Suicide Prevention Scotland.

Creating Hope Together

Delivery Plan Year 4



Suicide Prevention Scotland.

Introduction

Suicide Prevention Scotland is the delivery collective responsible for implementation of Creating Hope Together – Scotland's suicide prevention strategy and action plan. The strategy's vision is to reduce the number of suicide deaths in Scotland, whilst tackling the inequalities which contribute to suicide. We know that to achieve this, all sectors must come together in partnership, and we must support our communities, so they become safe, compassionate, inclusive, and free of stigma. Our aim is for any child, young person or adult who has thoughts of taking their own life, or are affected by suicide, to get the help they need and feel a sense of hope.

The work to achieve this vision is delivered by Suicide Prevention Scotland a delivery collective led by a National Delivery Lead supported by Strategic Outcome Leads (SOLs) who form the suicide prevention leadership group and a range of delivery partners (see Appendix A for details). The suicide prevention leadership group make decisions about effective deployment of the staffing and financial resources to ensure the delivery plan is delivered and short-term outcomes achieved. The Delivery Collective seeks opportunities to connect to wider partners with a role to play in preventing poor mental health and suicide.

In January 2026, The Scottish Government and COSLA published the second three year action plan (2026-2029) to support delivery of the ten year strategy. This action plan sets out the activities which will contribute to achieving the long-term outcomes set out in the strategy over the next three years and builds on the work undertaken in the previous action plan. This delivery plan provides the detail of the work which will be undertaken in the 2026/2027 financial year and sets out key milestones. We will continue to work with partner organisations who will support implementation within and out with Suicide Prevention Scotland and we welcome opportunities to engage with organisations who feel they can support or contribute to the actions set out.

Progress on implementing the delivery plan is reviewed through the monthly leadership group meetings with advice sought from a range of advisory groups including the Lived and Living Experience Panel (LLEP), the Youth Advisory Group (YAG), the Academic Advisory Group (AAG). The National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group (NSPAG) will continue to offer advice and guidance to COSLA, the Scottish Government and Suicide Prevention Scotland on the work to deliver the strategy and any changes needed to direction/ priorities, including through its reporting.

The Creating Hope Together Annual Reports provide details of progress to deliver the actions. The year three report will be published in summer 2026 and will set out key achievements and

provide full details of the contribution each action is making towards the long-term outcomes set out in the strategy.

The approach continues to be outcome focussed recognising the importance of measuring the impact the work is having, and not just the delivery of the actions. The Outcomes Framework which accompanied the strategy and action plan has provided a theory of change which was intended to help to demonstrate the contribution the actions have to achieving the outcomes. Suicide Prevention Scotland has now fully embedded an approach to capture the contribution the activities delivered have to the long term outcome. This approach is enabling robust monitoring and evaluation of the work across outcome pathways. This information is critical to understanding if our work is having the intended impact on the four long term outcomes in our strategy, achieving our vision, and informing future priorities.

We continue to deliver all our work in line with the strategy's guiding principles and which creates and enhances opportunities for partners across public, private, third and business sectors to come together to network and share learning.
The guiding principles are:

We will consider inequalities and diversity – to ensure we meet the suicide prevention needs of the whole population whilst taking into account key risk factors, such as poverty, and social isolation. We will ensure our work is relevant for urban, rural, remote and island communities. We will co-develop our work alongside people with lived, and living, experience (ensuring that experience reflects the diversity of our communities and suicidal experiences). We will also ensure safeguarding measures are in place across our work.

We will ensure the principles of Time, Space, Compassion are central to our work to support people's wellbeing and recovery. This includes people at risk of suicide, their families/carers and the wider community, respectful of their human rights.

We will ensure the voices of children and young people are central to work to address their needs, and co-develop solutions with them.

We will provide opportunities for people across different sectors at local and national levels to come together, learn and connect – inspiring them to play their part in preventing suicide.
We will take every opportunity to reduce the stigma of suicide through our work.
We will ensure our work is evidence informed, and continue to build the evidence base through evaluation, data and research. We will also use quality improvement approaches, creativity and innovation to drive change – this includes using digital solutions.

We have also continued to focus our efforts where there is a higher risk of suicide, expanding our reach and impact particularly with organisations working with people who are impacted by discrimination, stigma, inequality and wider social determinants of suicide. This approach remains central to our way of working ensuring we retain our commitment to have an approach which is well planned and delivered through collaboration and which is informed by practice evidence, lived experience insight, subject expertise and data and evidence – and which puts inequalities first.

This delivery plan should be read alongside the three-year Creating Hope Together Action Plan which sets out the full strategic actions for 2026-2029.

A budget of £3 million direct suicide prevention funding has been confirmed for 2026/27 to support delivery of the action plan. Each Outcome below details the actions to be undertaken in 2026/2027 and the indicative budget required to deliver this. In addition key delivery partners including SG, PHS and PSD contribute staff resourcing to deliver the action plan. Wider SG funding, for example through the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults and the Children and Young People (CYP) community supports, also directly support wider work to prevent poor mental health and suicide which also contributes to our suicide prevention programme and investment.

In addition to the figures for each outcome, the following commitments have also been agreed by the Suicide Prevention Scotland Leadership group and approved by Scottish Government and COSLA to support and enable delivery of Creating Hope Together.

