



Subject:	Motion – Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness
Date:	22nd September, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	To bring to Members' attention a motion on Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 29th August.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 29th August, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th September:

Save West Wellbeing Suicide Awareness

“Since opening its doors in 2021, the West Wellbeing Suicide Prevention Centre has provided 21,000 hours of Counselling and support for people affected by poor mental health.

Its staff and volunteers offer one-to-one therapy, family support, home visits and a wide range of services for people across a range of high risk and complex situations.

The lack of funding for mental health services means this charity is now threatened with closure, and it has been forced to drastically reduce the hours it can provide toward counselling for clients in recent weeks.

West Wellbeing, which normally offers sessions for up to 200 people per week, has had to reduce this number by 60%, due to a lack of financial support. It is also having to reduce its opening hours from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is leaving many falling through the cracks and going without support at a time when they are struggling.

This Council recognises the urgent need for investment into mental health services in communities. The Council also recognises that working class communities are adversely impacted due to higher levels of poverty and the legacy of trauma caused by conflict.

The Council supports this service and agrees to explore all options to fund the West Well Being Suicide Prevention Centre, including using reserve funds, if necessary, to source up to £50,000 so the organisation can continue to deliver its full range of services for the remainder of 2023.

This Council commits this financial support to ensure West Wellbeing can continue to operate for the remainder of 2023, without having to reduce its services.”

The motion was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor McCusker.

3.2	<p>As the motion calls upon the Council to provide funding to the West Wellbeing Suicide Prevention Centre, it was referred in the first instance to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, which has responsibility for managing the Council's finances.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There will be financial and resource implications for the Council if the motion is approved.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
	Documents Attached
	None