Suicide in Salford  
A Three Year Analysis 2011-2013

Summary

Introduction

Despite the fact that suicide rates have declined in recent years, suicide is still a major issue and a leading cause of years of life lost. Salford has a well established Suicide Prevention Partnership and suicide audits are carried out annually. This summary identified the main themes from Salford suicide audit reports. Full audit reports and three year analyses details are available but not published here due to small numbers.

Numbers and rates

There has been a stabilisation in the number of suicides and unintended injuries from 16 occurring in 2011 to 13 in 2012 and 14 in 2013. Nationally, in the last two years there has been a slight increase of suicide rates. The increase is more prominent at regional level whilst in Salford, there has been a decline. The rates for Salford have been consistently above those for England but for the last three years the gap is closing.

Years of life lost due to suicide

Although figures for suicide are low, the impact in terms of years of life lost, is above any other cause of death, including coronary heart disease and cancer. This is due to suicide affecting people at a younger age.

The total number of years of life lost (male and female – all ages) was 470 in 2011; 443 in 2012 and 444 in 2013. On average each person dying of suicide in Salford will lose more than 30 years of life.

Main findings from the Salford audits

- **Age.** The highest number of suicides is found in the 30 to 49 year olds, which is in line with the national pattern.
- **Gender.** Between 3 to 4 times more males than females die of suicide.
- **Methods.** Hanging is the most common method used, followed by self-poisoning.
- **Marital status.** About 70% of people who died of suicide were single, separated or divorced. This risk factor has been a theme in all audits since 2007.
- **Employment.** Over 65% of people in the 3 years were unemployed.
- **Location.** Most suicides occur at the deceased home address.
- **Health issues.** In line with national trends, more than half of people had a diagnosis of depression, about 1/3 had an alcohol problem and about 10% would have a long-term condition (this is an extrapolation from national data)

A number of very positive preventive actions have been undertaken to tackle the issues highlighted in the annual audit reports which will be continued to be carried out to inform future plans. For a full report contact phsecretary@salford.gov.uk or ring 0161 793 3585.