

Suicide Awareness Alert



This alert has been issued because of specific intelligence relating to suicide activity on the rail network which it is believed may prompt individuals to take their own lives.

Date Issued: 20 November 2017	Date(s) applicable: 10 December 2017
Issued by: Victoria Clent	

Applicable route/operator:	SE-Kent / South Eastern
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Local suicide prevention representatives:	Sophie Wright (Network Rail) - 07710 959858 Saul Gray (South Eastern) - 07814 772 005
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<p>Nature of alert:</p> <p><u>On 10 December 2016, a 16 year old boy took his own life near the Irish Village footbridge in Whitstable at round 21:20</u></p> <p>He had been receiving mental health treatment for anxiety and depression but had denied suicidal ideation before he took his own life.</p> <p>His fellow students were offered counselling following the incident.</p> <p>This alert is being issued as the first anniversary date of this tragic event could possibly lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">vulnerable people being attracted to the same location to take their own livesmourners arriving at the site to hold vigils, which may impact upon the safety and operation of the railwaymemories being triggered for rail staff involved in the incident	<p>Recommended action:</p> <p>Consideration should be given to Network Rail, staff of operators or BTP officers visiting the location of the incident around the time it took place to be on the look-out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">persons showing signs of distress or upset who may be at risk of suicide, or mourners gathering in an acts of remembranceany tokens of remembrance, which in line with industry guidance should be removed <p>In addition it may be advisable to alert all FOCs and TOCs that have services passing through the Irish Village footbridge area, of the potential for mourners.</p> <p>Managers of staff who may have been involved in the incident or could be affected by its anniversary should look for signs of trauma amongst them and offer support as per their organisation's welfare arrangements.</p>
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<p>Support and additional information</p> <p>Should you wish to comment on the content of this alert please contact Victoria Clent at victoria.clent@networkrail.co.uk</p> <p> Individuals requiring emotional support can call Samaritans any time, free from any phone on 116 123</p> <p>The rail industry's award winning suicide prevention Learning Tool can be found at: www.nspglearningtool.co.uk. Watching the 30 minute briefing module might just save someone's life</p> <p>To find out more about the rail industry's suicide prevention programme contact: suicidepreventionprogramme@networkrail.co.uk</p>	<p>BTP Suicide Prevention Hotline - If rail staff have an immediate concern that a person might harm themselves or be at risk on the railway they can call the BTP on 0300 123 9101</p> <p></p> <p><i>The compiler of this alert should forward it to the NRNOC Duty Manager at: generic-NCC@networkrail.co.uk</i></p>
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