

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(s) applicable: 06 September 2018	
Date Issued: 16 August 2018	
Issued by: Victoria Clent	
Applicable route/operator:	LNW / London North Western
Local suicide prevention representatives:	Gemma Lavery (Network Rail) - 07515 620641 Darren Hanley (London North Western) - 07816 648121

Nature of alert:

On 06 September 2017, a 17 year old boy attempted to take his own life at Handforth Station at around 18:49

The boy was taken to hospital but sadly died from his injuries the following day. He had texted his girlfriend shortly before jumping from the platform.

It is believed that this young man had body dysmorphia issues and his suicide was widely reported in the national press. Because of the media attention this incident received, the anniversary could possibly:

- attract vulnerable people to the same location to take their own lives
- encourage mourners to attend the site for vigils which may impact upon the safety and operation of the railway
- trigger memories for the rail staff involved in the incident

Recommended action:

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:

- persons showing signs of distress or upset who may be at risk of suicide, or mourners gathering in an acts of remembrance
- any tokens of remembrance, which in line with industry guidance should be removed

It might also be appropriate to promote the industry's *Small Talk Saves Lives* campaign locally around this time to heighten community awareness of suicide prevention.

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.

Support and additional information

Should you wish to comment on the content of this alert please contact Victoria Clent at victoria.clent@networkrail.co.uk



Individuals requiring emotional support can call Samaritans any time, free from any phone on **116 123**

The rail industry's award winning suicide prevention Learning Tool can be found at: www.npsgllearningtool.co.uk. Watching the 30 minute briefing module might just save someone's life

To find out more about the rail industry's suicide prevention programme contact: suicideprevention@raildeliverygroup.com

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**

The compiler of this alert should forward it to the NRNOCC Duty Manager at: generic-NCC@networkrail.co.uk