**Reporting on this Research**

**Still Vulnerable: The impact of early childhood experiences on Adolescent Suicide and Accidental Death.**

**(1)** This research looked at literature concerned with the impact of adverse experience in childhood, cases of adolescent suicide or accidental death in England along with a small number of cases in Northern Ireland to identify the link between negative experiences in childhood and suicide or accidental death.

**(2)** Following best practice in reporting suicide and to protect these families in Northern Ireland from further grief and upset, please do not identify any of the cases in this report – the report identifies ways in which key government departments and agencies can practically work together to decrease suicide rates among adolescents in Northern Ireland.

**(3)** Certain types of suicide reporting are particularly harmful and can act as a catalyst to influence the behaviour of people who are already vulnerable.

Please refer to the following guidance before reporting on this research

[Media guidelines for reporting suicide](http://www.ias.ie/index.php?option=com_rokdownloads&view=file&Itemid=4&id=5:updated-media-guidelines)

[Media guidelines for reporting child abuse and neglect](http://www.baspcan.org.uk/northernireland/)

**(4)** The communications team at NICCY has extracted key operational points from the guidance on reporting suicide and provided a summary, see below:

**Key points to make/cover:**

* Raise awareness of the complexity of issues surrounding suicide
* Challenge it as a taboo subject
* Discuss risk factors
* Call for better resources to tackle it
* State that suicide is a preventable phenomenon if the right support is given
* Discuss ‘wastefulness’ of death and ‘brilliance’ of life
* Offer advice and sources of help for people experiencing suicidal feelings (ChildLine – 0800 1111, Lifeline – 0808 808 8000, If you are bereaved by suicide please contact Cruse – 0844 477 9400)

**Key phrases to use:**

* A suicide
* Die by suicide
* Take one’s own life
* A suicide attempt
* A completed suicide
* Person at risk of suicide
* Help prevent suicide

**What not to do**

* Give details of death and in the case of this research do not identify the families involved

**Key phrases not to use**

* Commit or committed suicide
* Inevitable outcome
* Tragic waste
* Avoidable loss

\*Advice taken from media guidelines on reporting suicide by The Irish Institute of Suicidology