategic Goals



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7 Goals 69 Actions

1



Improved
Understanding

2



Empowered
Communities

3



Focus on
Priority Groups

4



Better Access
to Support

5



High Quality
Services

6



Reduced
Access to Means

7



Better
Data & Research



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Goal 1: Better understanding of suicidal behaviour.

1.1 Improve population wide understanding of suicidal behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and associated protective and risk factors.

- Analysis of HI data delayed due to technical problems . **(HSE NOSP)**
- Meeting with all lead partners to discuss Milestones and progress towards implementation of milestones. Steering group meeting held. **(HSE H&W)**
- The National Mental Health Promotion Plan was launched in December 2024. **(DoH)**
- YMH Campaign promoted through search and social for all of Q1. Radio and display ads ran in Jan. Videos for social media were developed with students from TUS Athlone, UCC and NCI on how they know when to look after their mental health and what they do for self care. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Safer Nightlife Programme operated during 2024 with 50 hours of outreach provided by trained volunteers at events to identify vulnerable individuals and offer support. Core message - Drug emergencies can be both physical and psychological. Training on safety in nightlife via EU CrissCross project. **(HSE PC)**
- The development of the new NPAP is complete and will be published later in Q1. **(DTCAGSM) - Sports**

1.2 Increase awareness of available suicide prevention and mental health services.

- Launch of Navigator online tool aimed at those aged 14 -34 years postponed due to technical issues. Expected go live date is April. Navigator will provide personalised mental health content, support, information and link to text about it service. MyMentalHealth Plan 3,712 completions. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Mental Health information shared with priority groups via social media including videos recorded with USI, about how students in Ireland take care of their mental health, content to support people around bank holidays, the CyberSafeKids campaign, International Women's Day and World Sleep Day. **(HSE MH Ops)**





1.3 Reduce stigmatising attitudes to mental health and suicidal behaviour at population level and within priority groups.

- First Fortnight Festival took place January. As part of the Festival, 75 artists and 15 technical staff delivered 67 events to a diverse audience. Green Ribbon planning and consultation underway. Information session/webinar planned for stakeholders in Q2. Shine branding changes underway. **(HSE NOSP)**

1.4 Engage and work collaboratively with the media in relation to media guidelines, tools and training programmes to improve the reporting of suicidal behaviour within broadcast, print and online media.

- An Coimisiún launched a series of educational materials to inform educators, parents, and children about children's rights online (<https://www.cnam.ie/general-public/guides-resources/>). This includes material relating to protections provided by the Online Safety Code. **(CnM)**
- No relevant complaints have been received since the last reporting period. **(CnM)**
- Ongoing application of Principle 10 (Reporting of Suicide) of the Press Council's Code of Practice. The Office will continue to consider complaints received from members of the public and representative organisations about possible breaches of Principle 10 of the Code of Practice. **(Press Council of Ireland)**
- Established quarterly meetings with Shine re reporting and operations. Headline media reporting nearing real time status in Q2, quarterly reports will begin once this is achieved. Work underway with Headline to redesign NOSP sponsorship of Mental Health Media Awards. **(HSE NOSP)**





Goal 2: Supporting communities to prevent and respond to suicidal behaviour.

2.1 Improve the continuation of community level responses to suicide through planned multi-agency approaches.

- Working with Action Leads and Key Partners, HSE ROSP's continued with activity to implement Local Action Plans in 2025 and to input into the evaluation of current CfL strategy. In some HSE Health Areas HSE ROSP's continued collaborative working with Public Health colleagues. **(HSE MH Ops)**

2.2 Ensure that accurate information and guidance on effective suicide prevention are provided for community-based organisations (e.g. Family Resource Centres, Sporting Organisations).

- Preventing suicide in public places toolkit launched at the start of February at event in Dublin Castle. The HSE has completed a health impact assessment with Transport Infrastructure Ireland at a bridge of concern. As a result, barriers have received funding. **(HSE NOSP)**

2.3 Ensure the provision and delivery of training and education programmes on suicide prevention to community-based organisations.