Funding purpose	Funding (£)
Staff resource for delivery and leadership of the action plan	470423
Strategic Communications planning and delivery of events / printing etc	106000
Listening service	80000
National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) – providing evidence to underpin action	76364
Learning resources (baselined funding for NES & PHS)	

As we begin work on the fourth year of implementation, it is important to recognise the considerable body of work undertaken since Creating Hope Together was published. Over the course of this financial year, we will be focused on ensuring that the learning from this work is shared, across the wider community beyond Suicide Prevention Scotland, to help support work across the country. We are committed to developing a range of ways to do this which will include through our Creating Hope Together conference for 2027.

Outcome 1

The environment we live in promotes conditions which protect against suicide risk – this includes our psychological, social, cultural, economic and physical environment.

Resource allocated for delivery of Outcome 1

The following table sets out the funding allocated across the actions which contribute to achieving Outcome 1. The actions under outcome 1 are delivered by a combination of the Scottish Government policy team, COSLA policy manager, Suicide Prevention Implementation Leads in PHS and staff within Samaritans Scotland. The resource identified here relates to the staffing within Samaritans with the rest either funded out with the Suicide Prevention Scotland budget, e.g. SG Policy team or the resource is tied to another outcome e.g. the SPILs in outcome 4.

Activity	Resource allocated
Staff team to support delivery of actions across Outcome 1	118269

Addressing the wider factors that impact on suicide risk

Action 1.1

Strengthen connections with key policy areas in local and national government to have the greatest impact on suicide risk

Activity for 2026/27

Work closely with key policy areas with the greatest links to suicide risk (poverty/child poverty; education; care-experience; employment/employability; housing/homelessness; substance use; domestic abuse; criminal justice), to identify specific opportunities for developing meaningful actions aimed at understanding, mitigating and reducing suicide risk.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/ summer Continue to work with lead policy officials where relationships/links have already been established to explore and identify potential actions to take forward that can contribute towards reducing risk of poor mental health and suicide. Identify lead officials in each priority policy area where relationships have not already been established to build understanding of links between the policy area and poor mental health and suicide.	**Lead:** Scottish Government, COSLA **Supported by:** Samaritans, PHS, SPILs, AAG
Autumn/ winter Drawing on discussions and links made over spring/summer, agree priority areas for action and develop plans for delivery of actions to be taken forward in 2027-2028 - this will include connecting to other actions across this delivery plan Develop and disseminate across National and Local Government and within Suicide Prevention Scotland networks, a series of short briefing papers for priority policy areas, drawing on our academic, practice and lived experience evidence of links between suicide risk and the policy area (e.g suicide and poverty) and highlighting some of the key challenges to consider as well as evidence around effective interventions (where possible).	**Lead:** AAG **Supported by:** Scottish Government, Samaritans, SPILs, LLEP, YAG

Action 1.2

Focus on people who may be at a higher risk of suicide, including a specific focus on people who experience multiple disadvantages.

Activity for 2026/27
Continue to build understanding of effective approaches for people at a higher risk of suicide.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring Produce and share evidence gathered through events including a summary paper reflecting the range of suicide prevention activity and discussions presented during the high risk settings events held in March 2026 and the roundtable on suicide prevention and severe and multiple deprivation	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Supported by:** PHS, Samaritans, AAG, COSLA
Summer Share learning from the projects funded from Gambling levy undertaken in 2025/26. Help to promote awareness of new round of funding for 2025/26 amongst local Suicide Prevention leads and other partners so they can encourage local projects to consider applying for funding	
Throughout 2026-27 Following the publication of the Scottish Prison Service 'Commitment to Change', work with Scottish Government policy teams and Scottish Prison Service colleagues to support delivery of revised approach to suicide prevention in prisons. Continue to collaborate with Simon Community Scotland, Cyrenians and others to develop and deliver practical support to people experiencing severe and multiple deprivation, growing our understanding of approaches that are effective in preventing poor mental health and suicide and generating learning that can be applied to other settings. Continue to actively engage with cross sector work to ensure suicide prevention is embedded in the programme of public protection work being taken forward across national and local government.	

Activity for 2026/27

Build connections with national and local activity – being delivered by groups and organisations outside of Suicide Prevention Scotland - to expand knowledge and collaboration.

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026-27 Build on policy engagement undertaken across SG (poverty/child poverty; education; care-experience; employment/employability; housing/homelessness; substance use; domestic abuse; criminal justice) to develop a shared understanding and approach to addressing suicide risk. This will include engaging with the Suicide Prevention Network and connecting to learning from other relevant work across the delivery plan including Community Led Action Research work and case studies developed through the previous action plan	**Lead:** Scottish Government, COSLA **Supported by:** TSC Lead, AAG, PHS, Samaritans

Activity for 2026/27

Develop an approach to supporting occupations at higher risk of suicide.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Using the evidence, build on the work with existing partners including the employers' network, professional bodies, trades unions and third sector organisations to scope and co-design approaches which will address the needs of occupational groups where there is a higher risk of suicide, Identify opportunities to build a focus on suicide prevention into plans for future employers' network events and engagement.	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Supported by:** Samaritans, COSLA, SAMH, Employers Network, AAG
Throughout 2026/2027 AAG to review existing evidence on occupational risks and prevention measures to help determine which occupational settings/sectors should be prioritised for action. Consider whether any existing gaps in evidence highlight a need for potential future research. Following the review of evidence, develop a plan for action in these settings across the three year action plan. This will connect to work on action 2.7.	

