



Connecting for Life strategy implementation monitoring report Q1 2022

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention



Connecting for Life



Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction and overview this quarter
- 2 Overview of progress on strategic goals
- 3 Needs Attention and Off Track Actions

1: Introduction

This is the Q1 2022 implementation monitoring report for *Connecting for Life (CfL)*. It will provide an overview of the work carried out by strategy lead agencies from October 2021-March 2022, and it is the first monitoring report since September 2021.

This quarter, of the 67 actions in CfL, updates were received on 65. Of these 65 actions for which updates were received, 7 were logged as needing attention and 1 was 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.

Some highlights from this quarter include:

- The local CfL plans being developed by CHOs to cover the extended implementation period of the national plan are progressing. To date, four local plans have been completed (in CHOs 2, 5, 6 and 7).



- 2022 SLAs signed and ongoing engagement with 21 NGO partners. The latest NGO report can be found at www.connectingforlifeireland.ie
- Traffic to YMH.ie increased by almost 10% against Q1 2021. The most viewed page in Q1 was on Self-Harm.
- There was significant traction online with the new HSE campaign on bereavement and grief.
- The incident-specific review tool for suspected suicide amongst community mental health service users has been drafted with a focus on complementing the use of the HSE Incident Management Framework.
- The DOE has commenced a review of both the 2013 Action Plan on Bullying and the Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.



This quarter updates were received from 16 partners:

- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
- Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
- Press Council of Ireland
- Department of Education (DoE)
- Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- HSE Health and Wellbeing (HSE H&W)
- HSE Mental Health Operations (HSE MH)
- HSE Primary Care (HSE PC)
- HSE Acute Hospitals
- HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (HSE NOSP)
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM) - Media
- Department of Health (DoH)
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)
- Department of Justice (DoJ)
- Health and Safety Authority (HSA)

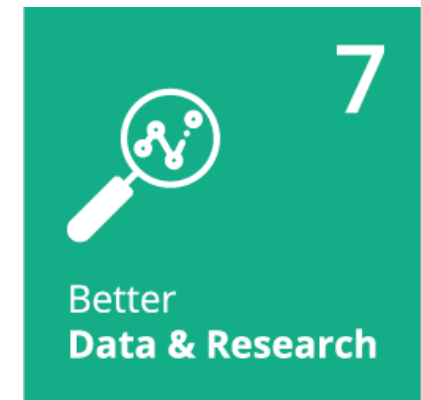
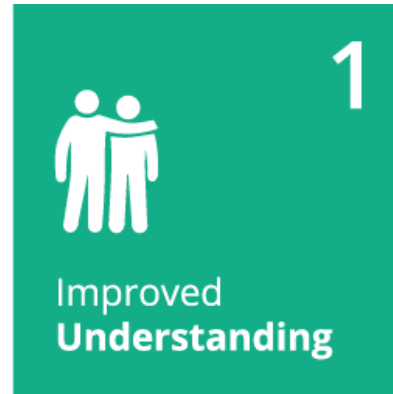


This quarter updates not received from 5 partners:

- Local Government Management Authority (LGMA)
- Department of Children, Disability, Integration, Equality and Youth (DCDIEY)
- Tusla
- Department of Defence (DoD)
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM) - Sports



2: Overview of progress on CfL strategic goals





Goal 1: Improved understanding

1.1 Understanding suicidal behaviour	1.2 Awareness of services	1.3 Reducing stigma	1.4 Media and reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio advertising, social media and paid search campaigns for YMH.ie continued throughout Q1 including key dates in January and across St Patrick's weekend. Social media and paid search developed to promote the launch of the StV Implementation Plan (HSE MH Ops).• The HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan will be launched on April 6th (HSE H&W).• Healthy Ireland has partnered with Sport Ireland for a citizen engagement campaign called "Let's Get Back" to encourage people to return to sport and physical activity. Healthy Ireland is also currently running it's "Let's Get Set" engagement campaign (DoH).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Content Management System now in place for YMH.ie.. Traffic to YMH.ie increased by almost 10% against Q1 2021. The most viewed page in Q1 was on Self-Harm. There was significant traction online with the new HSE campaign on bereavement and grief (HSE MH Ops).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Q1 See Change completed and delivered: Green Ribbon Impact Report 2021; Mental Health Matters, a guide to ending mental health stigma in the workplace; Stand up to Stigma, findings from Kantar survey.• First Fortnight delivered a programme of festival events in January, although this was disrupted by changing public health restrictions. Of 55 scheduled events, 39 proceeded (~1,500 attendees in person and ~1,500 attendees online). Some postponed events have been rescheduled to run later this year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Via Service Level Agreement, NOSP committed to supporting Samaritans Ireland's programme of work promoting online safety, in 2022 (Online Excellence' programme).• There were no complaints submitted this quarter to the Press Council or the Broadcasting Authority regarding the reporting of suicide.• Headline: 2,647 online articles required review and analysis: 569 breaches in suicide reporting guidelines observed - 21% of applicable articles.• Headline Education: two third-level student workshops held (31 students).