- Training Figures for Q4, 2024: safeTALK - 1281, ASIST- 530, USH - 313, USH Online -27, One Day Bereavement Training - 93, STORM-31. Let's Talk About Suicide - 1708 enrollments. Training was also delivered to Members of the Oireachtas in March. **(HSE NOSP)**
- Balancing Stress- Online programme on HSE website. Social Prescribing-Realist evaluation underway. Act Belong Commit - Co development of training & ABC resources with community partners in Meath. Adaptation of Minding your Wellbeing for Higher Ed ongoing. **(HSE H&W)**



Goal 3: Targeted approaches for those vulnerable to suicide.

3.1 Improve the implementation of effective approaches to reducing suicidal behaviour among priority groups.

- 8 staff completed LTAS training. Continue to engage with DRCD Rural Strategy Unit to ensure that CfL is central in new Our Rural Futures strategy. Continue to develop public libraries. SICU will continue to incorporate suicide prevention into relevant programme & policies where applicable. **(DRCD)**
- Amended milestone should read the promotion of safeTALK and Let's Talk About Suicide at all our Induction courses. For Q1 2025 299 staff have attended our Induction course where safeTalk has been promoted and 56 staff received face to face safeTalk training.

(DSP)

- Tusla workplace suicide prevention guidance is completed and is currently out for consultation with the national HR managers. It is anticipated that the guidance will be presented to NPOC National Policy Oversight Committee in Q2 and will be launched once approved on the Tusla Hub. **(TUSLA)**
- With the support of NOSP DF has arranged SafeTALK trainers training for 20 new trainers to be conducted on 14 and 15 APR 2025. New trainers will be military EAP team members and social workers from the Personnel Support Service. **(DoD)**
- The development of the policy handbook is at an advanced stage. The handbook, entitled 'Policy Handbook: A 'real world' guide to policy development', will be published shortly. **(DoH)**
- Over 700 participants have completed the On Feirm Ground 2 training in the past 12 months. Training is now being provided to university students studying agricultural science and veterinary nursing. Discussions with universities are ongoing.

(DAFM)

- This system is in place within Tusla and this action is complete. **(TUSLA)**



- Implementation of StV Recs 8 & 37 will continue to enhance inter-agency collaboration from perspective of innovation in practice and related to individualised support for complex cases. Work to progress The "Deaths by suspected suicide data sharing protocol" between HSE & An Garda Síochána delayed. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Work continues between The Emergency Medicine Programme and NOSP training on the design of the "Lets Talk about Suicide" module for ED reception and nursing staff. This work is overseen by a reference group. **(HSE Acute Ops)**
- The "Deaths by suspected suicide data sharing protocol" between the HSE and An Garda Síochána has still not been signed by the Garda Senior Leadership Team. The delay is starting to impact local data sharing arrangements, which have been paused **(HSE NOSP)**
- **(HSE NOSP)**
- There are 1067 people in HF tenancies with 63 new ones created at the end of Q4 2024. Inclusion MH team continues to operate in Dublin South City with inreach, outreach, a recovery service and a research function. Dublin Simon's Health and Social Care Facility opened at Ushers Island with 51 beds. **(HSE PC)**
- Umbrella review of the social determinants of suicide completed by the NSRF. To inform the next strategy, the NSRF will conduct additional research on societal risk factors and interventions in an Irish context. **(HSE NOSP)**
- ICGP training need research to be lead by NSRF. Minding Your Wellbeing co-production workshops undertaken with UCD facilitators to ensure programme material reflects student cohort. Undergraduate Suicide Prevention Module finalised, Train the Trainer candidates secured for Q2 delivery. **(HSE NOSP)**
- Research team exploring the scalability and sustainability of the Traveller creativity initiative - data collection underway. **(HSE H&W)**

3.2 Support, in relation to suicide prevention, the Substance Misuse Strategy to address the high rate of alcohol and drug misuse.