Action 1.3

Expand evidence on conditions that reduce suicide risk and consider early intervention measures in communities

Activity for 2026/27
Work collaboratively with national partners and local communities to compile evidence on key policy areas with greatest links to suicide risk which will shape clear recommendations and suggested actions.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Undertake evaluation of Samaritans case study work from 2025 to understand challenges and successes, the impact of local services on suicide prevention, and to inform future implementation	**Lead:** Samaritans **Supported by:** Scottish Govt, COSLA, PHS, AAG
Autumn/ winter Catalogue and bring together evidence from the various case studies, CLAR evidence and practice studies that have been developed through delivery of Action Plan 2022 – 2025. This will then be made available on the Suicide Prevention Scotland website. Utilise this evidence to inform recommendations and actions that will embed learning into practice. Develop actions to promote collaboration across policy areas and support delivery in communities.	
Throughout 2026/2027 Ongoing engagement with Scottish Government and Local Government policy teams, sharing evidence and refining actions. Continue engagement and strategic work with partners across the third sector on key issues such as poverty.	

Creating safer environments that protect against suicide

Action 1.4

Support implementation of the latest guidance on 'Locations of Concern', 'Suicide Clusters', 'Suicide Memorials'

Activity for 2026/27
Develop locations of concern action network.

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer Bring people together for a round table event – building on previous locations of concern work to agree on priority focus for the current 3 year action plan Develop implementation plan based on agreed priorities Support ongoing implementation at a local level through convening themed discussion and learning sessions with key stakeholders responding to shared and emerging needs and priorities.	**Lead:** SPILs, PHS **Supported by:** LLEP, Samaritans

Action 1.5

Support implementation of report on actions to prevent suicide by specific methods

Activity for 2026/27
Develop approach to implementation of Delphi study recommendations. This will link to the work in action 1.1

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer Review recommended actions from Access to Means Delphi study and develop a plan for areas to progress over the 3 year action plan Link with policy teams working across primary care, community pharmacy, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the work under Outcome 3 to implement NCISH recommendations to establish an approach to progressing these recommendations	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Supported by:** Samaritans, AAG, PHS

Winter Set out clear approach and timeline to support implementation of the Delphi study recommendations Ensure existing suicide prevention learning resources reflect the Delphi study recommendations and work with PSD/PHS colleagues to develop a plan to address any gaps	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Supported by:** Samaritans, AAG, PHS

Action 1.6

Work to inform policies and services that relate to the built and natural environment

Activity for 2026/27
Develop relationships with relevant public and private sector stakeholders and delivery partners who may be able to support work on interventions at locations of concern.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Host roundtable event to develop ideas and recommendations to progress actions which aim to prevent suicide in the built and natural environment. Co-design an approach with stakeholders and partners based on the ideas and opportunities presented at roundtable with clear timelines and resource requirements over the three year action plan.	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Support:** Samaritans

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance use of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in relation to suicide prevention.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Establish relationships and engage with SG policy team and local government planning teams to design an approach which meaningfully influences architecture and design, and planning processes using NPF4	**Lead:** Scottish Government, SPILs **Support:** Samaritans
Autumn/Winter Assess need for additional training on locations of concern for those utilising NPF4, and organise/deliver if appropriate (this links to work under action 1.4)	

Promote safe and responsible communication about suicide

Action 1.7

Improve reporting and public discussion of suicide, promoting more hopeful reporting

Activity for 2026/27
Continue and grow community level communications guidelines training.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Engage with local suicide prevention leads to identify how to meet their needs in terms of understanding and utilising communications guidelines around suicide.	**Lead:** Samaritans **Support:** SPILs, Electrify
Autumn/Winter Plan and deliver local support approaches such as workshops and resources to meet the needs identified from engagement.	
Summer/Autumn Deliver communications training to CLAR organisations and other community based organisations and services, to support understanding and confidence in responsible communication.	

Activity for 2026/27
Engagement and training with students.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Deliver sessions to Stirling University Journalism students Review feedback and revise training for students. Use feedback to raise awareness of opportunities in other Universities. Plan for training in the next academic year	**Lead:** Samaritans
Autumn/winter Engagement with universities and colleges to deliver further training	

Activity for 2026/27
Communications support to those who communicate about suicide as part of their profession.

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer/Autumn Introduce media and communications guidelines to new and returning MSPs, and offer sessions to political groups and relevant committees.	**Lead:** Samaritans

Activity for 2026/27
Continue to monitor and work with Scottish media.

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Continuous monitoring of media coverage of suicide in Scotland. Working with journalists and outlets when appropriate to support responsible reporting and offer training and resources.	**Lead:** Samaritans

Action 1.8

Explore tech opportunities to prevent access to content about suicide, connecting people to support. Consider new, emerging risks. Support implementation of Online Safety Act

Activity for 2026/27
Connect with policy teams and other topic areas experts who are engaged in similar approaches to the use of tech.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Map existing potential partners for this work, such as young people's charities that may already have established work in this area. Engage with partners and gather evidence of effective interventions and identify possible risks and challenges to ensure a safe approach.	**Lead:** Scottish Government **Support:** PHS, Samaritans
Autumn/Winter Utilising learning from the evidence on technology and suicide prevention (action 4.5), develop plan of potential actions for implementation in years 2 and 3 of the action plan. Engage with private sector providers to explore potential tech solutions and safeguards.	

