

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To purchase, by way of a direct award, a Real Time Suicide Surveillance System (RTSSS), to enable information about suspected suicides to be shared with Herefordshire Public Health, by West Mercia Police (Herefordshire) in a secure and timely way.
Date of decision:	3 rd July 2023
Decision maker:	Director of Public Health, Community and Wellbeing Directorate
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief executive scheme of delegation – updated 22 November 2022 Reference - CW-03 To discharge any functions in relation to the corporate public health duties of the council authorised to the director of public health under the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	Meetings have taken place with the Coroner and senior police officers to discuss the introduction of the system. The Coroner has no objections to the Police providing information on suspected suicides, and Herefordshire Police have, in principle, agreed to providing the information, by way of an agreed data set to Herefordshire Public Health. The implementation of a RTSS system has also been discussed at Herefordshire Mental Health Partnership Board, where members had no objections to the implementation.
Decision made:	The QES RTSS system is web based software that can be used by partner agencies (Police and NHS) to provide details of suspected suicides in a secure and timely way, providing details directly to Herefordshire Public Health. The software will be provided by Quality Education Systems Limited (QES). This is a well-established provider of software solutions and have experience in developing similar systems for drug related death reporting. The QES system is used widely nationally, and most areas in the West Midlands region, including Worcestershire already have the QES RTSS system in operation. The contract will be for a minimum of three years at an annual cost of £4250
Reasons for decision:	In line with the Governments Suicide Prevention Strategy, and subsequent reports from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), there is an expectation that all regions and areas across England will have in place RTSS systems. The introduction of this system is also a key action point within Herefordshire’s current Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019 - 2023

Equality Considerations	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; <p>The use of an RTSS system will enable people bereaved or directly affected by a suicide, to be referred to, with the persons consent, to a specialist Suicide Bereavement Support Service for Herefordshire</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>RISK: All agencies must be sure about compliance with rules and regulation pertaining to the sharing of data</p> <p>MITIGATION: We will work with our respective data management and governance departments to ensure existing data sharing agreements are brought up to date and are fully compliant with current data protection and GDPR regulations.</p> <p>You should confirm whether or not there are any health and safety implications or other risks, and if there are any negative implications say how they will be mitigated. Again, these should broadly reflect the risks considered at the executive decision stage report.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>There are some broadly similar software options available, however West Mercia Police (Herefordshire) have specifically requested the use of the QES system as officers are already trained in its use, and they would not want multiple RTSS software systems that would require additional training for operational staff.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None</p>

Signed..... Date: 07/07/2023

Matt Pearce
Director of Public Health