Goal 2: Empowered Communities

2.1 Multiagency community responses	2.2 Accurate information and guidance	2.3 Education and training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local CfL plans being developed by CHOs to cover the extended implementation period of the national plan are progressing. To date, four local plans have been completed (in CHOs 2, 5, 6 and 7). Local plans in other areas are in the final stages of editing. A total of ten local plans are anticipated, one per CHO with the exception of CHO 4 where a separate plan will be published for Cork and for Kerry (HSE MH Ops).• NOSP and HSE MH Ops also continue to meet regularly with the ROSPs and continue to update the guidance document referencing local implications of national CfL developments / priorities / progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial stakeholder consultation on development of guidance for self-harm has taken place and the advisory group has been established (NOSP).• ‘Suicide Prevention in the Community – A Practical Guide’ is at final drafting stage (NOSP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for tender to develop online training programme published on e-tenders (NOSP).• Data collection systems in place across all CHOs. Total training figures Q4 2021, 370 people attended training and 1327 licences issues for self directed training (Start) (NOSP).• The Minding Your Wellbeing Programme has been reformatted to allow for online delivery and socially distanced face to face delivery (HSE H&W).• Ongoing planning for the procurement of a HSE Digital system to support data and monitoring of social prescribing across sites underway (HSE H&W).



Goal 3: Focus on Priority Groups

3.1 Reducing suicide among priority groups	3.2 Early intervention & prevention of substance misuse with Primary Care	3.3 Supports for young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of health monitoring framework to measure health outcomes including mental health outcomes as part of Housing First (HSE PC).• Funding call announced for once-off funding for creativity and arts based initiatives among the Traveller community (HSE H&W).• Development of online e-learning module on Migrant Mental Health & Wellbeing underway (HSE H &W).• January 2022 Webinar on Early Intervention in Psychosis: attended by 1342 GPs and Practice Nurses. March Webinar on Wellbeing, and MyMind Counselling Services: attended by 117 GPs.• Report on findings of Veterinary survey completed (NOSP).• Findings from Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI) report on impact of Covid-19 were launched by Minister Mary Butler.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAOR training resumed in February via virtual classroom but at greatly reduced numbers (HSE PC).• SAOR eLearning remained available on HSELand but as a result of the cyber attack on HSE systems, HSELand was unavailable from mid-May until mid-August 2021 (HSE PC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEPS psychologists have commenced supporting schools to embed good practice in the establishment and operation of Student Support Teams (DOE).• The DOE has commenced a review of both the 2013 Action Plan on Bullying and the Anti-bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. The review will specifically consider areas such as cyber bullying, gender identity bullying and sexual harassment.• Sharing the Vision Specialist group on Youth Mental Health Transitions established. As of end of January the national CAMHS waiting list had 3,449 people to be seen and 272 waiting for more than 12 months compared with 2,591 waiting in the same period last year and 304 waiting over 12 months. Note: data above is 'live' and therefore subject to validation (HSE MH Ops).• The Student Mental Health and Wellbeing funding allocation for 2021 was communicated to HEIs on 29 October 2021. PCHEI have identified 2 priority work packages, which continues the framework implementation at a sectoral level.



Goal 4: Better access to support

4.1 Assessments and Care Pathways	4.2 Therapeutic Interventions	4.3 Support Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the required staffing levels for the 7/7 service improvement project have been achieved a review of the implementation of this service improvement is now being planned (HSE MH Ops).• The model of care for dual diagnosis has been developed by the Clinical Care Programme and it will be presented to the Chief Clinical Officers Council in Q2. Three sites have been identified for the initial roll-out of the MoC (one adolescent and two adult) (HSE MH Ops).• Revised NCP SH was launched in February 2022. Nurse Lead post vacant since Jan 2022. WTE has been increased to full time for 2 years and post advertised via EOI, closing date 30th March. Data template has been updated and is expected to go live from April 2022 (HSE MH Ops).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding has been secured for CHO demonstration sites (Talking Therapies) to recruit 5.2 WTE staff for both a mini-Hub and three selected CMHTs (HSE MH Ops).• Evaluation plans and clinical governance structures are also being prioritised (HSE MH Ops).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is ongoing to develop a submission for the HRB Applied Partnership Awards with an intended focus on suicide bereavement supports for children and young adults. The National Suicide Bereavement Support Advisory Group continues to meet (NOSP, HSE MH Ops).• Funding of national bereavement counselling and SBLO service agreed for 2022. New funding agreed for peer support service (through HUGG) (HSE NOSP).• National Bereavement Support and Communications Programme general population campaign developed and launched across social, radio and print media (HSE NOSP, HSE MH, HSE Acutes).



