



Connecting for Life Strategy Implementation Monitoring Report

Q2 2025

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention



Connecting for Life



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Needs Attention and Off Track Actions



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1

Introduction and Overview This Period

This is the Q2 2025 implementation monitoring report for Connecting for Life. It will provide an overview of the work carried out by strategy lead agencies from April 2025 - June 2025

To date in this period, of the 67 actions in CfL, updates were received on 52. Of the 52 actions for which updates were received, 1 was 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 actions are provided at the end of this report.

The NGO quarterly CFL implementation report (Q1 2025) has been completed and is available at www.connectingforlifeireland.ie

Some highlights from this period include:

- 'Policy Handbook: A 'real world' guide to policy development', was launched in May 2025. Suicide Prevention Impact Assessment Toolkit was included in the resources, as being most useful for Phase 3 - Design with Best Advice (p.129). (DoH)
- Balancing Stress online programme launched in May 2025. (H&W)
- Bereavement article published in ICGP Forum Journal with associated HSE LinkedIn campaign. (HSE NOSP & HSE MH Ops)
- EDI training received Bronze Accreditation from the Irish Centre of Diversity. Menopause Policy issued. (DAFM)
- HSE NOSP formed new partnership with ESRI to assist with analysis of HI data - looking at suicidality, suicide bereavement & loneliness.
- The Irish Probable Suicide Deaths Study (IPSDS) farmer suicide paper published in the Journal of Agromedicine. (HSE NOSP)
- Key messages for Social Media included promoting My Mental Health Plan & sharing vox pops produced with students in USI. Campaign for Balancing Stress programme launched. (HSE MH Ops)
- Ligature Risk Reduction Guidance is now live and available to inform local policies. (HSE MH Ops)



- Published paper on young people presenting to non-paediatric EDs. (HSE MH Ops)
- Youth Mental Health signposting tool, Navigator, launched by Minister for Mental Health in June 2025.
- Suicide Prevention undergraduate module Train the Trainer delivered, with 10 institutions represented.
- Defence Forces has trained additional SafeTALK staff and now has capacity to deliver training plan.
- Pilot programme developing Student Support Teams in 11 large (400+ pupils) primary schools completed in 5 schools.
- Published 2025 NOSP Annual Report.

This period, updates were received from 16 partners.

Coimisiún na Meán (CnM)
 Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
 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 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)
 TUSLA

This period, updates were not received from 6 partners.

Department of Children, Disability, Integration, Equality and Youth (DCDIEY)
 HSE Acute Hospital Operations (HSE Acute Ops)
 Irish Prison Service (IPS)
 Irish Probation Service (PS)
 Local Government Management Authority (LGMA)
 Press Council of Ireland (Press Council of Ireland)



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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.

- NOSP is collaborating with The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) (as they have access to HI data) - initial analysis of HI data has commenced examining association between suicidality and loneliness using data from HI wave 2021 and 2023. **(HSE NOSP)**
- Ongoing implementation of 2025 milestones. Steering group meeting held in June 2025. **(HSE H&W)**
- Progressing work on the development of the implementation plan for the National Mental Health Promotion Plan. **(DoH)**
- YMH display ads ran across May & June. Radio and digital audio ran in May, including sponsored reads on Crime World podcast. VOD ran for all of June. Search and social were always on for all of Q2. Balancing Stress was added to search plans and went live in April. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- The HSE Safer Nightlife Programme will share awareness & harm reduction info at Mother Pride, Electric Picnic & District X. Outreach teams will offer support, drug info & mental health resources. Drugs.ie will launch a new site in Q4. Research on HHC & festival use is underway with HRB, TCD & RCSI. **(HSE PC)**
- The new National Physical Activity Framework and its associated Action Plan is expected to be brought to Government shortly. **(DTCAGSM) - Sports**

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

- Youth Mental Health signposting tool, Navigator, launched by Minister for Mental Health in June 2025. Three year fact-check of mental health content on YourMentalHealth.ie continued in Q2. Between Q1 and Q2 7,051, plan completions of the online tool My Mental Health Plan. **(HSE MH Ops)**





- Key messages for Social Media included promoting My Mental Health Plan & sharing vox pops produced with students in Union Students in Ireland (USI). Campaign for Balancing Stress programme launched. Key dates marked for Q2 were State Exams, Men's Health Week & Pride. Supported campaigns from CyberSafeKids and SpunOut.ie. **(HSE MH Ops)**

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

- Shine Green Ribbon campaign theme 'Stand up to stamp out stigma'. Pre-campaign comms internally for HSE: HealthMatters article in July, briefing session July. Shine branding updated and mid-year SLA meeting complete. Quarterly meetings ongoing. First Fortnight engaged for possible WSPD event. **(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.

- No complaints have been received in relation to suicide or self-harm under the Code. **(CnM)**
- Media Programme: All monitoring and engagement activities for 2023 and 2024 complete. All 2024 quarterly reports published and available on website. 2025 Q1 coding complete and analysis underway. Continued focus on helpline awareness. Court reporting still presenting issues. Quarterly meetings ongoing. **(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 ROSPs continued with activity to implement Local Action Plans in 2025 and to input into the evaluation of current CfL strategy. In some health areas HSE ROSPs 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).

