



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
11 March 2020
Our ref: 6158088

Thank you for your request received on 4 March 2020, for the following information:

I hope you are well. Could you please treat my request for information about suicide prevention as a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1a. Does your council have a multi-agency suicide prevention partnership in place? Please answer either Yes or No.

1b. Please give details as to the partnership(s) in place?

2a. Who has the council identified as being at-risk of suicide in your area? Please be specific in your answer by providing details such as gender, age, ethnicity and socio-economic status etc.

2b. How does your Suicide Prevention Plan target the above group(s)?

3a. What data do you collect on attempted suicides in your area?

3b. Is this data shared? Please answer either Yes or No.

3c. Which organisations is this data shared with? Please list them.

4a. How is the council supporting those people bereaved, or affected by, a suspected suicide?

4b. How is the council supporting women, aged 10 and above?

5a. Has the council identified high-frequency suicide locations? Please answer either Yes or No.

5b. What steps have been considered or taken to reduce the risk of suicide at such locations?

6a. How much money has been allocated to suicide prevention each financial year, since the launch of your Suicide Prevention Plan, until 2018/19?

6b. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year?

6c. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year to support the at-risk group(s) identified in Q2a?

6d. Please can you provide a full breakdown of how you spent suicide prevention funds in each financial year?

7a. How much money has your council allocated to mental health generally in each financial year, since the launch of your Suicide Prevention Plan, until 2018/19?

7b. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year?

Please acknowledge this FOI request by reply with a reference on receipt.

If I'm mistaken and the information requested is already in the public domain, or if you've already published a similar response, please direct me to where I can find it. If you have published some of the requested information already but not all, can you please point me towards what you had already published and fill in the gaps by reply?

If you feel you cannot provide all of this information, please provide what information you can in the spirit of Section 16 of FOI, to 'provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made requests for information'.

Please send me the information by email in an Excel (xls) document and not a PDF.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, and at any rate, within the statutory time limit of 20 working

days from your receipt of this email.

Whilst writing, I take this opportunity to remind you of the Information Commissioner's public statements, in which he has stated that there is a "presumption of disclosure" under FOI.

Please note that if this request for FOI disclosure is refused, I reserve the right to take up the matter with the Information Commissioner and/or to pursue all legal avenues of appeal. I trust this will not be necessary.

Thanks in advance for your help.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and it is attached/ the answers to your questions are below

Could you please treat my request for information about suicide prevention as a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1a. Does your council have a multi-agency suicide prevention partnership in place? YES 1b. Please give details as to the partnership(s) in place?

Barnet Public Health initiated a multi-agency working group to create a suicide prevention plan in 2014. It brings together a range of local partners including representatives from the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, London Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police, Ambulance services, local NHS organisations including the mental health trust, Safeguarding Team, Community Safety Team, Children's and Adult Social Care, GPs, University, Colleges and Schools, the Voluntary and Community Sector and people who bereaved by suicide. The group reviews suicide and self-harms rates, tracks policy developments and produces a joint action plan for partners to carry out. In line with the national guidelines the key priority areas identified as prevention (reducing the suicide rate in Barnet and to prevent and respond to self-harm) and post-vention (providing better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide).

2a. Who has the council identified as being at-risk of suicide in your area? Please be specific in your answer by providing details such as gender, age, ethnicity and socio-economic status etc. We are currently working towards improving our understanding of the at risk groups including young and middle-aged men, Eastern European Communities, LGBTQ groups

Looked After Children (LAC) and people at risk of reoffending. We use nationally available data to target at risk groups and also planning to commission a research into Eastern European Communities in Barnet.

2b. How does your Suicide Prevention Plan target the above group(s)?

Barnet's Suicide Prevention Action Plan includes actions to understand what specific support could be available for the at risk groups. For example, we have plans to develop a social marketing campaign targeting middle-aged men. A work has already been done with local LGBTQ organisations in promoting good mental health and raising awareness of suicide prevention. In addition, the partnership is promoting the Zero Suicide Alliance training to residents and the workforce.

3a. What data do you collect on attempted suicides in your area?

We use the data available through Office for National Statistics and Public Health England's Suicide Prevention Profile to understand the local picture. We also limited service data – Barnet Bereavement Service reports number of people received bereavement support affected by suicide.

We will soon start to receive data on suspected suicide through Thrive London's Information Sharing Hub. This will not only improve our understanding of local suicide cases but will enable better suicide prevention planning, post-vention and support for the bereaved.

3b. Is this data shared? Please answer either

Yes

3c. Which organisations is this data shared with?

The data is shared with the organisations who take part in the partnership, elected members and at times with public.

4a. How is the council supporting those people bereaved, or affected by, a suspected suicide? Working across North Central London colleagues we have successfully received funds from NHS England and just commissioned a sector-wide "Support After Suicide" service.

The service will help navigate and support those bereaved by suicide through the intense emotional turmoil of the period after suicide. It will also aims to support communities bereaved by suicide in partnership with local agencies and community groups. Additionally, within Barnet the CCG commission Barnet Bereavement Service and a number of other mental health support services within the community which can offer support to people such as the Barnet Wellbeing Hub.

4b. How is the council supporting women, aged 10 and above? The service described above will include women and aged 10+.

In general, Barnet Council by working with the CCG and other partners promote positive mental health. Barnet Council commissions Mental Health First Aid training to ensure front line staff are fully equipped to deal with mental health emergencies. The Council is signed up to Time Change and encouraging people to talk about mental health. The new Social Prescribing Link Workers will be instrumental to detect sign of mental distress and make referral to local services and activities. Additionally, within Barnet the CCG have commissioned Mental Health Primary Care Link Workers (18+) who are embedded into primary care and a number of other support services such as Barnet Wellbeing Hub which is open to people aged 16+.

5a. Has the council identified high-frequency suicide locations? Yes, this work has been done. Currently, there is not any known high-frequency suicide locations in Barnet. 5b. What steps have been considered or taken to reduce the risk of suicide at such locations?

N/A

6a. How much money has been allocated to suicide prevention each financial year, since the launch of your Suicide Prevention Plan, until 2018/19?

0.1 fte staff time since the launch of the partnership. £15K mental health and suicide prevention campaign and community engagement event in 2019. Going forward Barnet Council is investing £30K in the next two years (2020-2022) into the commissioned post-vention service.

6b. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year? All spent in 2019. 6c. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year to support the at-risk group(s) identified in Q2a? O

Our services support all residents of Barnet across the life course and we are committed to protect the most vulnerable.

6d. Please can you provide a full breakdown of how you spent suicide prevention funds in each financial year?

2019 £8K community engagement and social media and £7K film production

7a. How much money has your council allocated to mental health generally in each financial year, since the launch of your Suicide Prevention Plan, until 2018/19?

Adult social care commission a range of preventive support services aimed at promoting mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, Adult Social Care allocates a significant proportion of its budget each financial year to supporting people within the community with mental health needs eligible for support in line with the eligibility criteria as set out by the Care Act. Also see 6a.

7b. How much money of said budget has been spent and unspent in each financial year?

See 7a.

Please acknowledge this FOI request by reply with a reference on receipt.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.