



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health,
Inequalities and Suicide Prevention*

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

To all MPs

16th May 2019

Dear Colleague,

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING TOOLS

As Minister for Suicide Prevention I am committed to addressing the devastating and enduring impact that suicide has on families and communities, as many of you will be all too aware. There is a Parliamentary consensus to do everything we can to prevent suicide and I know many of you work to champion this area as well as having the heart-breaking role of supporting constituents who have been bereaved by suicide. I want to enlist your help in tackling this.

As you may be aware, in October 2018, the Government announced up to £2million funding over the next two years for the Zero Suicide Alliance (ZSA). The ZSA is a collaborative of National Health Service trusts, businesses and individuals who are all committed to suicide prevention in the UK and beyond, and was founded by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, Steve Mallen, a father bereaved by suicide and Chair of the MindEd Trust, and Geraldine Strathdee, former National Clinical Director for mental health.

Through the funding we have committed, the ZSA is working to improve suicide awareness and training across the NHS and wider communities, develop a better culture of learning from deaths by suicide across the NHS, and use new technology to improve risk assessments.

Suicide

The training module takes only 15-20 minutes to complete, and will provide people with the skills they need to approach situations where they may encounter someone with suicidal thoughts, to handle any difficult conversations and to better understand and be able to help anyone expressing suicidal thoughts or behaviours. The video combines facts about suicide with stories of real people who have experienced the impact of it on their lives, and provides advice alongside real-life scenarios.

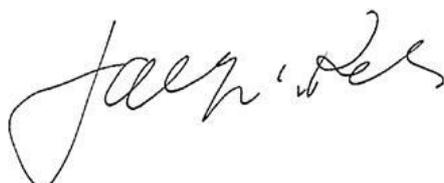
I am keen to ensure this short online training is promoted as widely as possible across our communities, to use this as a building block to helping us to extend zero suicide to whole community approaches.

I would therefore ask you to join me in this important work by completing this online training module yourself, along with your office staff. I would also be grateful if you could raise awareness of the ZSA and this training tool across your local communities – encouraging local services to join the zero suicide vision. This can include local NHS services, councils, other public sector services, schools, colleges and universities, and local businesses, amongst others. Areas such as the Liverpool City Region have already declared themselves as zero suicide areas. I would strongly encourage others to follow.

The training module is accessible via the ZSA's website using the following link:
<https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/>

We need to tackle the stigma associated with suicide in keep raising awareness of this important issue and ask that you help us in this work by encouraging these conversations across your local communities.

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Doyle-Price', written in a cursive style.