

Rotherham- Postvention for Prevention

Yorkshire and the Humber Sector-Led Improvement Conference



Big hearts, big changes

Postvention for Prevention

At the first conference of the American Association of Suicidology in 1968 Shneidman coined the word postvention as:

“the helpful activities which occur . . . after a stressful or dangerous situation” (Shneidman, 1969)

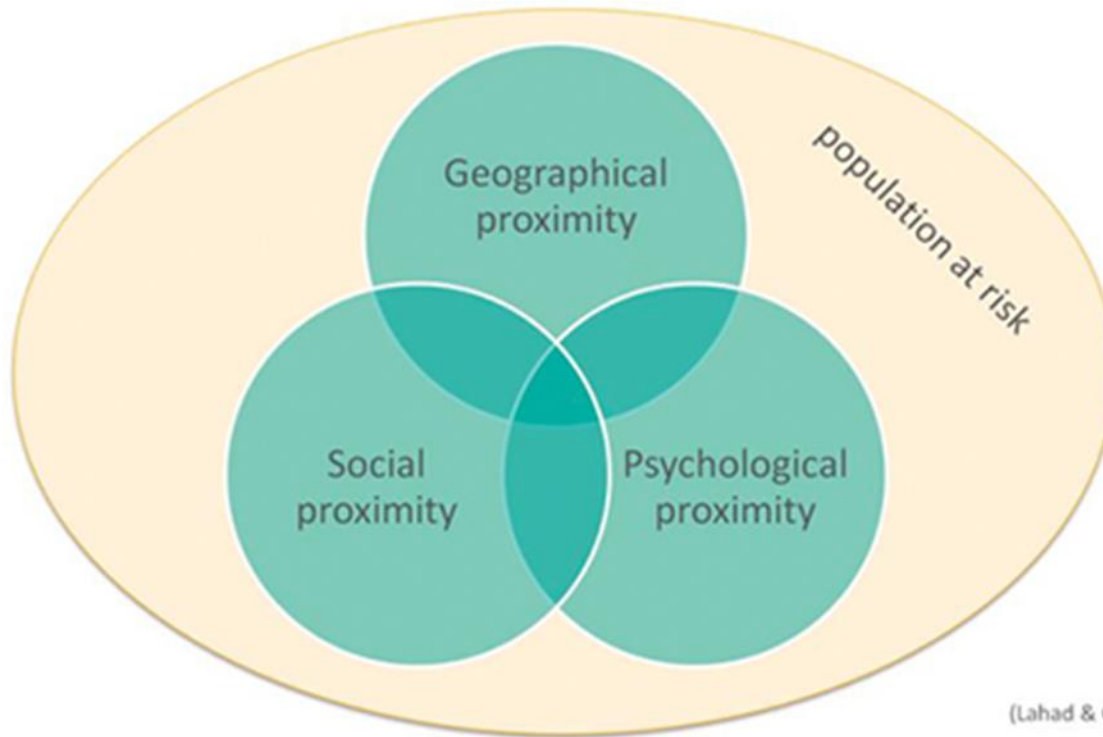
In Rotherham

- Deaths of 4 young people by suicide between 2011 and 2013
- Multi agency response in Rotherham
- Absence of any national guidance in dealing with multiple suicides
- Looked to international evidence
- Independent report
- Development of Rotherham Suicide and Self Harm Community Response Plan

Rotherham Suicide and Self Harm Community Response plan

- Written utilising the work of the Centre for Health Policy, Programs & Economics Melbourne School of Population Health. The University of Melbourne
- Sits within CDOP, Rotherham LSCB Policies & Procedures and Rotherham Suicide Prevention & Self-Harm Action Plan
- Coordinated response initially by Public Health now Early Help
- Activated for all suicides (children and adults within school community) and serious self harm incidents

Circles of vulnerability



Legend Lower risk Higher risk

Postvention- what does it cover?

- Whole school approach however not everyone needs all the detail
- Procedures for notifying staff, parents/carers, and young people about suicide
- Support with how to inform the school community and handle the media
- Identifying and promoting appropriate support services both in and out of school
- Procedures for recognising “at risk” individuals (including staff) and identify where people can be referred
- Significant dates- funeral and inquest
- Long term support

Who attends?

- School (s)
- Educational Psychology
- South Yorkshire Police-Vulnerable Persons Unit
- Early Help
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- School Nursing Service
- Voluntary sector working in school(s)
- Support from Communications Dept in RMBC

Case Study

Plan activated and individuals and groups considered:

- Family
- The person's own children
- Witnesses
- School staff and work colleagues across the borough
- Current tutor group
- Previous students
- Recently bereaved
- Wider community

Thank you

Contact

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