

Death on the Mind

Comparing [UK Suicide Prevention Strategy](#) with assisted suicide and euthanasia UK proposals

Current Strategies to Prevent Suicide¹

1) Reduce the risk of suicide in key high risk groups

Educate healthcare professionals to recognise suicide risk

2) Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups such as young people

3) Reduce access to means of suicide

4) Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide

5) Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.

Protect individuals from online content promoting self-harm³

6) Support research, data collection and monitoring

7) Reducing rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk

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Current UK proposals for Assisted suicide & Euthanasia

Promote assisted suicide and euthanasia to high risk groups

Allow newly qualified, non-specialist doctors to assess eligibility²

No proposals to improve mental health. Young people will be eligible for assisted deaths²

Increase access to assisted suicide and euthanasia

No proposals to offer bereavement support or to support those adversely affected by assisted deaths

Use the media to promote assisted suicide and euthanasia

Use online content to promote assisted suicide and euthanasia

No proposals to support or enable research or data collection
No clarity on monitoring

Promote assisted suicide and euthanasia as a solution to any distressing life-event or situation

Strategies to Prevent Suicide¹

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Assisted suicide & euthanasia UK proposals

Background information

In 2020 in the UK there were **5,224** suicides

£57 million allocated for suicide prevention¹

Current strategy suggests reviewing cases where poverty has been a factor in a suicide

Each successive suicide prevention strategy commits to improving and tightening preventative measures

It has been estimated that 1% of all deaths would be assisted.⁴ Based on this rate, 2020 would have seen **5,697** assisted deaths.

Assisted dying is cheaper than suicide prevention (based on Canadian costs,⁵ 5,697 UK assisted deaths would cost £22 million/year)

Evidence in Canada that poverty, housing and lack of care are becoming criteria for assisted suicide and euthanasia⁶

Every assisted dying jurisdiction has, over time, relaxed and loosened eligibility criteria

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Adapted with permission of KS Gaiend, *Death on the Mind: Comparing CDC suicide prevention strategies (left column) with Canada's experience with expanded medical assistance in dying (MAiD) post Bill C-7*. 2023.

¹ Suicide prevention: policy and practice. London: House of Commons Library, Feb 2022

² Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, 2022.

³ Online Safety Bill, 2023

⁴ Scottish Medical Advisory Group on Assisted Dying, 2022.

⁵ Cost estimate for Bill C-7 "Medical Assistance in Dying". Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, Canada

⁶ Grew J. Review of evidence: Canada. <https://livinganddyingwell.org.uk/review-of-evidence-canada/>