



**NSSAB - Improving  
Practice:  
Suicide prevention  
and risk management**

**Provider Briefing**

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Completed suicide in older people's care homes is rare. However, care providers are often required to manage risk despite a paucity of policy guidance and research. In response, NSSAB offer this *improving practice briefing* to assist providers' practice and confidence, with the intention of preventing deaths.

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Tony Oliver

Independent Chair

North Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board

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## Raise awareness & build skills in risk assessment

Involve the adult and multi-agency colleagues in risk assessment

The [Zero Suicide Alliance](#) offer free online training modules ranging from 5-30 minutes covering social isolation, how to approach someone who may be considering taking their own life and more in-depth awareness training.

Complete the Zero Suicide Alliance 5 – 10 minute '[Gateway Training](#)' and talk to the person at risk

## Respond to identified risks: develop processes

Support staff to deliver safe and responsive care by ensuring processes are in place to support responses to identified risks. Ask: “Would staff know how to respond to an identified suicide risk or act”

### DNAR's require review

Where a new patient arrives, a senior worker must review all discharge documentation including any resuscitation paperwork. This information should be reviewed with the general practitioner at the earliest opportunity.

## Responding to acts of suicide:

*“The preservation of life is primary”*

**“Builds skills in emergency responses”**

Call an ambulance

Train as many staff as possible in basic life support: Skills for care

DNAR's don't apply to immediately reversible life-threatening clinical emergencies such as attempted suicide

If suicide wasn't the anticipated situation when the DNACPR decision was made (it is unlikely to have been) every reasonable attempt should be made to resuscitate the individual in this situation.

**Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards: Provide relevant information:**

Don't presume the local authority knows of all agencies that are involved. Include these in your applications (Form 1/2)

Ensure funding details are both complete and correct