



15 March 2023

FAO: Kathy Owens (Health & Social Wellbeing Senior Improvement Officer)
Engage.PL2@hscni.net

Re: Public Health Agency Public Consultation for Services for those who have been bereaved by Suicide

Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland, which represents all (440 approximately) Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland, welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this Public Consultation issued by the Public Health Agency on services for those who have been bereaved by suicide.

We support the proposed "Postvention Support Service: Proposed Model of Support" August 2022.

It would be important that the professional staff involved in the delivery of the service are well trained, supported and supervised for the level of input they are providing and know how to escalate clinical concerns about a patient or access other services.

Although the focus for postvention services should always be on the family, supporters and friends of the deceased person, there is also a significant impact on staff from the Community and Voluntary sector and Statutory Services who may have been involved with the deceased. We feel that this should also be included in this proposal.

The HSC Trusts and Community and Voluntary organisations should have structures established to provide postvention services for staff in the sad event of the suicide of a client/patient.

The RCPsych has produced a Report "**Supporting mental health staff following the death of a patient by Suicide**" CR234 Dec 2022. The Report makes recommendations for professional organisations some of which could be modified for the Community and Voluntary sector.

[Supporting mental health staff following the death of a patient by suicide: A prevention and postvention framework \(CR234\) \(rcpsych.ac.uk\)](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/CR234)

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Richard Wilson', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Richard Wilson, Consultant Psychiatrist
Chair of RCPsych NI & Vice President RCPsych