Outcome 2

Our communities have a clear understanding of suicide, risk factors and its prevention – so that people and organisations are more able to respond in helpful and informed ways when they, or others, need support.

Resource allocated for delivery of Outcome 2

The following table sets out the funding allocated across the actions which contribute to achieving Outcome 2. Staffing resource set out under outcome 3 for work on Time, Space, Compassion and Children and Young People also contribute to delivery of actions under Outcome 2.

In addition to the specific funding from suicide prevention, core budget for PHS and PSD support the development and delivery of the learning opportunities identified in actions 2.6 and 2.7.

Activity	Resource allocated
Campaigns and social movement	373991
Accessible resources and information	79225
Resources for CYP	20000

Strengthen suicide prevention awareness and understanding across Scotland's communities, which includes addressing suicide-related stigma

Action 2.1

Deliver co-produced national and targeted public awareness campaigns, encouraging people to talk/ask about suicide and respond with compassion

Activity for 2026/27
Continuation of the Suicide Prevention Scotland campaign focused on adults

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer/Autumn Build understanding of the reach and impact of Suicide Prevention Scotland's campaign through an evaluation led by the Academic Advisory Group	**Lead:** AAG **Supported by:** Electrify, SAMH, NDL
Throughout 2026/2027 Co-produce and implement follow-on phases of the 'What if…' campaign, focusing both nationally and on communities of interest, and including a phase to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day in September	**Lead:** Electrify **Supported by:** Co-production group

Activity for 2026/27
Engagement and co-production for children and young people's campaign

Milestones	Who is involved
Winter / Spring Work with the YAG, the Participation Network and other relevant people/organisations to conceptualise and co-produce a children and young people's campaign approach (with intention to launch campaign in 2027/28)	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** Children in Scotland CYP Delivery lead

Action 2.2

Strengthen and grow Scotland's social movement United to Prevent Suicide, by embedding a community organising and capacity building approach that empowers members to take action in their own lives, their communities and at a national level.

Activity for 2026/27
Strengthen and grow Scotland's social movement, United to Prevent Suicide (UtPS), by embedding a community organising and capacity building approach that empowers members to take action

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer To meet the needs of members identified in the 2024 Operation Refresh research: • Develop a UtPS Members Leadership Group to create a space for members to take an active role in planning and delivery of UtPS work. This is designed to embed co-production and ensure UtPS is member-led. • Launch a training programme for members. Through this members will receive reliable information about suicide, training in suicide intervention, and develop skills in communication and campaigns. The development of this programme will include both existing and bespoke resources.	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** Electrify and UtPS Members Leadership Group, UtPS Comms Co-Production Group,
Summer/Autumn Develop an approach to establish and roll-out local groups and member sub-groups that support members to take action, utilising learning from last year's pilot phase. Design and deliver activities to support World Suicide Prevention Day.	

Winter/Spring Plan and deliver the second Big Meet Up (annual conference) to be held in March 2027, an event open to all UtPS members. Learning from the first event will be used to extend reach across Scotland and increase attendance. The output from the first Big Meet Up, the Declaration, is the foundation for UtPS future work.	
Throughout 2026/2027 The UtPS communications co-production group will produce social media content and comms, including a new Stories of Hope video series, and disseminate via the UtPS website, social media platforms, and at events.	

Develop and share information and advice for anyone affected by suicide

Action 2.3

Strengthen and grow Scotland's social movement United to Prevent Suicide, by embedding a community organising and capacity building approach that empowers members to take action in their own lives, their communities and at a national level.

Activity for 2026/27
Partner with community-based groups and organisations to co-develop suicide prevention resources for and with communities most impacted by stigma, discrimination and inequalities.

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer to Winter Continue and build on work with LGBTQ+ and Gypsy/Traveller communities to design and develop resources which support their communities and those who provide services to them. We will continue to engage with organisations supporting refugees and people seeking asylum to explore opportunities to undertake similar work around developing support resources.	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** LGBT Health and Wellbeing, MECOPP, TSC Lead, other community

Throughout 2026/ 2027 As part of this ongoing work, commission two further organisations to collaborate with this year on production of resources for both clinicians and community members, informed by lived experience, and community held expertise. This is likely to include, neurodivergent people and/ or care experienced people and/ or children and young people with work continuing across the 3 year action plan to include further communities of interest.	groups to be identified.

Activity for 2026/27
Develop resources to inform and develop understanding and competencies to help address suicide-related stigma and discrimination.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring Publish suicide-related stigma information and resources on the Suicide Prevention Scotland website	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** Suicidal Behaviour Research Lab, SPILs and local suicide prevention leads
Summer to Winter In collaboration with Local Suicide Prevention Leads and using evidence from the AAG develop and deliver awareness and capacity building resources and activities Scope other opportunities for wider awareness raising and action to address suicide related stigma across communities.	

