

**Sunderland
City Council**

SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

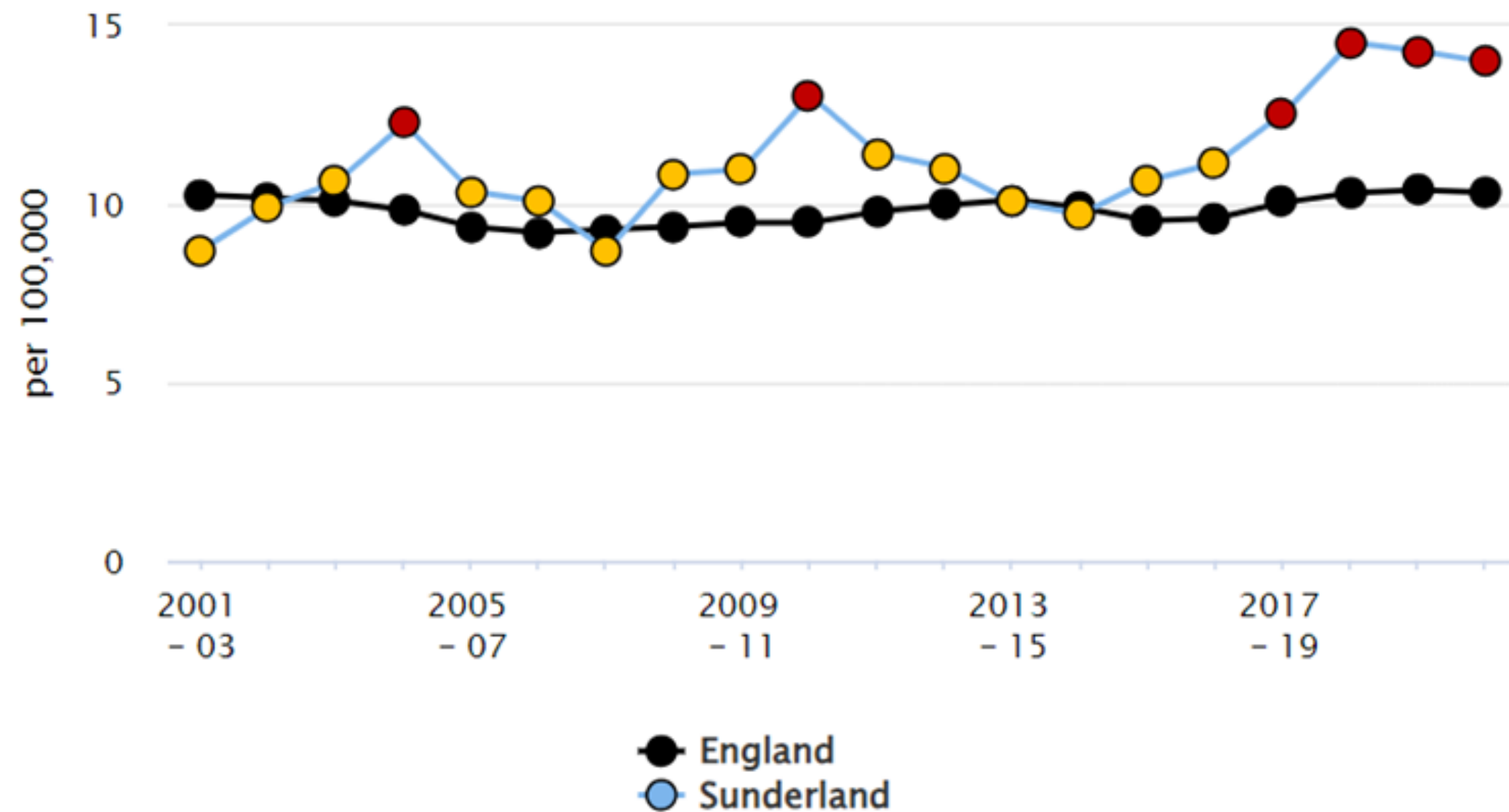
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Robyn Bullock
Public Health Practitioner

