**BRIEF FOR RAPID REVIEW:** Suicide in the construction industry

<table>
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<th>Commissioner</th>
<th>Samaritans: Jennifer Holly</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>Variable budget: up to £5,000 including vat</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposals submitted</strong></td>
<td>April 26th 2021 (10am)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reviewer selected</strong></td>
<td>April 28th 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Completion date</strong></td>
<td>May 21st 2021</td>
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**Background**

Samaritans’ vision is that fewer people die by suicide. Samaritans’ mission is to ensure there is someone there for anyone who needs someone, giving people ways to cope and skills to be there for others and campaigning to make suicide prevention a national and local priority. Services are based on five core values, which are listening, confidentiality, people make their own decisions, being non-judgmental, and human contact.

We are commencing a project to develop new resources to raise awareness about and prevent suicide in the construction industry, particularly smaller traders who do not have extensive health and safety programmes in place. To inform this work, we are looking to commission a rapid review of the evidence base about suicide and construction workers, including understanding the demographic profile of construction workers, the known/hypothesised suicide risk factors, and what is known about existing interventions. This should include international evidence, academic and grey literature, and primary data sources such as ONS reports, where relevant.

**Scope of the rapid review**

**Key questions**

- **What evidence exists** about workers in the construction industry in the UK?
  - Socio-demographic factors and health status (e.g. life expectancy, common health conditions) of construction workers.
  - Variations in where construction workers are located.
  - Lifestyle factors such as activities, interests, products/services they might use.
- **What evidence exists** about suicide risk and behaviours of construction workers in the UK?
  - Level of elevated suicide risk among construction workers, disaggregated by occupational and demographic groups.
  - Possible reasons for any known/hypothesised increased suicide risk among people working in the construction industry.
Occupational and demographic groups who may be more exposed to the factors related to increased suicide risk, or who face additional, specific risks.

Lived experience accounts – for example, case studies that provide a deeper understanding of risk factors and suicidal behaviours among workers in the construction industry?

- **What evidence exists** on how to raise awareness about and prevent suicide in the construction industry?
  - Types of interventions or programmes that have been delivered in the construction industry in the UK and internationally.
  - Evaluation evidence/data of any interventions from the UK or internationally.

Where possible, evidence should be reported disaggregated by occupational groups within the construction industry.

**Criteria for inclusion of literature**

For this review, we use a broad definition of construction workers including skilled and unskilled manual workers as well as architects, engineers, manufacturers and other firms that are dedicated to or support the sector¹ (CIOB, 2020).

In addition, we are using the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of an evidence-base: “a body of information, drawn from routine statistical analyses, published studies and ‘grey’ literature, giving information about what is already known about factors affecting health.”¹ This means ‘grey’ literature and evidence that exists within organisations such as government, the private sector, the public sector, and charities, should be considered as part of the review, alongside academic studies. We would encourage reviewers to use the NESTA Standards of Evidence when assessing the quality of non-academic papers.

Literature from the UK and international studies should be included, with the location of the research clearly stated in the review.

**Format and deliverables**

The exact format and structure of deliverables can be discussed upon appointment of the reviewers. However, for this review we propose the following outputs:

- a narrative summary report including:
  - methodology section comprising of the approach taken to the rapid review, search strategy and criteria for critical appraisal
  - summary of the evidence pertaining to each of the review questions
  - summary of gaps in the evidence
  - critical appraisal of the quality of the evidence base

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- conclusion (to include implications for the development of resources for the construction industry)
- grid summarising the relevant studies.

Samaritans retains the right to make the summary and entire review available to its partners including CITB, Building Mental Health and Lighthouse, and to the public via its website. The authors may want to submit a version of the review for publication in academic journals, but will be expected to acknowledge the review was commissioned by Samaritans.

Please note that it is imperative that before the review and summary are finalised, Samaritans can provide their comments and agree the final drafts.

Timescales

Proposals will be reviewed, and applicants will be notified as to whether their application has been successful or not, on Wednesday, April 28th 2021.

The successful candidate would then be asked to submit a full first draft by 10am on Friday, May 14th 2021. The completion date for this project is Friday, May 21st 2021. There is a 4-week timeframe for completion of the project, from the time that the successful bid is awarded. If you are interested in bidding, but cannot complete the review within these timelines, please contact Jennifer Holly directly to discuss this.

Budget

The maximum budget for the project is £5,000 including VAT. If applicants wish to discuss the budget, or any other element of the Invitation to Tender, please see the contact details outlined below.

Proposals

Proposals should be structured so they separately address each of criteria set out below:

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td><strong>Evidence of experience:</strong> a copy of your CV, publication history and a short summary of any rapid reviews you have completed.</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Methodology:</strong> short outline of the search strategy and appraisal method to be used.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value for money:</strong> Budget grid outlining breakdown by researcher’s time and line item.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeliness:</strong> Timeline with any milestones, including submission of first draft for comment from Samaritans, and final draft.</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Proposals will be scored against these criteria, with the highest performing bid being awarded the contract. While the proposals should be comprehensive, they should also be concise, and a total of no more 5 pages, not including CVs or other appendices.

Please submit your proposal no later than **10am on Monday, April 26th, 2021** to: Jennifer Holly, Service Development Researcher on: **j.holly@samaritans.org**.

**Contract**

The successful applicant(s) will be required to enter into a contract with Samaritans, within Samaritans’ standard terms and conditions. This will include conditions such as;

1. Completion of the services within the timeframe specified.
2. Reduction of payment or non-payment for work not completed.
3. The work cannot be sub-contract to a third party without the prior written consent of Samaritans.
4. Agreed input from Samaritans during reviewing and editing stages.
5. Terms related to intellectual property.

Once the contract is agreed and signed, the successful applicant(s) and Samaritans will be required to adhere to all terms and conditions.

**Contact details**

If you have any further queries or questions, please contact Jennifer Holly, Service Development Researcher on: **j.holly@samaritans.org**.