

MOVING FROM UNACCEPTABLE RISK PREDICTION TO RELATIONAL SAFETY

Philip Pirie



Suicides
per day

17 - 5 - 4

In contact with
mental health
services

Assessed as
low or no risk
of suicide





MILESTONES TO RELATIONAL SAFETY

WHAT TO **STOP** AND WHAT TO **START**

STOP: Any form of suicide risk prediction, including risk stratification into low, medium or high.

START: Person-centred, relational and collaborative approach to safety



MILESTONES TO RELATIONAL SAFETY

- July 2022 Chief Coroner's newsletter to all coroners
- Sept 2022 NICE guidance: "Do not use stratified risk assessments"
- Aug 2024 Started work on new NHSE guidance "Staying Safe from Suicide"
- April 2025 Publication of SSfS Guidance – applies to **ALL** mental health practitioners
- Sept 2025 WSPD - Launch of e-learning for SSfS Guidance
- Autmn 25 Baroness Merron, Mental Health Minister, writes to Chief Coroner, CQC, PSA and Charities Commissioner and others expecting compliance. Chief Coroner circulates letter to all coroners.



NEXT MILESTONES

**Royal College of Psychiatrists Conference on
Men's Mental Health, 24 February, 2026**

To be opened by Baroness Merron. Follows
successful initiative on women's mental health three
years ago

Public Health Campaign

mail@philippirie.com



COLLABORATION IS THE WAY AHEAD

**THERE'S A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT WE'RE ALL
ON THE SAME SIDE**