

Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 10th September 2024

Date: 10th September 2024

Title: World Suicide prevention day: Change the narrative

On the 10th September every year across the world there is a focus on increasing awareness and action to prevent suicides.

Suicide is a major public health issue.

The reasons underlying suicide and the feeling of hopelessness and pain are complex.

PAPYRUS has highlighted that over 200 children and young people commit suicide every year across the UK.

Suicide is the most common cause of death for young people aged 15 – 24.

The need to recognise, reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors in childhood and adolescence is crucial.

All nurses and other health care professionals working with children and young people must have up-to-date training to recognise and address self-harm and suicide risk, with support and access to specialist children's and young people's mental health teams.

Education about mental health in schools is critical, enabling children and young people to talk about issues affecting them and their peers, as well as highlighting confidential sources of support and advice.

Research demonstrates that suicides by young people can be prevented by early intervention and support.

"Although the evidence base focusing on suicide is increasing and high quality prevention interventions exist, children's nurses working in schools, hospitals and other settings need to effectively engage with interventions and reach out to children and young people"

Professor Bernie Carter, President

Notes for editors

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age

The ABPN recognises that child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families

PAPYRUS – prevention of young suicide - <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

Young Minds - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

The ABPN is a network of children's nurses with a wide membership of experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research. It is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938.

www.abpn-uk.com

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