- The inter agency Preventing Suicide in Public Places working group continues to meet quarterly. A Health Impact Assessment in a new location of concern (motorway bridge) is underway. **(HSE NOSP)**

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

- Training Figures Q1, 2025: safeTALK - 1258, ASIST - 850, USH - 475, USH Online - 24, One Day Bereavement - 143, STORM -59. Let's Talk About Suicide - 1415 enrolments. Suicide Prevention Webinar delivered to Irish Institute of Pharmacy. **(HSE NOSP)**
- Balancing Stress online programme launched in May 2025. Data analysis underway as part of Social Prescribing-Realist evaluation. Act Belong Commit pilot ongoing in Meath and Slaintecare Integration Fund bid submitted for further mainstreaming. Training event held for MYWB trainers to support skill development. **(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.

- A draft suicide prevention workplace guidance has been presented to the Tusla National Policy Oversight Committee. Amendments have been requested and these are now in progress. **(TUSLA)**
- In Q2 117 staff have received Induction training where safeTalk and Let's Talk about Suicide have been promoted. **(DSP)**
- DRCDG is developing the next iteration of Ireland's rural development policy, Our Rural Future. Health and social care, including mental health, in rural Ireland will continue to be a priority in the new policy. DRCDG will continue to engage with DOH. SICAP continues to provide key support. **(DRCD)**
- On Feirm Ground training is ongoing. Open Call for Farm Safety 2025 proposals are being finalised. Webinars hosted on Loneliness and other activities on the importance of Sleep, Minding your Wellbeing. **(DAFM)**
- Additional SafeTALK trainers trained in CORK during Q2 - DF now has in 20+ trainers. Additional Mental Health First Aid trainers trained in DUBLIN during Q2 - DF now has 20 trainers. DF has achieved sufficient capacity of trainers in SafeTALK and MHFA. **(DoD)**
- 'Policy Handbook: A 'real world' guide to policy development', was launched in May 2025. Suicide Prevention Impact Assessment Toolkit was included in the resources, as being most useful for Phase 3 - Design with Best Advice (p.129). **(DoH)**
- This system is in place and this action is complete. **(TUSLA)**
- 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. NOSP has written to the Garda Commissioner. **(HSE NOSP)**



- Implementation of StV Recs 8 & 37 continued 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)**
- There are 1,060 people in Housing First tenancies, with 42 added in Q1 2025. The Inclusion Mental Health Team offers in-reach/outreach and is planning a day hospital. Usher's Island operates 51 beds, supporting homeless individuals with recovery, detox, BBV, and Step-Up/Step-Down care. **(HSE PC)**
- Umbrella review of the social determinants of suicide completed by the NSRF. To inform the next strategy, the NSRF is conducting additional research on effective interventions. **(HSE NOSP)**
- ICGP research proposal accepted, literature review commenced. Minding Your Wellbeing ethics secured, recruitment of students underway to test programme material. Suicide Prevention undergraduate module Train the Trainer delivered , with 10 institutions represented. **(HSE NOSP)**
- Report drafting underway focused on next steps on the scalability of the Traveller Wellbeing through Creativity initiative for 2025. **(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.

- SAOR eLearning: 368 learners successfully completed SAOR eLearning in Q2 (up to 25th June only). Hidden Harm eLearning: 216 learners successfully completed Hidden Harm eLearning in Q2 (up to 25th June only). Webinar sharing the findings from the SAOR Extended Brief Intervention report in May. **(HSE PC)**

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

- Term 2&3 interactive webinar series. Webinar1: Exploring Wellbeing Policy Statement & Framework for Practice Online Workshop x 10 sessions April 1st – May 1st – 168 attendees. Webinar2: Wellbeing Promotion and School Self-Evaluation Online Workshop x 10 sessions May 6th – May 21st – 114 attendees. **(DES)**





- Pilot programme developing Student Support Teams in 11 large (400+ pupils) primary schools completed in 5 schools, and 6 to be completed by the end of this school year. Responses have been positive. **(DES)**
- The review of the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework is now complete and has been approved by the HEA Board for publication. **(HEA)**
- Implementation of Cineáltas is progressing well. The Cineáltas implementation report for 2023 is due to be published shortly. **(DES)**
- Recruitment continues and awaiting primary notice for the 3 Early Intervention Psychosis clinical Programme posts. **(HSE PC)**
- Continued to implement the Child & Youth Mental Health Action Plan to improve consistency and safe delivery of care. SPOA demonstration sites identified in Donegal, Dublin & Galway. Project groups are in each site with representatives from Primary Care, Disabilities, CAMHS and VCS partners. **(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.

