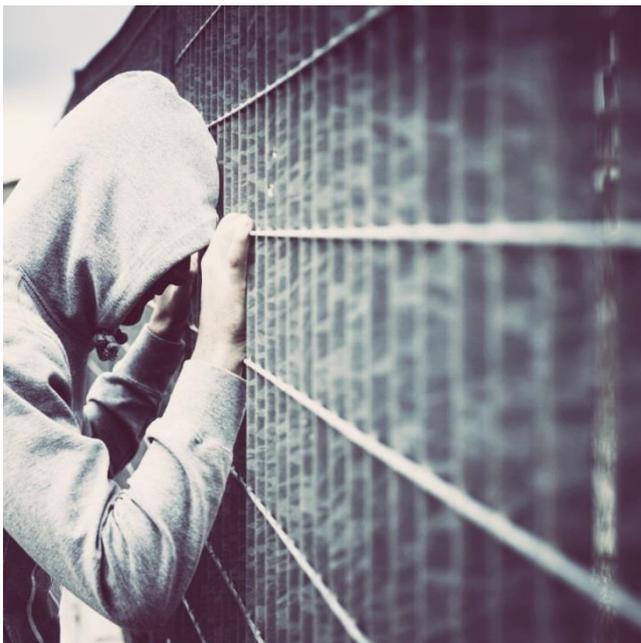


MEDIA RELEASE

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LPT hosts multi-agency event looking at the prevention of suicide in young people



Ahead of the Mental Health Foundation's Mental Health Awareness Week, which starts on 13 May, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) proudly hosted a multi-agency event for professionals entitled 'Learning from when young people take their lives' with De Montfort University in Leicester on Wednesday 8 May.

It is hoped that this conference will be the first of many, providing ongoing opportunities for professionals supporting children, young people and families locally to review existing systems and explore new approaches to protecting young people's mental health, ensuring that they do not get to the point where they wish to take their own lives.

Speakers at the one day conference included LPT consultant psychiatrists Dr Mohammed Abbas and Dr Khalid Karim, who explored the motivations behind

suicidal behaviour and the extent to which the factors around suicide in children and young people are different to those affecting adults. In addition, Dr Rob Howard and Dr Mike McHugh from Leicestershire County Council's public health team discussed key learning points emerging from audits undertaken locally by the Child Death Overview Panel. The headline address was given by Cathryn Rodway, programme manager for the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH), a UK-wide study that aims to improve the safety of mental health care.

Practical workshop sessions explored the importance of resilience work in schools and of early intervention support, for example through school nursing. They also looked at effective support for schools following a traumatic incident or bereavement, signs of safety and the impact of the internet and social media on young people's mental health.

Dr Avinash Hiremath, clinical director for families, young people and children's services at LPT said: "I have been passionate about organising this event to bring people together because even one young life ended too soon is a life too many. The conference was an opportunity to explore what else we can do as a system to prevent further tragic deaths in future."

Jenny Myers, chair of the Leicester Safeguarding Children's Boards said: "The death of any young person through suicide is an absolute tragedy. In Leicester, we learnt lessons about how to better support young people and their families through a recent review, and I am glad that partner organisations had the opportunity to attend the conference to ensure continued collaboration across the health, education and social care system in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, looking at practical steps we can put in place to provide the right support for young people and their families at the right time."

Detective Inspector John Gray from Leicestershire Police said: "This conference highlighted the signs to look out for amongst children and young people who are at risk of taking their own life. It is our duty to understand these signs, and to work together as professionals for greater awareness and to improve how we support young people's mental health."



NOTES TO EDITORS

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk.

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Leicester Safeguarding Children Board publishes all learning from multiagency reviews and serious case reviews on its website: <http://www.lcitylscb.org/lscb-learning-development/learning-from-reviews/>