

5 CHOOSE LIFE (AN204-2007)

Proposals for the implementation of the Choose Life strategy were approved by the Social Work Committee on 16 February 2004 (Report No 150-2004). The report detailed Scottish Executive funding allocated specifically for the implementation of Choose Life in Dundee and highlighted that a sub group of Healthy Dundee (The Choose Life Steering Group) has been established to oversee the ongoing development and implementation of the local suicide prevention strategy. Dundee is allocated £97,000 per year to implement the Choose Life Strategy

The strategy and action plan aims to ensure action is taken, both locally and nationally, to improve knowledge and awareness of 'what works' to prevent suicide and improve opportunities to prevent premature loss of life.

Although suicide figures in Dundee have shown a decrease in recent years, around 20 people every year complete suicide within the City and locally the strategy has prioritised work with children and young people, people with mental health problems and people who have attempted suicide.

The Choose Life Steering Group has now approved six bids for Choose Life funding as follows:

NCS Tayside (National Counselling Service) - £8,000

The money will be used to offer emergency counselling appointments to those who present as suicidal and need urgent appointments and to reduce waiting times to those most in need. This money will cover staffing costs for two days a week until March 2008 and for NCS Tayside to become involved in generating awareness of suicide issues through health promotion and public awareness.

Bi-polar Fellowship Scotland - £150

The money will be used to purchase resources for a library of books, leaflets and DVDs relating to bi-polar disorder and mental health issues.

Dundee Samaritans - £4,300

The money will be used to raise awareness of the work of the Samaritans and increase media coverage during International Suicide Prevention Awareness week and towards the end of the year which is generally a crisis time. The publicity relates to press coverage in the local media, consisting of newspapers and radio.

Dundee University - £914

The money will be used to provide SuicideTALK sessions to nursing, social work and community education students and covers the costs of associated materials.

Community Family Support Team and Couple Counselling - £3200

The money will be used to provide community based counselling in the regeneration areas of Dundee tackling clients who would not usually access services. This includes young males and single parents from very deprived areas of Dundee. This project works in partnership with a number of local agencies and has generated a lot of in-kind support for this piece of work.

Advertising in leisure wall planner - £750

Dundee City Council is publishing a leisure services wall planner and this money will be used to advertise within this which will be distributed to households throughout Dundee.

The Committee is asked to approve the release of Choose Life funding.