- Delivery of 2025 shared care work plan, including engagement with Health & Wellbeing to further integrate MH promotion in primary care (StV Rec 18). Also progressed StV Recs 16,17,19. Interim evaluation report for CRS MOC completed. Recruitment of 2025 approved posts for CRS teams progressed. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Recruitment has progressed well with most posts filled. Evaluation of HRB data in place and Dual Diagnosis data collection ongoing through NDTRS. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Guidance document for suicide and self-harm, awareness, assessment and response in the health services has been reviewed in line with the recent publication of the NHS guidance for mental health practitioners Staying Safe from Suicide. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- Published paper on young people presenting to non-paediatric EDs. Clinical Lead & Nurse Lead presented on NCP at International Association for Suicide Prevention in Vienna. SAMAGH training outsourced to NSRF took place in March 2025 8 clinicians trained. DBT orientation workshop offered for staff. **(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.

- Bereavement article published in ICGP Forum. Journal with associated HSE LinkedIn campaign to follow. Safe Harbour microsite to be developed as part of Phase Two. **(HSE MH Ops)**



- New programme for government funding to enhance suicide bereavement services allocated to NGOs. Engaged with IHF re their bereavement service model for palliative care and overlap with PfG-funded model for suicide bereavement services. **(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.

- Q1 2025 NGO CfL report published on CfL website. Monthly networking calls with NOSP NGO partners continue. Signing of Service Level Agreements is 75% complete with remaining in final stages. Completed process of Mid Year SLA review meetings with NGOs funded in excess of €250K. **(HSE NOSP)**
- The national consultation yielded a significant volume of data which is currently being analysed. **(DES)**
- Catalogue of Wellbeing Resources & TPL Wellbeing Directory for primary and post-primary remain available online for academic year 2024-2025. **(DES)**
- CfL newsletter ongoing – newsletters delivered to 2,080 subscribers and 3612 followers now on LinkedIn. Developed Stakeholder list for all NOSP Staff - 208 contacts. Published 2025 NOSP Annual Report. Suicide Prevention in the Community V2 published. **(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.

- Guidance document for suicide and self-harm, awareness, assessment and response in the health services has been reviewed in line with the recent publication of the NHS guidance for mental health practitioners Staying Safe from Suicide. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- This action is complete as indicated above. **(TUSLA)**

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.

- NOSP Training continues to be promoted to teachers and relevant educational stakeholders. **(DES)**



- This action is in place and complete. **(TUSLA)**
- The HSA continue to undertake psychosocial inspections focusing on the areas of anti-bullying and work related violence and aggression. The team also ran a webinar titled 'Mastering Psychosocial Risk Assessment with Work Positive CI' in conjunction with the State Claims Agency and Wellhub. **(HSA)**
- In Q2 37 staff applied to attend SafeTALK training via the online module. **(DSP)**
- EDI training received Bronze Accreditation from the Irish Centre of Diversity. Menopause Policy issued. (DAFM) **(DAFM)**
- Defence Forces has trained additional SafeTALK staff and now has capacity to deliver training plan. **(DoD)**
- DoH L&D continue to provide access to suicide prevention and training programmes and materials. **(DoH)**
- 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 continue to be reviewed. **(DoH)**



Goal 6: Reduce access to means.

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

- Negotiations with the IPU have commenced and will conclude within 3 months. A key government ask in the negotiations will be a national DUMP scheme, with €1m recurring funding allocated for implementation of same. **(DoH)**
- Draft survey report was circulated and findings and dissemination discussed at meeting held on 15th April. Findings of mystery shopper research were discussed. Report on this work to be drafted for discussion at next meeting. **(DoH)**

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

- Ligature Risk Reduction Policy and Audit Tool Policy are now live and available to inform local policies. In response to a number of incidents, work has commenced by way of safety notice around the use of plastic bags for sanitary products on wards. A cardboard product has been identified that can be used instead of plastic bags. **(HSE MH Ops)**

Goal 7: Better data and research.

7.1 Evaluate the effectiveness and costeffectiveness of Connecting for Life.

- Suicide Observatory Evaluation - stakeholder survey examining scalability has been launched; CSO has provided data to assist with verification process; analysis of interview data underway. Overarching evaluation of CfL - draft report reviewed by NOSP & circulated to ExAG et al for review. **(HSE NOSP)**

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

- This system is in place and action is complete. **(TUSLA)**
- Feasibility study for National Probable Suicide Register progressed. through links with Suicide Prevention Public Health Working Group. Resource to implement register under discussion. Guidance document relating to probable suicide amongst community users featured on Patient Safety virtual event. **(HSE MH Ops)**
- IPSDS farmer suicide paper published - Journal of Agromedicine; Mental Health multimorbidity paper under review & female suicide paper submitted to Deaths Studies. Met with Pobal re: 2016 Small Area deprivation data. **(HSE NOSP)**

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

- CSO Liaison Group met in April. Updates provided on changes to death registration and mortality data. Engagement between the HSE and Coroner's Service facilitated to inform development of proposed National Surveillance System/platform. **(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)**
- HSE NOSP formed new partnership with The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) to assist with analysis of HI data - looking at suicidality, suicide bereavement & loneliness. Suicide Observatory Advisory Group Meeting held in Q2. **(HSE NOSP)**



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At a Glance: Needs Attention

Goal 5

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 continue to be reviewed. *(DoH)*

Issue(s): *Capacity*

It has not been possible to progress this action due to capacity constraints.



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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.

- 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. NOSP has written to the Garda Commissioner. *(HSE NOSP)*





HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention

June 2025



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