Child Death Review Programme
Thematic Review
Deaths of Children & Young People through Probable Suicide 2013-2017

What we did:
- Reviewed literature
- Cross sectoral panel discussions

33 children were included in the review:
- 57% were aged 16-17 years
- 30% Female
- 70% Male
- 33% had a history of substance misuse
- 48% had a history of self harm
- 24% had a history of alcohol misuse
- 24% had a history of sexual abuse or assault
- 33% were known to CAMHS

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Bereavement
- Information sharing
- Young parenthood
- Custodial sentences
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Poverty
- Shame
- Difficulties in education, employment or training
- Disrupted living arrangements
- Adverse Childhood Experiences including domestic violence and sexual abuse
- Internet and social media
- Looked after children
- Lack of awareness regarding the importance of self-harm as a risk factor or opportunity for intervention

Opportunities not to be missed:

Management of self-harm:
Full implementation of NICE guidance for the management of self-harm relating to children and young people.

Prevention of alcohol and substance misuse:
Ongoing action to restrict access of children and young people to alcohol, and full implementation of NICE guidance to prevent substance misuse.

Better information sharing:
Exploration of how information can be shared between non-state education settings (such as private schools) and statutory services.

Better knowledge and awareness:
Exploration of evidence-based ways of increasing knowledge and awareness of: self-harm and other risk factors for suicide; safety planning; help seeking and accessing services; and tackling stigma.

Mitigation of ACEs:
Optimising access and ensuring continued engagement with interventions for children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences such as sexual abuse, sexual assault or domestic violence; and engagement with safeguarding boards to raise awareness of the importance of protecting children from the effects of domestic violence and sexual abuse to prevent suicide and self harm.

Raising age of participation in education, employment or training:
Exploration of mechanisms to ensure children and young people between the ages of 16 and 18 are supported in education, employment or training including work based training.

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