



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Via email

Clare Haughey MSP
Minister for Mental Health

Health and Sport Committee

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Dear Minister

Suicide Prevention Action Plan

The Committee welcomes the publication of the Suicide Prevention Strategy on 8 August 2018. The Committee is pleased the Strategy incorporates a number of the issues and suggestions made by the Committee following our evidence sessions on suicide prevention. There is one area we would like clarification and reassurance upon and that relates to the monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan.

In my letter to the Scottish Government of 15 June we suggested the Suicide Prevention Plan should specify who is responsible for the evaluation of suicide prevention work and put in place a long-term evaluation and monitoring framework to monitor progress.

We note, the plan does not specify how or by whom monitoring or evaluation of suicide prevention efforts will occur. This is vitally important, without evaluation there is no way to identify the impact action under the plan will have on the number of deaths by suicide in Scotland.

We therefore want the impacts of the plan to be monitored and evaluated. It is important that we can monitor the actions on the ground by NHS boards, integration authorities and local authorities to determine the effectiveness of Scottish Government policies and plans. It would be helpful in your response if you could specify with whom

responsibility for the evaluation of suicide prevention work lies and the frequency of reporting on the impact of the plan.

It would be helpful if the Committee could be kept informed of progress towards the Suicide Prevention Action Plan aim to further reduce the rate of suicide by 20% by 2022 and the work of the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group (NSPLG).

It would be much appreciated if a response could be received by Friday 12 October.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee