

[News story: First ever cross-government suicide prevention plan published](#)

The government has published the first [cross-government suicide prevention plan](#). The plan has a focus on how social media and the latest technology – such as predictive analytics and artificial intelligence – can identify those at risk of suicide.

The plan will be led by the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jackie Doyle-Price. It sets out actions for local government, the NHS and the criminal justice system.

The plan commits the government to improving data held on causes of death among veterans to better understand the triggers that can lead someone to take their own life, such as debt and gambling addiction.

It also includes greater focus on addressing the increase in suicide and self-harm among young people, while social media companies will be asked to take more responsibility for online content that promotes methods of suicide and self-harm.

Other parts of the plan include:

- every local authority putting an effective suicide prevention plan in place
- ensuring every mental health trust has a zero-suicide ambition plan for mental health inpatients by the end of 2019
- every prison putting actions in place to reduce suicides and self-harm and improve staff awareness and training
- addressing the specific needs of the highest risk groups, including middle-aged men, with £25 million funding
- improving research on things that can be linked to suicide, such as debt and gambling addiction

There are 4,500 suicides each year in England, and around 13 people end their life every day. Men are 3 times more likely to die by suicide than women, and suicide is the leading cause of death in men under 50. Suicide is also a leading cause of death in young people.

The Prime Minister appointed Jackie Doyle-Price as the UK's first Suicide Prevention Minister in October 2018. Part of her role is to work across local and national government to carry out the [national suicide prevention strategy](#), published in 2012.

The cross-government suicide prevention plan published in January 2019 supports the national suicide prevention strategy, following recommendations from the Health Select Committee's inquiry into suicide prevention in 2016.

Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Jackie Doyle-Price said:

As a society we need to do everything we can to support vulnerable and at-risk people, as well as those in crisis, and give them the help they desperately need.

I will be working with local councils, the NHS and the justice system to make sure suicide prevention plans are put in place across public services.

Together, we will do everything in our power to meet our ambition to reduce suicides by at least 10% by 2020 – and I look forward to working collaboratively with social media and tech companies to help achieve our ambitions.

Samaritans CEO Ruth Sutherland said:

We welcome the publication of the workplan and hope it will help save more lives.

Every 6 seconds someone contacts Samaritans volunteers for support, so we know that there is a huge amount to be done to help those struggling to cope.

When we can work in partnership, we can make a bigger impact in preventing suicide, particularly among the hardest to reach high-risk groups such as low-income and middle-aged men, and those whose occupation puts them at higher risk. Working to address inequalities in suicide is key.

We also need more research into the increases in self-harm and suicide among young people, and why gambling addiction and debt can drive suicides. Improving suicide data is essential to help us put more effective suicide prevention in place.

[Press release: Foreign Secretary announces new UK funding to support UN peace process in Yemen](#)

This uplift in spending, from the UK Government's Conflict, Security and Stability Fund, will help establish the UN Civilian Coordinator's Office, following the agreements made between parties at December's UN peace talks in

Stockholm. The UN Civilian Coordinator's Office will play the leading role in coordinating support to the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Isa – Yemen's lifeline. It will also focus on demining work and other civilian aspects of the Hodeidah Agreement. The Civilian Coordinator's Office will be co-funded by Germany.

The announcement follows the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of UK-drafted resolution 2452 last week, which established a special political mission to support implementation of the ceasefire agreement reached in Stockholm.

The Stockholm Agreements, and the Hodeidah Agreement in particular, are integral steps in the road to long-term peace and stability in Yemen. They will also be pivotal in addressing the acute humanitarian crisis in the country. The funding announced by the UK today will help to the UN to ensure the survival of the ceasefire in its crucial first months.

Announcing the increase in spending today, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, said:

Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Up to 20 million Yemenis lack reliable access to food and over 400,000 children under the age of 5 suffer severe acute malnutrition. This is a man-made humanitarian catastrophe and it will have man-made solutions. The Stockholm Agreements are our best chance of securing long term peace in Yemen. The UK is therefore determined to support the implementation of these agreements. Last week's Security Council vote and today's announcement of an additional £2.5 million UK funding are an instrumental part of that process, and we will continue to bolster the UN Special Envoy's work where possible over the coming months.

The strides made over recent weeks would not have been thought possible just a short time ago. But there is still a long way to go. I urge the Government of Yemen and the Houthis to work closely with the UN and in good faith to expedite implementation of these agreements. It is imperative that they show restraint and act in the interests of all Yemenis to bring an end to this heart-breaking crisis.

Notes to Editors:

- The new £2.5m UK contribution comes from the Conflict, Security and Stability fund and will help fund the UN's Civilian Coordinator's Office to support the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement on the ground in Hodeidah. The Office will play the leading role in the civilian aspects of the Hodeidah Agreement including:
 - Support to the planning and management of the three ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Isa
 - Expansion of the UN Verification and Monitoring Mission within the

- three ports, managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services;
- Deployment and coordination of demining and explosive ordnance disposal capacity in Hodeidah through the UN Development Programme;
 - Support to the re-establishment of a local civilian policing function, including training and mentoring, through UN Development Programme;
 - Support to the planning and implementation of customs facilities and revenue collection for the ports, if agreed by the parties.
- UK funding will also provide armoured vehicles to UN teams if needed as well as providing technical expertise and assistance to support stabilisation, confidence building and governance in Hodeidah.
 - UK personnel will also be backfilling roles in the UN Verification and Monitoring Mission in Djibouti to enable the UN to quickly expand the mission into Hodeidah, funded by DFID.
 - In April 2018, the UK announced £170 million in response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen for this financial year (2018/2019). This funding will meet immediate food needs for 4 million Yemenis and brings the total UK bilateral support to Yemen to over £570 million since 2015.
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[News story: Geovation Programme returns for 2019](#)

GeoTech and PropTech start-ups have the chance to advance their businesses after Geovation announced the return of its Accelerator Programme for 2019.

[Geovation](#) is an Ordnance Survey and HM Land Registry partnership dedicated to supporting open innovation and collaboration using location and property data.

The [application process has opened](#) for the Accelerator Programme, which is based at the Geovation Hub in Clerkenwell, London.

The programme, which has been running since 2015 and already created nearly 200 jobs, helps GeoTech and PropTech start-ups reach their potential. It puts the young companies in touch with a network of mentors who are established entrepreneurs, industry leaders and advisers.

A grant of £10,000 for six months, with the opportunity for another £10,000 afterwards, is available, along with 12 months' free desk space at the world-leading Geovation Hub.

Programme members are given access to technical expertise, Ordnance Survey and HM Land Registry data, and open data sources. They also receive one-to-one sessions and workshops covering finance, fundraising, business planning, legal and intellectual property, company law and coaching on presentations

and pitching.

Alex Wrottesley, Head of Geovation, said:

We want to hear from any new start-ups, entrepreneurs and developers looking to solve customer problems with location data, or creating new digital solutions in the land and property sector. Geovation offers a unique combination of funding, expertise, relationships and resources and the teams on our programme find themselves at the heart of our vibrant GeoTech and PropTech community.

As well as financial assistance, mentoring and workshops, we are unique in providing access to a dedicated software development team in house, who work closely with our cohort companies to run lean experiments and build and release their first products.

All of this combines to help these emerging start-ups break through.

Backed by Ordnance Survey (OS) and HM Land Registry, the Accelerator Programme has produced a steady pipeline of success since its introduction in 2015. A total of 84 start-ups have gone through the programme, creating more than 200 jobs and raising £23.3 million in investment funding.

Names to pass through the hub's doors include property licensing data company [Get Rentr](#), sexual harassment mapping app creators [Safe In the City](#) and pay-as-you-fly commercial drone insurers [Flock](#) (which has gone on to raise nearly £3 million in investment funding).

Pae Natwilai, founder of drone software company [Trik](#), was accepted on the programme last year. Her company automatically turns drone photo feeds into interactive 3D models for the structural inspections of buildings.

She said:

Through Geovation we have grown our team significantly and managed to secure pre-seed investment from two amazing investors, Alex Chesterman the founder of Zoopla and Simon Franks, founder of LoveFilm.

Next for us is scaling up the system and marketing it globally. We are currently finalising a deal with a couple of large engineering enterprises both in the UK and internationally.

Jonny Britton, co-founder of land data platform [LandInsight](#), went through the programme in 2015. He said:

Geovation has a technical group of people who could give you real-

time consultancy to how you can start moving faster with that data to put it into your products. Whenever you are with a group of people who are really pushing those boundaries, it's a fantastic place to be.

Olly Thornton-Berry is co-founder of PropTech start-up [Thirdfort](#), which works with lawyers to securely hold money during property transactions. He said:

Geovation has been immensely helpful, supporting us from incubation to a business with over £670k in funding, a testable product and two new developers working in house. We now feel we have a foundation to grow from and Geovation has been integral to that foundation.

