Who are we?
The Suicide Prevention Working Group operating across Westminster, the Royal Borough and Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham is a ‘coalition of the willing.’ It meets every three months to promote effective inter-agency working in communicating, managing and ultimately reducing the number deaths from suicide in our boroughs. The group’s members are drawn from a range of NHS, local authority, police and voluntary sector organisations:

Why focus on suicide?
The rates of suicide in the tri-borough have historically been higher in our boroughs than in most London Boroughs, and in particular in Westminster. Around 150 people died due to suicide and undetermined injuries in 2011-13 in the Tri-borough, and the profile of these deaths fits the national picture: women account for approximately 25% of all suicides (1), and the most common group is men aged between 30-60.

It is only in recent years that even Westminster has fallen into line with England (though rates remain higher than London) (1) indicating that there is still more work to do to support this vulnerable population.

What do we do?
Members of the working group believe that collaboration across traditional organisational boundaries is central to suicide prevention. The working group brings together local representatives from award-winning national charities and key public sector organisations, all of whom value highly the forum as a place to exchange ideas, establish priorities and create working relationships.

Key achievements since the group’s inception, which have been recognised both locally and nationally include:

• 2012 & 2014: Director of Public Health invited to the House of Commons to give evidence on the suicide prevention work in the tri-borough to the All Party Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Group.

• June 2013: publication of a Suicide Joint Strategic Needs Assessment responding to the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

• September 2014: completion of service mapping exercise for suicide support and prevention services across the three boroughs, due to be made available as a resource for patients next year via the National Suicide Prevention Alliance.

We are currently working on the following projects:

• Bereavement support materials: the Tri-borough Public Health Team have been working on materials to be provided to organisations who encounter those who have been affected by suicide. These are due for publication in early 2015.

• Suicide audit of coroners data: Members received a presentation on the draft outputs of suicide audit of coroners’ data completed in the summer. This results of this audit provide compelling evidence for increasing the support provided by professionals:
  • The majority of deaths from suicides were in single men aged between 30 and 60.
  • 95% were registered with a GP in INWL
  • 96% had a previous suicide attempt
  • 83% were at home rather than in public or other places.

This report is due for publication in March 2015.

• Training: following a training needs assessment exercise, we are hoping to secure funding from NHS and Local Authority commissioners to commission a training package for professionals across the tri-borough providers to include awareness and intervention, e-learning modules and train-the-trainer sessions for in-house training.

• Extending reach: we are always looking for ways to engage with other agencies and are currently looking to link up with local schools to understand how joint working could help to keep our younger people safe from suicide.

Want to know more?
If you’d like to know more about our work, please contact Kiran Chauhan, Deputy Managing Director, Central London CCG who chairs the group at clccg@nhs.net

References:
1) North East Public Health Observatory: Community Mental Health Profiles 2013 http://fingerprints.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/nemhp

Mortality from suicide and injury undetermined: Standardised rate per 100,000.
Source: Office for National Statistics via http://fingerprints.phe.org.uk