



Connecting for Life strategy implementation monitoring report Q2 2023

HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention



Connecting for Life



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1: Introduction

This is the Q2 2023 implementation monitoring report for *Connecting for Life (CfL)*. It will provide an overview of the work carried out by strategy lead agencies from April 2023 to June 2023.

To date in this period, of the 67 actions in CfL, **updates were received on 61**. Of these 61 actions for which updates were received, **1 was logged as needing attention and 3 were 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 2023) has been completed and will be available [here](#) shortly.

Some highlights from this period include:

- Local Suicide Action Plans were launched and for CHO1 and CHO8.
- A new Suicide Prevention in the Community book has been published.
- ICGP Quick Reference Guide for Depression launched by Minister Butler.



- In Q1 2023, 4203 people participated in NOSP's suicide prevention programmes and 110 people attended the Suicide Bereavement for Professional Workshop.
- New e-learning module "Social Prescribing for Health professionals" available on HSE Land.
- Mental health supports service to people experiencing homelessness (Stepped Model of Mental Health) is being established in St James Hospital.
- New training module 'Understanding Migrant Mental Health and Wellbeing' has been launched.
- In Q2 the HSE launched a new Model of Care for Crisis Resolution Services, to provide brief person-centred intensive supports in people's home and community as an alternative to hospital admission.
- Up to 31.05.23 263 courses were taken in Managing Bullying Complaints at Work – for Managers. 393 courses were taken in Psychosocial Hazards and Stress at Work. And 5 courses were taken in Psychosocial Hazards and Stress at Work (Ukraine Version). (Health and Safety Authority)
- Ethical approval for pharmacy and retail consultation survey received. Retail and pharmacy flyer information finalised by WG and printed, ready for dissemination in soft/hard copies.
- A Business Case and Options Appraisal has been developed for the overarching evaluation of CfL.



This period updates were received from 17 partners:

- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)
- Department of Children, Disability, Integration, Equality and Youth (DCDIEY)
- HSE Primary Care (HSE PC)
- Tusla
- Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
- Department of Health (DoH)
- HSE Health and Wellbeing (HSE H&W)
- HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (HSE NOSP)
- HSE Mental Health Operations (HSE MH Ops)
- Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- Coimisiún na Meán
- Local Government Management Authority (LGMA)
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM) – Sports
- Press Council of Ireland
- HSE Acute Hospitals (HSE Acute Ops)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
- Department of Education (DoE)

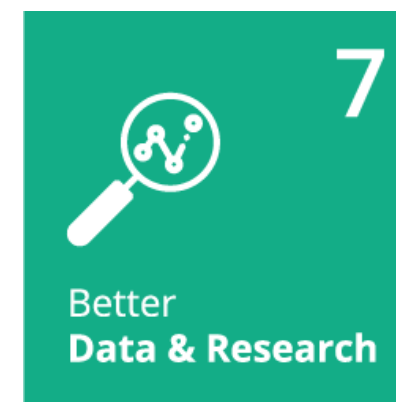
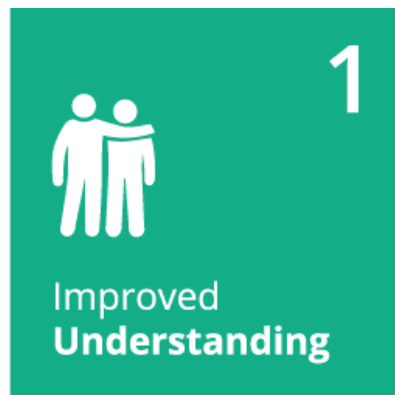
This period updates were not received from 3 partners:

- Department of Justice (DoJ) – specifically the Irish Prison Service and Irish Probation service due to capacity issues.
- Department of Defence (DoD)
- Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)





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">• Met with lead partners to agree milestones (Stronger Together). Progress reported from lead partners underway on a number of key milestones across the 27 action areas. (HSE H&W)• Volunteer recruitment conducted and group of volunteers engaged in 1 day in-person training in May for HSE Safer Nightlife festival programme. Harm reduction outreach and back of house analysis delivered at Life Festival and Body & Soul 2023. (HSE PC)• In collaboration with TUSLA, eLearning and training on Hidden Harm developed to support HSE, TUSLA and Community & Voluntary sector staff to identify and respond to Hidden Harm. Training tested in three sites in Q4 2023. (HSE PC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online interactive tool to provide tailored mental health information and guidance in development. Currently reviewing algorithms, content and layout. Website content updates continue. Digital Mental Health Writing Group considering the model of layered care levels 1-5 and looking at key actions/recommendations for growth of digital mental health. (HSE MH Ops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Change are preparing for the Green Ribbon Campaign which will take place in September. (HSE NOSP)• Thematic campaign calendar continues monthly: July - Judgement of Travellers. (HSE NOSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headline have introduced a new fellowship programme with the Rosaleen Carter Foundation in the US, and related information sessions and applications process commenced. The goals of the fellowship are to increase effective and accurate reporting on mental health issues; equip journalists with the tools needed to produce high-quality work that reflects an understanding of mental health challenges, and develop a diverse cohort of better-informed journalists who can more effectively report on mental health across evolving and emerging platforms. (HSE NOSP)• No complaints were received under Principle 10 of the Press Council's Code of Practice so far this year. (Press Council)