Activity for 2026/27
Test an approach and tool that supports service providers, including clinicians and community organisations, to assess and improve their service provision for people with suicidal ideation

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Using a quality improvement approach, finalise the test version of the tool and work with stakeholders to test concept	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** TSC Delivery Lead
Summer/Autumn Test the tools functionality with stakeholders	

Autumn/Winter Redesign as required and commence roll-out	

Action 2.4

Provide reliable and accessible information on suicide prevention, primarily via the Suicide Prevention Scotland website.

Activity for 2026/27
Continue to improve the functionality, usability and performance of the Suicide Prevention Scotland website.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Further development and promotion of events calendar and searchable resource for those working in suicide prevention Introduce tracking function to measure downloads and frequently visited sections and pages. Update the service directory, including how organisations manage their listings. Through the Suicide Prevention Scotland network and wider stakeholders undertake work to increase the number of organisations listed on the directory, including organisations supporting children and young people	**Lead:** SAMH **Supported by:** Electrify; Ember (web host and developer); SPILs and local suicide prevention leads; A wide range of users and organisation will be engaged during the review process
Autumn/ Winter Undertake a review of Suicide Prevention Scotland website to support continuous improvement of content and performance	
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Develop and publish new content for both members of the public and people working in suicide prevention	

Activity for 2026/27
Continue providing reliable and accessible information via Suicide Prevention Scotland channels.

Milestones	Who is involved

Throughout 2026/ 2027 Continue to publish content on all social media channels, Suicide Prevention Scotland website and via the Newsletter	**Lead:** Electrify

Action 2.5

Work with children and young people and those who support them to build understanding, confidence and capacity - across all areas of the action plan.

Activity for 2026/27
Building suicide prevention capacity and understanding in key sectors working with CYP including schools, youth work, higher and further education.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Continue to engage with the mental health in schools working group and contribute to the review of The Whole School Approach Framework and create accompanying guidance that is specifically focused on suicide prevention.	**Lead:** CYP Delivery Lead **Supported by:** Suicide Prevention Scotland Network Participation Network Suicide Prevention Colleges and Universities network
Summer/Autumn Review Professional Learning Resource for All School Staff and the Mental Health Hub held by Education Scotland to advise on any updates required in relation to suicide prevention material. Continue to work with academic experts to strengthen our understanding of effective approaches to delivery and the structures required to support teaching suicide prevention in schools.	
Winter Establish an advisory group to review the existing suicide prevention resources currently utilised in education settings and develop guidance on use and dissemination. Develop guidance to support schools planning or commissioning inputs on suicide prevention which also builds confidence and capacity on the topic of suicide.	

Through a range of communication methods, promote existing case studies and emerging evidence focusing on suicide prevention practice in school and education settings. Support the work with University of Strathclyde to develop a framework for university teaching staff which improves their understanding, confidence and capacity on the topic of suicide Work with the Suicide Prevention Network for Colleges and Universities to conceptualise and plan a resource to support the people in their sector to embed suicide prevention in their work	
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Continue to link with Education Scotland and the Curriculum Review work to ensure opportunities to strengthen suicide prevention in schools are maximised. Work with youth work and community learning and development sectors to establish workforce learning needs through a learning needs analysis. Through this identify whether existing available resources meet these needs. Continue to support the Suicide Prevention Network for Colleges and Universities in Scotland, in partnership with the University of Strathclyde, including work with The National Union of Students (NUS) to provide a hub for Network members to share learning and practice	

Improve access to learning and development on suicide prevention and suicide bereavement

Action 2.6

Easier access to suicide prevention learning and development for the general population and work force to include peer support practice and learning about inequalities and rights-based practice

Activity for 2026/27
Extending reach of learning programmes and resources, with a focus on key priority sectors and communities.

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Continue to support delivery and target promotion of the range of learning programmes available in Scotland, across key priority areas including health and social care, emergency responders, community groups supporting people who face stigma and discrimination, education settings and third sector.	**Lead:** PHS/PSDS

Activity for 2026/27

Enhance resources and explore the need for new resources, that augment existing ones, aligned to high risk /priority groups and different communities.

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer/Autumn Scope and develop learning content (including Ask Tell Respond) for different settings, based on learning needs and priority groups Roll out/ promotion of the new content?	**Lead:** PHS/PSDS

Activity for 2026/27

Enhance approaches to support suicide prevention learning and development in local areas across Scotland.

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Create a mechanism for sharing practice, mapping needs and considering where a national approach is required, versus local, tailored responses.	**Lead:** PHS/PSDS
Throughout 2026/2027 Support local areas to map learning needs, identify what learning resources are available and share resources including Learning needs analysis document Promote CYP Forum and the Enabling conversation toolkit through e.g. the Suicide prevention network and Participation Network Through the learning needs mapping exercise, gather intelligence on appropriate ways to link information on learning opportunities at a local level to the Suicide Prevention Scotland website. This will support the promotion of learning opportunities for priority groups	

Action 2.7

Develop workforce wellbeing resources for people who may support others who are at risk of suicide, in their work

Activity for 2026/27
Build understanding of the suicide prevention workforce wellbeing needs and how these can be addressed

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Continue to promote the You First podcasts and resources	**Lead:** PHS/PSDS

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance employer focused work on supporting a mentally healthy workplace to incorporate messages on suicide prevention

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Review the content on the mentally healthy workplace pages on the Healthy Working Lives website and identify any gaps in suicide prevention resources. Add links to the relevant existing suicide prevention resources which support workplaces.	**Lead:** PHS **Support:** SG policy team
Engage with the supporting mentally healthy workplaces employer network partnership group to strengthen opportunities to share messaging on suicide prevention with employers through the network events and newsletter. This will include sharing learning and evidence coming through on occupational risk and protective factors to help inform the focus of future network meetings.	**Lead:** SG Policy Team **Support:** Suicide Prevention Scotland

Outcome 3

Everyone affected by suicide is able to access high quality, compassionate, appropriate and timely support – which promotes wellbeing and recovery. This applies to all children, young people and adults who experience suicidal thoughts and behaviour, anyone who cares for them, and anyone affected by suicide in other ways.

