

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	CPPB/3/25



**Highland**  
Community  
Planning  
Partnership

Com-pàirteachas  
Dealbhadh  
Coimhearsnachd

**na Gàidhealtachd**

**Highland Community Planning Partnership Board – 21 February 2025**

**Creating Hope in Highland Together - Interim Update**

**Report by: Jen Valentine, Police Scotland**

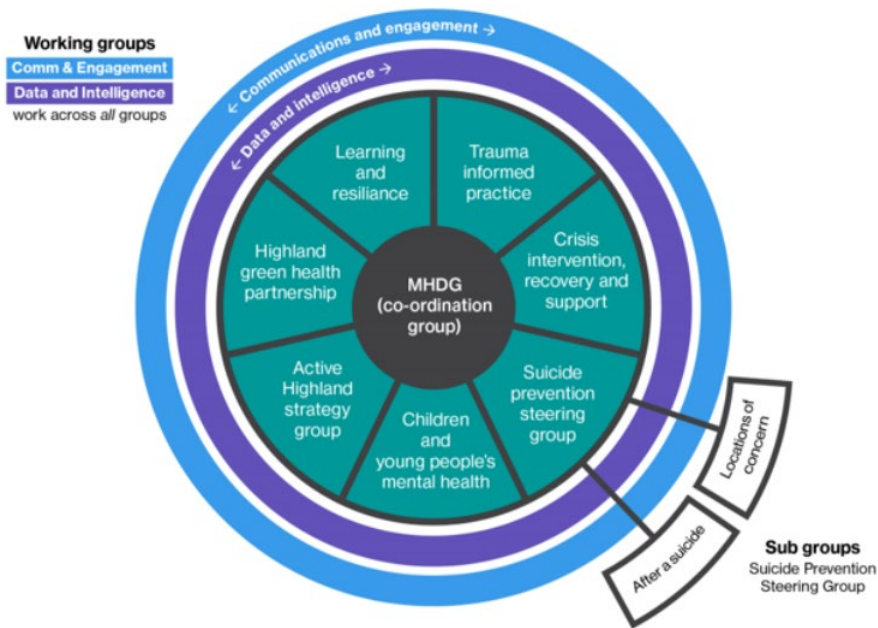
### **Summary**

**In October 2023 the Creating Hope in Highland Together Action Plan was launched. This plan set out the objectives for the 3 year period. This paper seeks to provide board members with an update on the work undertaken to date.**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Creating Hope in Highland Together is the local suicide prevention plan for Highland. The plan was developed following an eight-month period of engagement with partners and stakeholders to review the priorities and organisation of the Highland Community Planning Partnership work on mental health improvement and suicide prevention. This consultative period allowed stakeholders to consider and identify priorities for suicide prevention, review the key people, organisations and services required to support delivery of action to prevent suicide and refresh the remit of the Suicide Prevention Steering Group.
- 1.2 The plan was launched in October 2023, and outlined 8 objectives for the 3 year period of the plan.
  1. We will identify groups most at risk of suicide and seek to work to reduce the risk.
  2. We will ensure timely and effective intervention/assessment of people expressing suicidal thoughts.
  3. We will ensure that people in Highland have consistent access to crisis services.
  4. We will identify places of concern and develop actions to make them safer.
  5. We will ensure that people bereaved by suicide in Highland have opportunities to access timely support.
  6. We will ensure Highland workforces and communities are suicide aware and can respond appropriately.
  7. We will develop communications work to inform and to increase public knowledge on suicide and distress.
  8. We will work collaboratively with media outlets to provide guidance, information, sources of support, and stories of hope and recovery.
- 1.3 It was recognised in setting these objectives that it would not be solely within the remit of the Suicide Prevention Steering Group to deliver these but would rely on the wider structures developed under the Mental Health Delivery Group.

## Mental Health Delivery Group (MHDG) Structure



1.4 The Suicide Prevention Steering group has two sub groups which have responsibilities around priority actions.

- Location of concern- This group is responsible for objective 4.
- After a suicide- This group is responsible for objective 5.

The other steering groups within the MHDG structure with overlapping responsibilities around some of the suicide actions plans are,

- Data and Intelligence group has some responsibility for delivering objective 1.
- Crisis Intervention Recovery and Support group has some responsibility for objectives 2 and 3.
- Learning and Resilience group has some responsibility for priority action 6.
- Communication and Engagement group has some responsibility for priority actions 7 and 8.
- Children and young people subgroup has input across all 8 objectives

## 2. Action Plan Update

2.1 Appendix 1 provides an update on the progress under each of the 8 objectives.

### Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the progress of the action plan.

**Author: Jen Valentine, Police Scotland**

**Date: 21 February 2025**

**Appendices: 1. Creating Hope in Highland Together Action Plan – Interim Update**



	<p>This process identified a gap in service provision for those in crisis, and the group is now exploring services that could bridge this gap, considering services in Dundee and Angus. These <b>community wellbeing centres</b> could provide a vital service.</p>
<p><b>Ensure the Highland workforces and communities are informed and skilled in suicide prevention</b></p>	<p>Partners work together, developing and promoting the <b>training prospectus</b> that outlines all the mental health and suicide prevention training available in Highland to partners, employers and communities.</p> <p>The Highland Prevent Suicide App is routinely promoted by all agencies.</p> <p>The steering group has continued in its commitment to deliver <b>bi-annual development days</b> with the wider Suicide Prevention Forum, providing opportunities for networking, sharing of practice and includes professional development.</p>
<p><b>Develop communications work to inform and to increase public knowledge on suicide and distress.</b></p>	<p>The continue to develop partnership communications for <b>campaigns</b> and promote the Prevent Suicide Highland App and Highland mental wellbeing website</p>
<p><b>Work collaboratively with media outlets to provide guidance, information, sources of support, and stories of hope and recovery.</b></p>	<p>The Communication and Engagement Group have arranged delivery of <b>media training</b> for elected members and local media outlets on responsible reporting on suicides.</p>