- 1386 people completed SAOR eLearning in 2024. 843 people completed the 1 day SAOR skills based training. 691 people completed Hidden Harm eLearning in 2024. SAOR Extended Brief Intervention pilot developed, implemented and evaluated in 2024. **(HSE PC)**

3.3 Enhance the supports for young people with mental health problems or vulnerable to suicide.

- Following recent approval at Ministerial level, the guides for the Promotion of Wellbeing in Schools Evaluations in both Primary and Post-Primary schools were published in February 2025. The final implementation of this new inspection model will begin in schools from March 18th, 2025, onwards **(DES)**
- Neart soft launch to post-primary schools on 16 January 2025. 242 of 722 (33.5%) of post-primary schools have registered with the service in first two months of launch. **(DES)**
- A review of the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework is currently ongoing. As part of the review the HEA has consulted with a broad range of stakeholders including representatives from Higher Education Institutions, Students' Unions, the HSE, Department of Health and NGOs. **(HEA)**
- Full day professional learning events on anti-bullying procedures have been facilitated at 41 events so far with 19 remaining. **(DES)**
- Full day PLE entitled 'An Introduction to Senior Cycle SPHE Specification(2024)'. 37 events so far, 11 re-scheduled due to weather and 10 yet to be facilitated **(DES)**
- HR and Service Leads continue to work progressing the recruitment of identified posts, including Social Worker and HST Psychiatrist for YoDA service in South Dublin. Three further posts working in Social Inclusion approved for Early Intervention Psychosis CP in NSP 2025. **(HSE PC)**
- The HSE CYMH office published a 3 year Child and Youth Mental Health Action Plan. The plan identifies 16 priority improvement themes and works towards redesigning and delivering services which are safe, easy to access and appropriate and to ensure all children and families have equitable and timely access to high-quality services. **(HSE MH Ops)**



Goal 4: Improved access, consistency and integration of services.

4.1 Improve psychosocial and psychiatric assessment and care pathways for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour.

- Research on best practice for implementation of shared care protocols & consultation models prepared for publication. 2025 shared care work plan finalised . 5 CR Teams operational in Sligo/Leitrim; Cork (N Lee), Cork (S Lee) Waterford; South Dub/Wicklow. 3 Solace cafes operational Cork, Sligo & Dub. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Continued working with Irish Prison Service on pilot service. CHO3 & 4 adult team operational with limited capacity. Content for the HSELand modules ongoing. Development of in person training complete. Continued to develop implementation plan and support partners to develop shared working. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- All site visits to 8 ED;s without MH assessment room complete. Final report with recommendations sent to NCAGL MH by end of Q1. CASTOR data capture tool went live across SCAN sites. Recruitment of 4 SCAN posts from 2024 budget advanced in 2 sites. Clinicians expected to take up posts in coming month. **(HSE MH Ops)**

4.2 Improve access to effective therapeutic interventions (e.g. counselling, DBT, CBT) for people vulnerable to suicide.

- Ongoing service delivery of accessible, uniform, evidence based psychological interventions, including counselling, for mental health problems at both primary and secondary care levels. **(HSE PC)**

4.3 Improve the uniformity, effectiveness and timeliness of support services to families and communities bereaved by suicide.

- Safe Harbour phase two ongoing with second version of the book now available – in this book the mother dies by suicide. NSRF report re Identifying the needs of young people bereaved by suicide completed. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- New programme for government funding to enhance suicide bereavement services allocated to NGOs.. **(HSE NOSP)**



Goal 5: Safe and high quality services.

5.1 Develop and implement national standards and guidelines for statutory and non-statutory organisations contributing to suicide prevention.

- Q4 2024 NGO CfL report published on CfL website. Monthly networking calls continue to be facilitated. NGO Funding 2025 confirmations have been issued. Engagement with NGOs toward drafting and signing of Service level Agreements. **(HSE NOSP)**
- A large-scale consultation on strengthening all aspects of whole school guidance (educational, career and personal/social) Closing date is 5pm on 09 April 2025. **(DES)**
- Catalogue of Wellbeing Resources & TPL Directory for primary and post-primary remain available online for academic year 2024-2025 **(DES)**
- CfL newsletter ongoing – newsletters delivered to 1970 subscribers
3111 followers now on LinkedIn.