Context/background

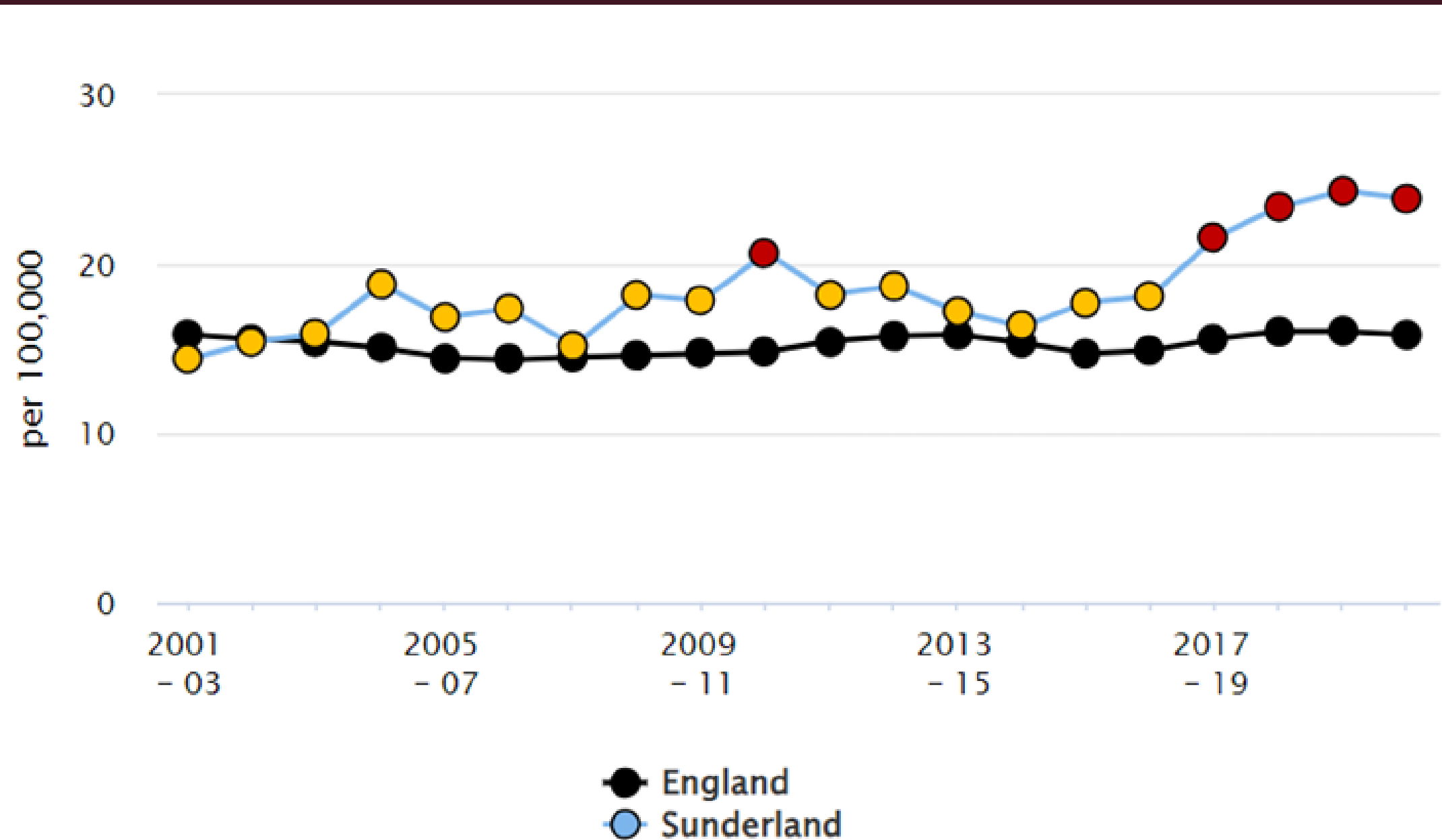
- The responsibility for having a suicide prevention strategy and plan sits with the local authority, through Sunderland's Health and Well-being Board.
- The development of a local suicide prevention action plan is recommended by government and supports the 2023 national strategy: Suicide Prevention in England: 5-year Cross-sector Strategy.
- The Integrated Care Strategy for North East North Cumbria (NENC) has also identified suicide prevention as a priority area and as such, there is a NENC action plan in place to tackle suicide prevention at scale. This is a contribution to the broader efforts for suicide prevention which will include people in contact with NHS commissioned and healthcare delivery services amenable to healthcare preventative efforts.