Resource allocated for delivery of Outcome 3

The following table sets out the funding allocated across the actions which contribute to achieving Outcome 3.

Activity	Resource allocated
Suicide Bereavement support	382236
Staffing and resources to support delivery of Time Space Compassion	165063
Staffing and resources to support work on CYP	122788
Delivery of Community Led Action Research	30000
Creating Hope Through Peer Support	150850

Create opportunities for everyone affected by suicide to receive safe, timely compassionate support

Action 3.1

Support work to make services (Primary Care, Mental Health, Unscheduled Care) safer for people at higher risk of suicide and self- harm, using NCISH recommendations

Activity for 2026/27
Use learning from Personalised Risk Management Learning Collaborative to grow use of NCISH patient safety toolkit across NHS Boards

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/ 2027 Work with NHS Boards to support spread of the use of personalised risk management resources in acute, unscheduled, and secondary mental health services. Work with trusted organisations to expand our resources describing suicide risk and risk management considerations for marginalised communities. Grow collaborative working and networks across unscheduled, acute, primary and community crisis services Support the rollout of *the Person-Centred Safety Assessment: Therapeutic Assessment, Formulation, and Management of Suicide Risk learning programme,* beginning with the pilot Boards participating in the NCISH Learning Collaborative Continue work to promote awareness of NCISH and use of the NCISH patient safety toolkit.	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** Creating Hope Together Project Officer* (new role for 26/27)

Activity for 2026/27
Build capacity in primary care workforce

Milestones	Who is involved
Autumn Co-deliver a second CPD event with Queens Nursing Institute for Scotland (QNIS) for primary care and community-based nurses, on relational practice for suicide prevention. Test and adapt personalised risk management resources for use by primary care settings and mental health unscheduled care settings	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** QNIS

Action 3.2

Raise awareness and share learning and practice on Time Space Compassion

Activity for 2026/27
Continue to enhance opportunities for Time Space Compassion (TSC) across Scotland

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer Translate existing TSC resources into digital first content on the Suicide Prevention Scotland website	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** Creating Hope Together Project Officer (new role for 26/27 with work spanning over a number of actions in outcome 3)

Activity for 2026/27
Develop a comms and awareness raising programme for TSC, to expand and promote existing assets

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer Engage with the leads of the public sector reform programme within COSLA and Scottish Government to identify key target stakeholder groups across the public sector to build awareness of and expand the use of TSC approaches across the public sector. Deliver a series of TSC keynotes to the identified key strategic events and audiences Support Suicide Prevention Scotland partners to develop tailored TSC promotion and programme of work in their own organisations which will help to generate further examples of practice of embedding the TSC approach	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** Creating Hope Together Project Officer

Activity for 2026/27
Continue, grow and test the TSC learning community

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Continue work to establish and build a TSC learning community. To share expertise, identify barriers and drivers to change, and test how Time, Space and Compassion can be put into practice across communities and high risk settings.	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** Creating Hope Together Project Officer

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance the evidence base for TSC

Milestones	Who is involved
Autumn Develop and initiate evaluation approach for TSC which will be used to promote TSC and increase usage across years 2 and 3 of the action plan	**Lead:** TSC Lead **Supported by:** Creating Hope Together Project Officer

Support the development and delivery of tailored and targeted support to those most at risk of suicide

Action 3.3

Use learning to respond to the needs of diverse and marginalised communities, where there is a heightened risk of suicide

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance connections with organisations working with marginalised communities through, for example the Community Led Action Research (CLAR) approach (this action connects to work across the action plan, particularly action 1.3)

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Ensure all opportunities to utilise the CLAR outputs to support local and national planning on suicide prevention are taken including through Community Planning Partnerships	**Lead:** Penumbra

Autumn Develop and support a community of practice for organisations who have participated in CLAR, and those who have supported the work on help seeking and stigma. Working with these organisations, develop an approach to ensure learning from this work is shared with local and national partners to enhance the intelligence which shapes and drives action	
Throughout 2026/2027 Continue to expand and enhance the Building Connections work which has developed connections between Suicide Prevention Scotland and organisations who support people that experience stigma, discrimination and inequalities, to include communities of interest not yet engaged. This will include reviewing organisations already connected across the delivery plan, including those who have been involved in CLAR projects, to identify gaps and make connections with organisations supporting target groups (to be defined in Q1 / Q2 to ensure coherence across Outcomes). Work alongside other Outcome and Delivery Leads to ensure a coherent and strategic approach to knowledge sharing and what our learning means for practice, policy and the CHT strategy more broadly.	