Another PropTech company aided by the programme was [Hipla](#), which developed a Home Buyer Passport to improve transparency in the home buying process.

Co-founder Adam Phillips said:

Receiving backing, guidance and help from HM Land Registry, Geovation, and Ordnance Survey has helped our early stage start-up gain a much steadier footing than it otherwise would have done. Their help with early stage funding, office space, data and market insights has been invaluable. Their support has meant we are now in a much better position to deliver on our objectives of improving the home buying process.

For more information on how to apply to the Geovation Accelerator Programme, visit geovation.uk/accelerator/ or email us at programme@geovation.uk.

[News story: Civil news: training sessions to help with online applications](#)

Support is available for providers who need help making civil applications. There are two main options:

- live training events

- visits to LAA offices

How do I book training?

Live training sessions are listed on Eventbrite. Topics covered include:

Sessions are currently running until late February 2019.

You can book now using this link:

[Eventbrite provider training modules](#)

If you have any questions about training then email

Digital.Assist@justice.gov.uk

How do I book a visit?

You are welcome to contact us to enquire about visits to help us improve the way we work together.

Visits are organised by the Provider Engagement Working Group (PEWG). This group meets monthly and has representatives from offices across the Legal Aid Agency.

There are three main aims:

1. provide support
2. build and maintain positive relationships
3. reduce avoidable contact

Successes from provider visits to date include:

- introducing providers to the bulk upload facility for bills
- increasing the number of providers signed up to the paperless pilot for Escape Cases
- raising awareness about the role of a caseworker and the application process

If you would like to ask about a visit or have questions about the work of the Provider Engagement Working Group then email BIT@justice.gov.uk

Further information

[Eventbrite provider training modules](#)

Digital.Assist@justice.gov.uk – to email training questions

BIT@justice.gov.uk – to email PEWG questions

Statement to parliament: Departmental contingent liability notification: National Employment Savings Trust (NEST)

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST)

It is normal practice, when a government department proposes to undertake a contingent liability in excess of £300,000 for which there is no specific statutory authority, for the Minister concerned to present a departmental minute to Parliament giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from incurring the liability until 14 parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the minute, except in case of special urgency.

Background

NEST was established by government to support the policy of all employers being obliged to automatically enrol their eligible staff into a workplace pension scheme. NEST ensures that all employers have access to a low cost, high quality pension scheme.

The Pension Schemes Act 2017 introduced the definition of a 'Master Trust' and the introduction of a robust new authorisation and supervision regime to ensure that Master Trusts being used for automatic enrolment are safe for the nearly 10 million people now saving in these schemes. To be able to operate in the pensions market as a Master Trust, schemes, of which NEST is one, are required to meet 5 authorisation criteria prescribed in the Pension Schemes Act 2017.

One of the criteria is that the scheme must be financially sustainable and that in the event of a triggering event, an event that would put the scheme at risk of needing to wind up, the scheme must hold sufficient financial reserves to cover its gradual closure without putting these additional costs onto the scheme members. Due to the nature of its financial arrangements with

government, NEST is unable to build up the financial reserves needed to meet an aspect of the financial sustainability criteria.

Contingent liability

If a triggering event was to occur, then the maximum size of the contingent liability required to be made available to NEST would be £329 million. This is the amount estimated by NEST and accepted by The Pension Regulator during a pre-authorisation readiness review. The Department for Work and Pensions has estimated that the risk of full crystallisation is remote; less than 5%. The contingent liability is comprised of 24 months of operational costs and the fees required to comply with the triggering event to completion as prescribed in regulations. Member revenues and charges, interest payments due in respect of the existing loan and the Public Service Obligation Offset Payment have been modelled into the calculation. The amount of the contingent liability will be reviewed annually for the period it is required. This is currently expected to be until 2034 at which point NEST will not require this indemnity.

The contingent liability is required as a consequence of needing to provide a 'Letter of Comfort' in order that NEST can secure Master Trust status. Failure to secure Master Trust status will mean the closure of NEST. Specifically, without the letter, NEST, will be unable to meet the financial sustainability criteria.

The expected loss as calculated by the department is £16.45 million which is based on the liability multiplied by the risk of crystallisation. If the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal supply procedure.

HM Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of 14 parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this minute was laid before the House, a member signifies an objection by giving notice of a parliamentary question or motion relating to the minute, or by otherwise raising the matter in the House, final approval will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.