Goal 5: High quality services

5.1 National quality standards, guidance and information for suicide prevention	5.2 Responses to suicidal behaviour in services	5.3 Responses to suicidal behaviour in the justice system	5.4 Best practice among Practitioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022 SLAs signed and ongoing engagement with 21 NGO partners (NOSP).• Q1 new publications published:- Research on workplace interventions and supports (full report and summary report) (NOSP).• Q1 (to date) NOSP Twitter - 32,800 impressions (number of times the content was seen).• National Policy Group for Lifelong Guidance has been established as recommended by Indecon in its review of Career Guidance Tools and Information (DOE).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The incident-specific review tool for suspected suicide amongst community mental health service users has been drafted with a focus on complementing the use of the HSE Incident Management Framework (HSE MH Ops).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IPS continue to implement Prisoner Release Policy (IPS: DoJ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication to all staff seeking members to join the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy Team. Progress on the implementation of the Work Positive Action plan to support staff following the survey (DAFM).• The National Framework for Healthy Workplaces in Ireland 2021 – 2025 was launched by the Department of Health in December 2021. The Health and Safety Authority will support the national roll-out of the Healthy Workplace Framework (HSA).• 1,892 IPS staff out of 2,800 now received mental health training; 300 non IPS staff (inreach staff) now trained. 8 Probation Officers underwent STORM Training in Q1 2022 (IPS Probation: DoJ).





Goal 6: Reduced access to means

6.1 Access to drugs used in intentional overdose	6.2 Lethal methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress to date reviewed with Medicines Unit and a number of routes to progress action identified. Of note, a number of actions in recent years have contributed to improving awareness of inappropriate prescribing (DoH).• Working group established to continue improvements in adherence to the legislation limiting access to paracetamol. WG includes key stakeholders - DoH, NOSP, HPRA, PSI, IPU, Retail Sector representation (DoH).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ligature risk reduction national guidelines document and related audit tool (based on the Manchester Tool) were launched in Q4 2021. Training resources (two modules for HSELand) have been developed and are live (HSE MH Ops).



Goal 7: Better data and research

7.1 Evaluating CfL	7.2 High quality Data	7.3 Death Recording	7.4 Research and Evaluation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">NOSP have commenced preparations with the CfL Evaluation Advisory Group (EAG) on the development of an options appraisal for the overarching evaluation of CfL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following ethical approval both relevant datasets have now been transferred to the NSRF, i.e. the MHC data on suspected suicides and the NIMS data, via HSE (both covering 2015 to 2020). Data analysis has commenced (HSE MH Ops).SADA ongoing (IPS: DoJ).Psychology assessment for all 18-24 year olds is ongoing (IPS: DoJ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Loss of life captured in SADA (IPS: DoJ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The analysis report on the Progress Reports received from HEIs, for the 2020 Student Mental Health and Wellbeing funding allocations and National Projects, was sent to DFHERIS in November 2021, following approval by the HEA Board.239 student counselling services staff in HEIs have received CAMS training (HEA).



3. At a Glance: Needs Attention (7 actions)

Goal 2

2.1.1 Implement consistent, multi-agency suicide prevention action plans to enhance communities' capacity to respond to suicidal behaviours, emerging suicide clusters and murder suicide. The plans will be the responsibility of HSE Mental Health Division and aligned with HSE Community Health Organisations structure, Local Economic and Community Plans and Children and Young People's Services Committee's (CYPSC) county plans (HSE MH Ops).

Not all CHOs have completed plans within Q1 of 2022 and senior management engagement with the plans has not been a priority in all areas.

2.3.2 Deliver training and awareness programmes in line with the National Training Plan prioritising professionals and volunteers across community-based organisations, particularly those who come into regular contact with people who are vulnerable to suicide (HSE NOSP).

Review of Q1 2022 training data required to determine if all CHO areas are collecting data in a standardised manner.

Goal 4

4.1.1 Provide a co-ordinated, uniform and quality assured 24/7 service and deliver pathways of care from primary to secondary mental health services for all those in need of specialist mental health services (HSE MH Ops).

This work / the review of the service improvement project has not been prioritised.

4.1.4 Deliver a uniform assessment approach across the health services, in accordance with existing and recognised guidelines for people who have self-harmed or are at risk of suicide (HSE MH Ops).

The completion of this service improvement project has not been prioritised.





At a Glance: Needs Attention (7 actions) - continued

Goal 5

5.2.1 Develop and deliver a uniform procedure to respond to suicidal behaviour across mental health services. (HSE MH Ops).

The completion of this service improvement project has not been prioritised.

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

Need to re-establish connections with relevant professional regulatory bodies.

Goal 6

6.1.1 Work with professional groups to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of medicines commonly used in intentional overdose, including benzodiazepines and SSRIs (DOH).

Need to engage with relevant professional groups.



At a Glance: Off Track (1 action)

Goal 7

7.2.3 Collect, analyse and disseminate high quality data on suicide and self-harm and ensure adequate access to and understanding of the data among those working in suicide prevention across all sectors. (HSE NOSP)

Further consideration around data protection and risk management needed.



HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention – April 2022