Activity for 2026/27
Utilise existing evidence base to identify priority groups for action

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer/Autumn Work with partners such as Befriending Network to explore options for intervention on loneliness across specific communities and / or age groups (e.g. older adults, key life transitions, etc.) at risk of suicide	**Lead:** Penumbra
Throughout 2026/2027 Aligned with the work on action 1.1, build an understanding of interventions which support the needs of people in the key policy areas. This includes children, young people and adults who are care experienced, people living in poverty, substance use, domestic abuse etc	

Suicide Prevention Scotland.

Action 3.4

Strengthen support for children and young people who may be at higher risk of suicide

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance use of the Enabling conversations toolkit

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring Work with the YAG Participation Network and V&A in Dundee to review the enabling conversations toolkit and agree plan for next steps and toolkit development	**Lead:** CYP Lead **Supported by:** CHT Project Officer
Throughout 2026/2027 Identify opportunities to support implementation of the Enabling conversations toolkit to key settings and adapt for priority groups such as neurodivergent and care experienced as needed	

Activity for 2026/27
Develop approaches to CYP safety planning

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Work with YAG, TSC lead and Scottish Government policy team focused on CYP crisis & distress to progress work on risk management. This will also contribute to the broader work on whole family support	**Lead;** CYP Lead, TSC Lead **Supported by:** YAG, SG Policy teams

Activity for 2026/27
Enhance the CYP forum

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring Review the CYP Local Leads forum (a forum that is led by the CYP delivery lead and SPILs that is specifically focussed on CYP and Suicide Prevention) via survey of members and wider stakeholders including the Participation Network. Explore opportunities to expand membership through, for example, the CLAR groups and the Participation Network Continue to work with PHS to develop and hold the CYP forum meetings	**Lead:** CYP Lead **Supported by:** CHT Project Officer and SPILs

Action 3.5

People bereaved by suicide can access high-quality, timely and compassionate support

Activity for 2026/27
Ensure support for people bereaved by suicide is available and accessible across Scotland

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Engagement work with a wide range of local and national stakeholders on the future of suicide bereavement support across Scotland Develop an options appraisal approach on the future of suicide bereavement support across the whole of Scotland that enables equitable, consistent, and high quality access.	**Lead:** COSLA, SG **Supported by:** Penumbra and Change Mental in close partnership with and other key stakeholders on the future of Suicide Bereavement Support across Scotland.
Autumn/Winter Seek ministerial approval and sign off of both approach and budget. Plan implementation of chosen approach and support transition from existing model	

Throughout 2026/2027 Continued delivery of SBS Service in Highlands and Ayrshire and Arran (final year of pilot)	**Lead:** Penumbra and Change Mental Health
Continued delivery of postvention workplace support	**Lead:** Cruse Scotland
Using learning from the 'Wave After Wave' test areas, create opportunities for additional community based organisations to become involved in awareness raising and training. This will include connecting with peer support organisations and those involved in CLAR	**Lead:** Penumbra and Change Mental Health

Peer support

Action 3.6

Further develop peer-led approaches which support early intervention including in statutory and clinical services

Activity for 2026/27
Establish and facilitate peer support development collaboratives in two areas

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Identify two areas to develop peer support collaboratives Bring together local partners and people with lived experience to agree ways of working and identify shared goals	**Lead:** Scottish Recover Network
Autumn Establish a Mental Health peer support and peer workforce baseline in each of the two areas identified over spring/ summer above Support the development of a peer support action plan in each area with local partners and people with lived experience Connect the two areas with and share learning from peer support across Scotland and internationally	
Winter Provide a programme of peer support learning opportunities across the two areas	

Activity for 2026/27
Facilitate and enable the delivery of Creating Hope with Peer Support learning

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring/Summer Identify four areas as areas of focus and work with organisations and groups to embed peer support learning that is rooted in suicide prevention Establish an SP peer support learning network and work with Education Scotland and Public Health Scotland to share learning materials and explore potential for peer support skills to be included in their suicide prevention learning offer	**Lead:** Scottish Recovery Network
Throughout 2026/2027 Host three SP peer worker practice exchanges to bring peer support workers together to share practice and learning Promote the use of the adaptable outcome map for community based peer support and share examples of how it has assisted organisations to plan activities and share impacts	

Activity for 2026/27
Explore opportunities to highlight the role of peer support in addressing stigma and discrimination, and the potential role in supporting children and young people

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer/Autumn Work with See Me and others to share how peer support can challenge stigma and discrimination and what this means for service design and delivery Work with YAG to begin exploring what peer support in suicide prevention could involve for children and young people.	**Lead:** Scottish Recovery Network

Outcome 4

Our approach to suicide prevention is well planned and delivered, through close collaboration between national, local and sectoral partners. Our work is designed with lived and living experience insight, practice, data, research and intelligence. We improve our approach through regular monitoring, evaluation and review.

Resource allocated for delivery of Outcome 4

Support for delivery of the actions in Outcome 4 will come from staffing resource across the delivery collective, this includes staff within Public Health Scotland who are funded through their core budget.

In addition, specific roles are funded within Public Health Scotland to support data management and local area support.

Funding is also allocated to support design and development of resources, hosting of events and continued use of the software systems required to support suicide reviews and Suicide Prevention Scotland's approach to evaluation.