(HSE NOSP)

5.2 Improve the response to suicidal behaviour within health and social care services, with an initial focus on incidents within mental health services.

- Part 1 of the updated guidance document circulated to CES for design and layout. CES advised that due to capacity issues it would be Q2 before they could progress. **(HSE MH Ops)**

5.4 Ensure best practice among health and social care practitioners through (a) the implementation of clinical guidelines on self-harm and (b) the delivery of accredited education programmes on suicide prevention.

- Tusla continues to work with NOSP in delivering a comprehensive training programme to Tusla staff. **(TUSLA)**
- There was no suicide awareness training provided to probation staff in Q1 2025. **(PS)**



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- The Behavioural Health & Safety Team in the Health and Safety Authority undertake a programme of psychosocial inspections in targeted sectors focusing on anti-bullying and work-related violence and aggression. These inspections review policies, procedures and training and communication in both areas. **(HSA)**
- New STORM facilitator joined and completed training with staff at Oberstown Children Detention Campus. 3 bridging sessions in Q1, 12 frontline staff attended (9%). Training continues to be delivered to IPAS accommodation centre staff which includes information on suicide awareness. Awaiting IPAS Senior Mgmt response re future training to IPAS staff. **(DCDIEY)**
- DF will receive 20 new SafeTALK trainers in APR 2025. ASIST training delivered to key personnel currently serving with DF formation deployed to UNIFIL in LEBANON. Naval Service training active for all NS personnel. **(DoD)**
- All actions for 2023 and 2024 are complete. Suicide prevention training programmes and materials remain available through the relevant channels. **(DoH)**
- We have updated our Induction course to include information on the online module. Will be available from April 1st 2025 We do not promote or train in ASIST as its more suitable to a residential setting. **(DSP)**
- Training needs are reviewed by Local Authorities as required. The Let's Talk about Suicide Training is a welcome resource which can be utilised by the sector. **(LGMA)**
- NOSP Training continues to be promoted to teachers and relevant educational stakeholder **(DES)**
- Survey of professional, regulatory bodies and agencies to monitor suicide awareness training has not been conducted as yet, although good engagement has taken place. This action will be reviewed in the forthcoming quarter. **(DoH)**



Goal 6: Reduce access to means.

6.1 Reduce access to frequently used drugs in intentional drug overdose.

- DUMP campaign is currently in development, and progress is being closely monitored. **(DoH)**
- Meeting on 23rd of Jan was postponed to 15th April. Draft pre-post survey report has been disseminated for review by members of the WG in advance of this meeting. **(DoH)**

6.2 Reduce access to highly lethal methods used in suicidal behaviour.

- The Chair of the CCMA RCCH Committee represented the sector at the launch of the Best Practice Toolkit: Preventing Suicide in Public Places in February. In addition, the Chair highlighted the Toolkit and the work that the NOSP and key stakeholders are progressing in this important area to the CCMA. **(LGMA)**
- Ligature Risk Reduction Policy and Audit Tool Policy published on HSE website and circulated through HOS, DONs and ECDs
HSELAND training updated and shared with Mental Health staff. **(HSE MH Ops)**

Goal 7: Better data and research.

7.1 Evaluate the effectiveness and costeffectiveness of Connecting for Life.

- Suicide Observatory Evaluation - interviews completed - scalability survey drafted for review, data validation underway using ISPDS data (maybe CSO data). Overarching CfL evaluation - data analysis nearly completed, multiple lines of evidence drafted & currently being analysed. **(HSE NOSP)**

