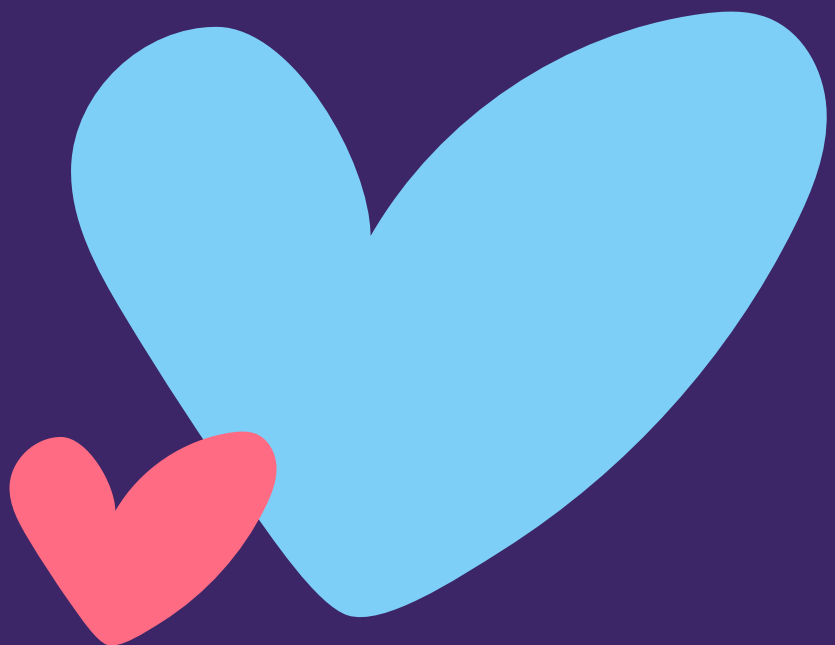


Creating Hope Together

Action Plan 2026-2029



Welcome

The Scottish Government and COSLA's second Creating Hope Together action plan has been launched. It will run until 2029.

This work is led by Suicide Prevention Scotland, the community of people and organisations working together to deliver the Creating Hope Together strategy.

The new plan builds and strengthens on the work of the last three years, with a strong focus on building collaboration across our four strategic outcomes.

- ♥ Creating a safer environment to prevent suicide - Samaritans Scotland
- ♥ Understanding suicide and tackling stigma - SAMH
- ♥ Providing support to people affected by suicide - Penumbra Mental Health & Change Mental Health
- ♥ Collaboration in a way that draws on evidence and lived experience - Public Health Scotland

Visit the Scottish Government's website to learn more - **[click here](#)**.

How this guide works

The Scottish Government and COSLA have published a long-form, comprehensive action plan for 2026-2029. You can view this [here](#).

This at a glance guide is intended to provide an overview of the key outcomes, priorities and focused areas of work.

Strategic Outcome 01

Creating a safer environment to prevent suicide

Outcome

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

Priority

Build a whole of Government and whole society approach to address the social determinants which have the greatest link to suicide risk.

Focus	Addressing the wider factors that impact on suicide risk
1.1	Strengthen connections with key policy areas in local and national government to have the greatest impact on suicide risk
1.2	Focus on people who may be at a higher risk of suicide, including a specific focus on people who experience multiple disadvantages
1.3	Expand evidence on conditions that reduce suicide risk and consider early intervention measures in communities
Focus	Creating safer environments that protect against suicide
1.4	Support implementation of the latest guidance on 'Locations of Concern', 'Suicide Clusters', 'Suicide Memorials'
1.5	Support implementation of report on actions to prevent suicide by specific methods
1.6	Work to inform policies and services that relate to the built and natural environment
Focus	Promote safe and responsible communication about suicide
1.7	Improve reporting and public discussion of suicide, promoting more hopeful reporting
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

Strategic Outcome 02

Understanding suicide and tackling stigma

Outcome

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.

Priority

Strengthen Scotland's awareness and responsiveness to suicide and people who are suicidal.

Focus	Strengthen suicide prevention awareness and understanding across Scotland's communities, which includes addressing suicide-related stigma
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- 2.1 Deliver co-produced national and targeted public awareness campaigns, encouraging people to talk/ask about suicide and respond with compassion
- 2.2 Strengthen and grow the United to Prevent Suicide social movement

Focus	Develop and share information and advice for anyone affected by suicide
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- 2.3 Work with community-based groups to co-develop suicide prevention resources, particularly for communities impacted by stigma, discrimination and inequalities
- 2.4 Provide reliable and accessible information on suicide prevention, primarily via the Suicide Prevention Scotland website
- 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

Focus	Improve access to learning and development on suicide prevention and suicide bereavement
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- 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
- 2.7 Develop workforce wellbeing resources for people who may support others who are at risk of suicide, in their work

Strategic Outcome 03

Providing support to people affected by suicide

Outcome

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.

Priority

Promote and provide effective, timely, compassionate support – that promotes wellbeing and recovery.

Focus	Create opportunities for everyone affected by suicide to receive safe, timely compassionate support
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
3.2	Raise awareness and share learning and practice on Time Space Compassion
Focus	Support the development and delivery of tailored and targeted support to those most at risk of suicide
3.3	Use learning to respond to the needs of diverse and marginalised communities, where there is a heightened risk of suicide
3.4	Strengthen support for children and young people who may be at higher risk of suicide
3.5	People bereaved by suicide can access high-quality, timely and compassionate support
Focus	Peer support
3.6	Further develop peer-led approaches which support early intervention including in statutory and clinical services

Strategic Outcome 04

Collaboration in a way that draws on evidence and lived experience

Outcome

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.

Priority

Embed a coordinated, collaborative and integrated approach.

Focus	Improve data on suicide deaths, attempts and contributory factors
4.1	Enhance data collection on deaths, making effective use of existing data and intelligence; explore new sources of data
4.2	Continue to support the development and use of ScotSID reports
4.3	Continue to support the development and implementation of the multi-agency suicide review system at a local level
Focus	Actionable evidence, experience, evaluation and horizon-scanning
4.4	Build evidence base to increase our understanding of suicide risk and prevention at population level
4.5	Identify emerging issues including risks and opportunities presented by technology
4.6	Provide guidance and practical support to local suicide prevention leads and the wider Suicide Prevention Scotland community

Suicide Prevention Scotland.

SuicidePrevention.scot