Activity	Resource allocated
Local suicide prevention support, resources and staffing	315390
Improving data and intelligence	189936
AAG, LLEP and YAG	277674

Improve data on suicide deaths, attempts and contributory factors

Action 4.1

Enhance data collection on deaths, making effective use of existing data and intelligence; explore new sources of data

Activity for 2026/27
Build our understanding of the factors which contribute to suicide

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Continue to work with national partners, including Police Scotland, to enhance data on suspected suicides by improving sharing of timely and complete data (linked to action 4.3)	**Lead:** PHS

Action 4.2

Continue to support the development and use of ScotSID reports; focus on opportunities to link datasets, for example homelessness and the new race and ethnicity index

Activity for 2026/27
Explore opportunities to enhance ScotSID through data linkage

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Explore ways to improve our data on suicide risk factors including through data linkage to other national datasets such as homelessness and race and ethnicity index to enhance our understanding of risk factors for suicide in Scotland to help shape future action plans.	**Lead:** PHS

Action 4.3

Continue to support the development and implementation of the multi-agency suicide review system at a local level

Activity for 2026/27
Development and implementation of multi-agency suicide review system at a local level

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Continue to support local uptake and implementation of the QES Suspected Suicide Surveillance System and explore opportunities to improve timely sharing of data between local and national partners. Continue to explore how Police Scotland data can be shared locally and nationally and explore potential for it to connect with the QES system	**Lead:** PHS

Throughout 2026/2027 Continue to facilitate the conversation around suicide review processes and improvements that can be made nationally and locally. This includes scoping the establishment of a national approach to sharing learning from suicide reviews, and support for those involved (link to 2.7 workforce wellbeing). This will be informed by academic, practice and lived experience evidence and will continue to link with the national public protection leadership group.	
Spring Develop guidance to support the implementation of QES and suicide reviews.	

Actionable evidence, experience, evaluation and horizon-scanning

Action 4.4

Build evidence base to increase our understanding of suicide risk and prevention at population level

Activity for 2026/27
Continue to build the evidence base for action on suicide prevention

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Develop an approach which enables local areas and wider partners to identify emerging topics as potential research areas.	**Lead:** PHS **Supported by:** Suicide Prevention Scotland Network members and Knowledge Hub members

Activity for 2026/27
Support knowledge into action

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Engage with YAG, LLEP and local practitioners to identify helpful ways to share the evidence from AAG. This includes recent reviews undertaken by the AAG and future policy briefings. Test different approaches to sharing learning from AAG papers including meetings, reading groups, short evidence digests.	**Lead:** AAG, YAG, LLEP and local practitioners

Activity for 2026/27
Evidence sharing mechanism across all outcomes

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Develop mechanism to ensure evidence and evaluation work undertaken is shared across outcomes. This includes evidence and evaluation work undertaken by the Samaritans, CLAR, gambling, Simon Community, Cyrenians, local leads.	**Lead:** AAG, Suicide Prevention Scotland delivery and outcome leads utilising the Knowledge Hub and Suicide Prevention Scotland website

Action 4.5

Identify emerging issues including risks and opportunities presented by technology

Activity for 2026/27
Learning/scoping phase for this work to develop a position on technology

Milestones	Who is involved
Autumn Undertake a review of academic evidence on the use and impact of technology in suicide prevention.	**Lead:** AAG
Winter/Spring Host online engagement event/s involving a wide range of topic experts and practice-based partnerships to identify emerging issues Host a Participation Network session on AI/bots in relation to suicide ideation/behaviours	**Lead:** PHS and Samaritans **Lead:** Children in Scotland

Action 4.6

Provide guidance and practical support to local areas around suicide prevention

Activity for 2026/27
Provide support for local area suicide prevention leads, steering groups and support the development and implementation of the local area planning and implementation toolkit

Milestones	Who is involved
Throughout 2026/2027 Host SP leads monthly meetings, contribute to local steering groups, support the development and implementation of local action plans	**Lead:** PHS/ SPILs
Promote and support the use of the local area planning and implementation toolkit and the guidance on locations of concern, suicide clusters and public memorials. This will include developing new sections or resources in response to the needs of local SP leads	**Lead:** PHS/ SPILs
Working with partners across the delivery collective and wider stakeholders, co-design capacity building programme for involving people with lived and living experience at a local level with focus on both children/young people and adults.	**Lead:** PHS/ SPILs

Activity for 2026/27

Co-design longer term plan for suicide prevention network

Milestones	Who is involved
Summer Create knowledge hub for the network and pilot its use with Knowledge Hub members	**Lead:** PHS/ SPILs
Autumn Bring network members together through a programme of in person and online events across Scotland to support co-designed purpose and function of the network to meet members needs	**Lead:** PHS/ SPILs

Activity for 2026/27

Deliver a range of in person events to enable shared learning and networking

Milestones	Who is involved
Spring Host national conference in May 2026 Facilitate national Suicide Prevention Leads Day	**Lead:** Suicide Prevention Scotland **Lead:** PHS/ SPILs
Autumn Side by Side After Suicide in September 2026 focused on bringing together people who have been bereaved by suicide	**Lead:** Suicide Prevention Scotland
Winter Gathering Hope in January 2027 providing opportunities for Third Sector providers to network and learn	**Lead:** Suicide Prevention Scotland