

Bath and North East Somerset Suicide Prevention Strategy on a Page

B&NES
Suicide
Prevention
Partnership

Vision

Reduce suicide and self-harm so that no resident feels suicide is their only option. Build community resilience, reduce stigma, and ensure timely access to support across B&NES.

National context

Priority groups including children and young people, middle-aged men, people who self-harm, those in mental health or justice services, autistic people, and women during pregnancy and after birth. Key national actions include improving data, providing targeted support, addressing risk factors, ensuring online safety, enhancing crisis response, reducing access to means, improving bereavement support, and embedding suicide prevention as everyone's responsibility.

Local context

- Suicide rates in B&NES have decreased overall and remain below the England average despite a small recent rise.
- Male suicide rates are higher than female rates, reflecting national trends.
- Self-harm hospital admissions in B&NES, especially among 10–24 year-olds, are significantly higher than the national average.
- Years of life lost to suicide locally is lower than both England and South West averages.
- Real-time surveillance identifies local patterns, cross-border concerns, and emerging risks.
- Additionally, B&NES focuses on early intervention for high-risk groups and has identified young people as a priority cohort requiring strengthened preventative action.

Local priorities

B&NES aligns with B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board priorities while tailoring to local need: **1. Training and Awareness:** Deliver targeted training for frontline workers, community organisations, and partner agencies. **2. Data and Intelligence:** Improve real-time surveillance, standardise reporting, and strengthen local and regional intelligence sharing. **3. Postvention Support:** Enhance coordination between surveillance systems and bereavement services to support people affected by suicide.

Partnerships

Delivery relies on cross-sector collaboration including public health, education services, healthcare providers, voluntary and community organisations, police, coroner services, and infrastructure partners.

Monitoring

- Real-time surveillance informs immediate responses to emerging risks.
- Annual reporting to the BSW Suicide Prevention Group supports shared learning.
- Ongoing monitoring through the Action Plan enables targeted interventions and improvement.