7.2 Improve access to timely and high quality data on suicide and self-harm.

- Tusla continues to operate procedures for notifying concerns and incidents of self harm by children in care settings. **(TUSLA)**
- Final report for feasibility study for new National Probable Suicide Register signed off by National Steering Group for Clinical Audit. Guidance document relating to probable suicide amongst community mental health service users was published on HSE website & shared with stakeholders. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- IPSPDS Gambling & suicide paper published in Addictive Behaviour in January. Farmers paper edited & resubmitted. Women's papers progressing and work commencing on geoanalysis of IPSPDS data. Bespoke analysis of IPSPDS (for CHO 1 underway). **(HSE NOSP)**

7.3 Review (and, if necessary, revise) current recording procedures for death by suicide.

- The CSO Liaison Group met in January. CSO highlighted changes that they have introduced to the release in 2024 compared to previous years, and plans that they have on enhancing future releases. Rolling tables will be included on an annual basis to assist with reporting late registrations. **(DoJ)**

7.4 Develop a national research and evaluation plan that supports innovation and is aimed at early identification of suicide risk, assessment, intervention and prevention.

- The HEA continues to collaborate with the NSRF. **(HEA)**
- 2 ExAG & 1 Stakeholder meetings held re: CfL evaluation. Advisory group for evaluation of Suicide observatory convened. New partnership with TCD formed to analyse LGBTIQ+ survey data. **(HSE NOSP)**



- Dying to Farm evidence-based 6 week intervention evaluated positively. Findings informing a larger project Farming Minds which trains farm advisors (commencing Q1) to support psychological flexibility & reduce stress in farmers; Safety Plan (SPGI) manual being developed informed by participants. (**HSE NOSP**)





3

At a Glance: Needs Attention

Goal 1

1.1.1 Measure how people currently understand suicidal behaviour, mental health and wellbeing and set targets for improved understanding.

- Analysis of HI data delayed due to technical problems . (*HSE NOSP*)

Issue(s):

HI data can only be help on a standalone PC; only names researchers can access the dataset. Approval for new researchers to access data being sought from DoH. NSRF also having problems with PC (which has HI data)

Goal 5

5.4.2 Deliver training in suicide prevention to staff in government departments and agencies who are likely to come into contact with people who are vulnerable to/at risk of suicidal behaviour.

- New STORM facilitator joined and completed training with staff at Oberstown Children Detention Campus. 3 bridging sessions in Q1, 12 frontline staff attended (9%). Training continues to be delivered to IPAS accommodation centre staff which includes information on suicide awareness. Awaiting IPAS Senior Mgmt response re future training to IPAS staff. (*DCDIEY*)

Issue(s): Training

Q2 plan to be enhanced to maximise delivery to frontline staff. Storm will be included in induction for all frontline staff and Basic for all other staff. Storm protocol updated in line with NICE guidance and approved by Storm. Storm oversight group to meet by end April 2025

5.4.3 Support professional regulatory bodies to develop and deliver accredited, competency based education on suicide prevention to health professionals.

- Survey of professional, regulatory bodies and agencies to monitor suicide awareness training has not been conducted as yet, although good engagement has taken place. This action will be reviewed in the forthcoming quarter. (*DoH*)

Issue(s): Capacity

Survey has not yet taken place, due to capacity within MHU to conduct same. This will be progressed.





3

At a Glance: Off Track

Goal 3

3.1.2 Develop and implement a range of agency and inter-agency operational protocols (including protocols for sharing information and protocols in respect of young people) to assist organisations to work collaboratively in relation to suicide prevention and the management of critical incidents.

- Work continues between The Emergency Medicine Programme and NOSP training on the design of the "Lets Talk about Suicide" module for ED reception and nursing staff. This work is overseen by a reference group. (**HSE Acute Ops**)

Issue(s): *Timeline*

This programme of work started late due to a number of issues. But significant progress is now being made

- The "Deaths by suspected suicide data sharing protocol" between the HSE and An Garda Síochána has still not been signed by the Garda Senior Leadership Team. The delay is starting to impact local data sharing arrangements, which have been paused (**HSE NOSP**)

Issue(s): *Data*

The Garda Commissioner's office have responded with additional queries about the data sharing protocol which have been addressed.





HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention

March 2025



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