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">Local Plan for CHO CDLMS (CHO1) launched and available online. Local Plan for CHO8 approved by NOSP and launched on 31st May.Local plan for Cork and Kerry finalised and with HoS for approval.Local Plan for CHO3 – Project Team are meeting to agree milestones & reporting mechanism. (HSE MH Ops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Suicide Prevention in the Community book has been redeveloped and published. (HSE NOSP)Guidance on suicide prevention in the workplace has been drafted. (HSE NOSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Education and Training Plan 2023-2024 finalised. Train the Trainer Events delivered Q2. ASIST Train the Trainer Event for 20 people. (HSE NOSP)Training figures for Q1: SafeTALK 1859, ASIST 860, USH 418, USH Online 94, Professional Bereavement Workshop 110, START 942, STORM 30. (HSE NOSP)SafeTALK 16-18 year olds, consultation completed with youth orgs - staff and young people - report in development. (HSE NOSP)Recording of HSE Stress Management Programme complete. Editing of content and final checks underway. Final Stress Control programme delivered week commencing 8th May 2023. (HSE H&W)New e-learning module "Social Prescribing for Health professionals" available on HSE Land. New national virtual learning network established for social prescribing link workers and those involved in supporting delivery of social prescribing. (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">• Agreement to complete an initiation form for a Tusla suicide prevention policy secured. (Tusla)• Mental health supports service to people experiencing homelessness (Stepped Model of Mental Health) is being established in St James Hospital. (HSE PC)• Traveller projects funded through CSEF include specific programmes in CHO1 and Traveller Substance Use Outreach Worker in CHO5. (HSE PC)• New training module 'Understanding Migrant Mental Health and Wellbeing' has been launched. (HSE PC and HSE H&W)• Continued targeted training with GPs through the ICGP. Webinar – Managing ADHD in Practice (930 GPs attended). Quick Reference Guide for Depression launched by Minister Butler. Prof Dodd presented to National ICGP CME Tutors network. (HSE NOSP)• NOSP has recruited a dedicated national trainer for frontline staff.• NOSP has awarded an additional grant to UCD Agriculture and Psychology to develop a suicide prevention intervention for farmers based on their original research (Dying 2 Farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refresher training for SAOR trainers delivered. (HSE PC)• Train the Trainer completed, 17 new SAOR trainers nationally. (HSE PC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing the Vison Workstream 1 (Transition from CAMHs to AMHS pathway): Completion of the 'Enhanced Transition Plan' brought to an end the work of Workstream 1 of the YMH Transitions Specialist Group. (HSE MH Ops)• Workstream 2 (0-25 MHS): Final research submission from NUIG on research on international best practice evidence and Models of Care for CAMHS reconfiguration. Funded places in Certificate in Youth Psychiatry increased from 6 to 12 due to demand. 10 psychiatrists and 2 GPs have been enrolled and commenced on the course. (HSE MH Ops)• The Department has established a Cineáltas implementation and evaluation group and will produce annual implementation and evaluation reports based on feedback from children and young people, parents, school staff, education partners, key stakeholders and relevant agencies. Work is continuing to revise the Anti-bullying procedures for schools with a view to phased implementation from Sept 2023. (DoE)• NCCA published redeveloped Junior Cycle SPHE specification in May which is to be rolled out in schools in September. A programme of CPD based on the new specification was provided from March to May to aid implementation. (DoE)



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">In Q2 the HSE launched a new Model of Care for Crisis Resolution Services, to provide brief person-centred intensive supports in people's home and community as an alternative to hospital admission. Crisis Café teams will provide an out-of-hours friendly and supportive community crisis prevention and crisis response service in the evenings and at weekends in a café style/non-clinical and safe environment. The café service, Solace Café, will support individuals and their family members/carers to manage their mental health and wellbeing, and link them in with relevant HSE and statutory providers. (HSE MH Ops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Steering and Working group for Talk Therapies in Specialist Mental Health Services meetings have taken place in Q2 and the role of both at this stage in the implementation of the Model of Care is being discussed. (HSE MH Ops)Recruitment is at an advanced stage with all clinical roles filled and some administrator roles still being recruited. The HSE has engaged the NSRF to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of the Talk Therapies in Specialist Mental Health Services Model of Care. Initial meetings with teams in pilot sites are scheduled to commence in June 2023. The results of this evaluation will inform the further roll out of the Model of Care. (HSE MH Ops)More than 10,000 people have completed a programme with SilverCloud via the HSE to date. There is a monthly average of 1063 activations over the last 3 months. Activation rates average at 59%. Referrals are predominantly from GPs but also from Primary Care Psychology, CIPC, Jigsaw and Community Mental Health teams. (HSE MH Ops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued to develop the illustrated story book for children aged 4 to 7 bereaved by suicide and associated guide for parents. (HSE NOSP)Continued to work with HSE Digital to update the suicide bereavement content on YMH.ie. (HSE NOSP)Developed a request for tender for consultant to engage in a process to identify information needs of children & young adults and their families bereaved by suicide. (HSE NOSP)Continued engagement with NSRF re bereavement scoping research to determine best practice internationally with a view to informing future development in this area. (HSE NOSP)