Local Picture: ONS Data



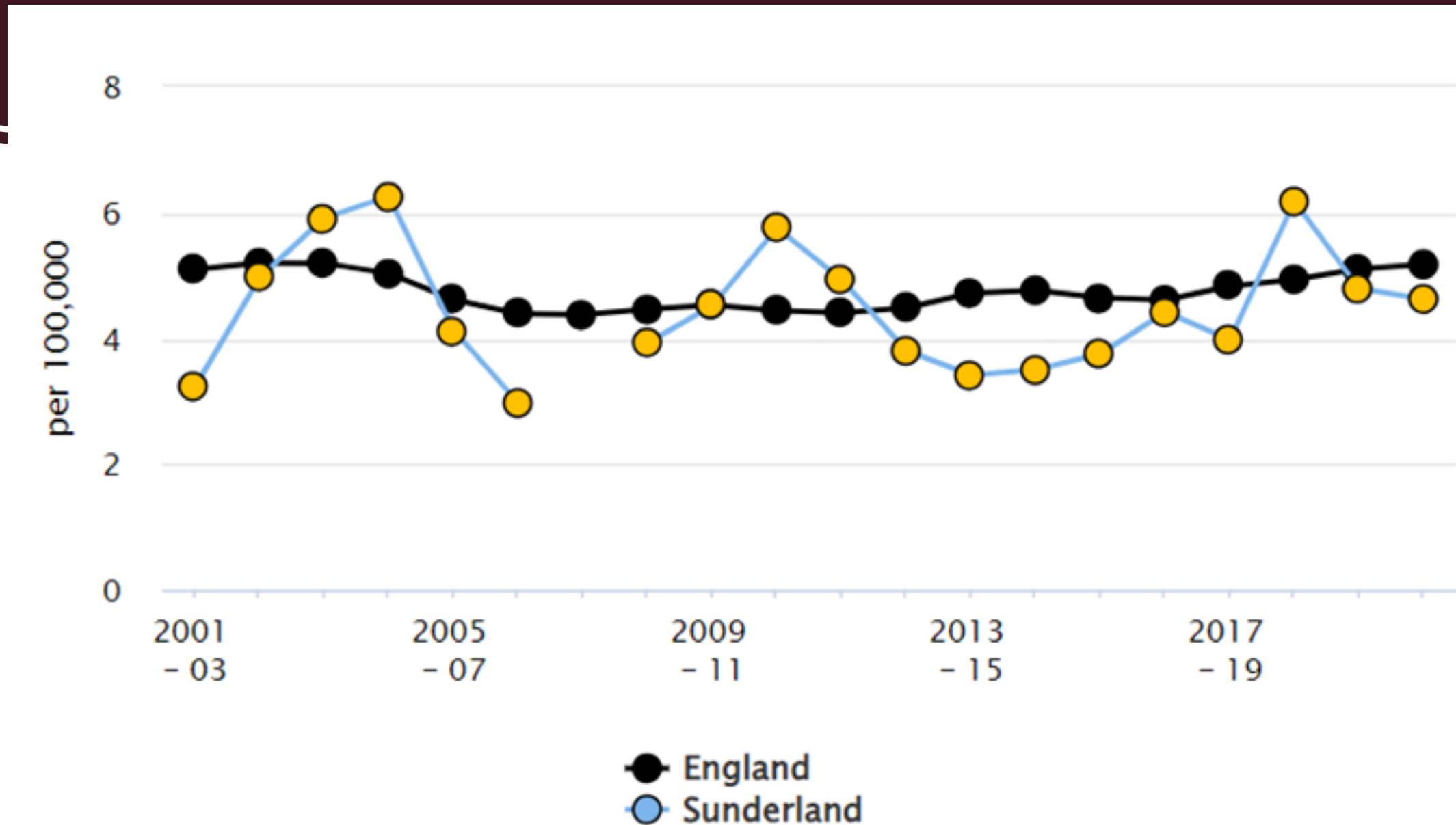
The suicide rate in Sunderland (2020-22) is 14.0 per 100,000, significantly worse than the England average of 10.3 and worse than the North East average of 13.5, ranking 6th highest in the region overall. For context, the rate of 14.0 per 100,000 represents 102 suicides over the 3-year period.

Local Picture: ONS Data (Males)