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">• New publications in Q2: Suicide Prevention in the Community (2022) (HSE NOSP)• New mailing list/subscriber solution acquired and related Data Privacy Impact Assessment completed and consulted on. (HSE NOSP)• Development of an improved online solution for publications. (HSE NOSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft of SSHAARP document at final editing stage. Engagement with MHER to ensure input from lived experience panel. Document to be circulated to group for consultation before being finalised, published and made available online. (HSE MH Ops)	<p>No updates provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement has commenced with relevant bodies to highlight NOSP's accredited training modules and introduce them to NOSP to further encourage adopting the suicide training as a CPD module and recommend making it mandatory if possible. (DoH)• Work has commenced on the upgrade of the Work Positive tool. Bi-lingual psychosocial media campaign run in May-June 2023 can be found here. www.hsa.ie/eng/zoom-ad/ (HSA)• Up to 31.05.23 263 courses were taken in Managing Bullying Complaints at Work – for Managers. 393 courses were taken in Psychosocial Hazards and Stress at Work. And 5 courses were taken in Psychosocial Hazards and Stress at Work (Ukraine Version). (HSA)• Consultation with key stakeholders on draft curriculum module components and implementation structures. Facilitated workshop with - The Centre for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CITRL) at UCC. (HSE NOSP)



Goal 6: Reduced access to means

6.1 Access to drugs used in intentional overdose

- MHU sits on the Medical Council's Over-prescribing working group. This multi-disciplinary group considers issues relating to promoting correct prescribing of medications, in particular benzodiazepines and z drugs. Medical Council advisory group met again in June. A draft report is in preparation. (DoH)
- DoH working with the Environmental Protection Agency re the development of a National DUMP Campaign, as per the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2026. MHU linking with Community Pharmacy Unit of DoH to advance. (DoH)
- Ethical approval for pharmacy and retail consultation survey received from UCD low risk ethics committee. Retail and pharmacy flyer information finalised by WG and printed, ready for dissemination in soft/hard copies. (DoH)

6.2 Lethal methods

- Since the publication of the HSE Guidance on the Development and Implementation of a Ligature Risk Reduction Audit Tool, and based on the most recent available evidence, we are advising that ligature audit tools should not reference height as a predictor or mitigating factor. (HSE MH Ops)
- In May NOSP presented to the CCMA RCCH Committee and continues to engage with the Healthy Ireland Healthy Communities programme to promote suicide reduction measures in public places. (LGMA)



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">A Business Case and Options Appraisal has been developed re: overarching evaluation of CfL in partnership with the ExAG. The draft tender was prepared for discussion at the June ExAG meeting and subsequent approval by the NOSP management team and Department of Health. (HSE NOSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reports based on the data completeness study presented to AND for MH Ops/ AND for QPS Community Operations and AND for MH Planning. Also communicated to National Patient Safety office in the DoH. (HSE MH Ops)Guidelines for responding to suspected suicides amongst community mental health service users have also been completed and will be circulated to stakeholders for consultation. (HSE MH Ops)IPSDS infographics have been prepared. Briefing paper on IPSDS suicide mortality rates completed. Presentation at Public Health Conference on Coroner's Verdict and Suicide. (HSE NOSP)	<p>The most recent CSO Suicide Mortality Statistics Liaison Group Meeting focussed on the publication of the annual Suicide Statistics by the CSO. This will be towards the end of the year in order to try and ensure that it has its own window. (DoJ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NSRF continue to oversee the C-SSHRI initiative to contribute to the co-ordination and streamlining of research completed by third-level institutions. Satisfactory progress update received by HEA. (HEA)DIAG and ExAG meetings convened in April and June. Planet Youth and C-SSHRI meetings deferred to Q3.(HSE NOSP)



3. At a Glance: Needs Attention (1 Action)

Goal 7

7.1.1 Conduct proportionate evaluations of all major activities conducted under the aegis of Connecting for Life; disseminate findings and share lessons learned with programme practitioners and partners.

(HSE NOSP)

Evaluation of Suicide Observatory has been deferred until data from IPSDS can be made available. Research capacity.



3. At a Glance: Off Track (3 actions)

Goal 1

1.4.4 Monitor media reporting of suicide, and engage with the media in relation to adherence to guidelines on media reporting. (HSE NOSP)

Backlogs in media managing administration in Headline.

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. (HSE NOSP)

Delay in signing protocol by An Garda Síochána due to staff retirement. This has now been escalated to the AGS Head of Data Protection for completion and signing.

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. (HSE Acute Operations)

This action has not progressed satisfactorily due to a number of deferments of proposed project start dates. Acute Operations will engage with NOSP and Mental Health about a different approach in the context of previous project deferments.



HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention – July 2023