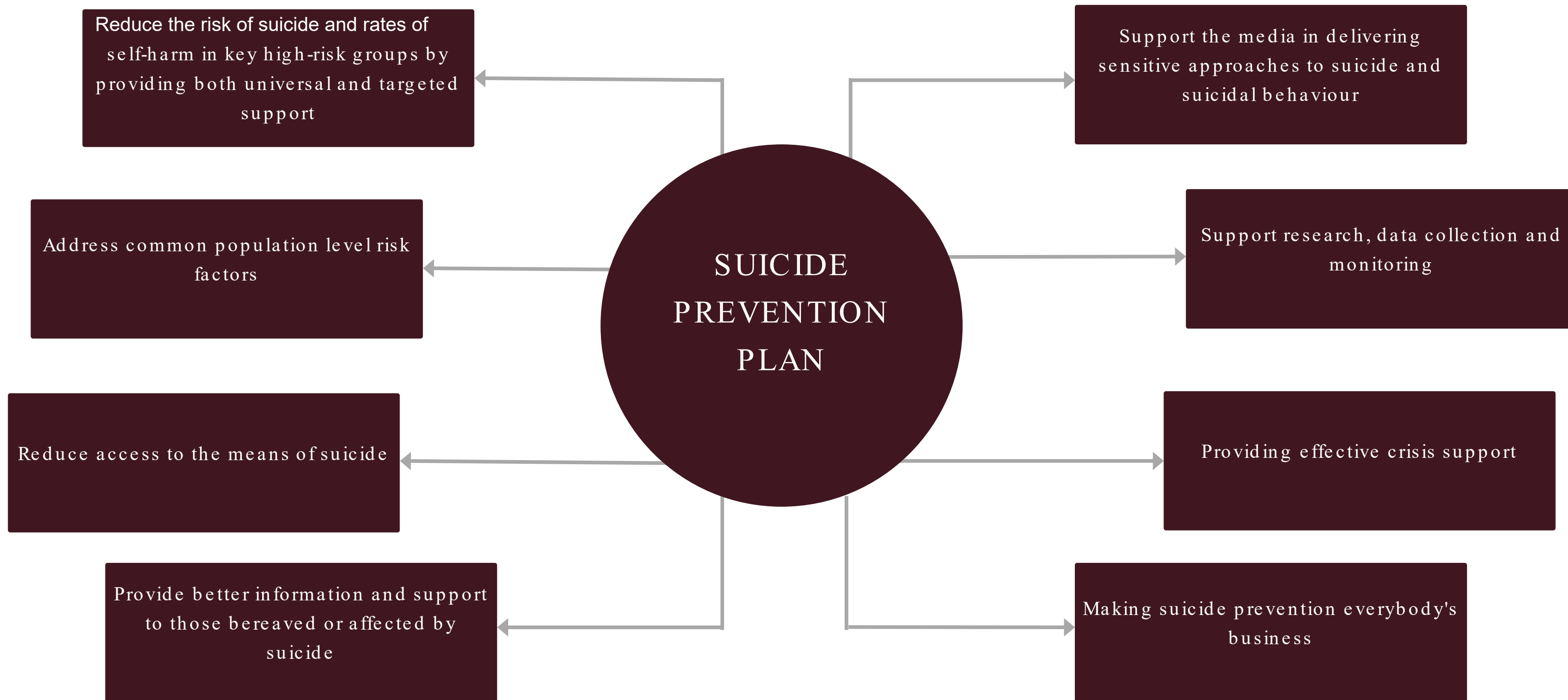


The suicide rate for males (2020 – 22) in Sunderland ranked 5th highest in the region, at 22.9 per 100,000, compared to the North East (21.4) and England average (15.8). There has been a small reduction in the suicide rate compared to the previous reporting period.

Local Picture: ONS Data (Females)



In contrast, the suicide rate for females (2020 – 22) in Sunderland is 4.6 per 100,000, lower than both the North East (6.1) and England (5.2) average. Whilst there was an increase in the female suicide rate 2018 – 20, the rate decreased in 2019-21 and 2020-22.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training Offer

Commissioned Washington Mind to deliver Mental Health, Emotional Resilience & Suicide Prevention training.

Substance Misuse Death Inquiry Panel

To identify co-existing conditions and strengthen multi agency working to reduce risk of drug related deaths, in which suspected suicides by method of overdose holds a key focus.

Campaigns

Supported key national campaigns throughout the calendar year, including campaigns such as Mental Health Awareness Week and World Suicide Prevention Day.



Prevention Concordat

Implementation of the Prevention Concordat; a programme of work put in place to encourage effective prevention planning arrangements.

Behavioural Insights

Developed an intervention to increase access to, and use of, mental health self-help tools for children and young people aged 10-15 who may be experiencing low mood and/or anxiety for the first time.

NRTSS

Supported the development of the NENC Near Real Time Surveillance System (NRTSS) for suspected suicides in Sunderland.

Sunderland Bridges

A full review and update of the Samaritans signage has been undertaken on the entrance and exit of Wearmouth Bridge, and upstream routes with heavy footfall, with further work to follow.

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QUESTIONS

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