

20 October 2021



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 22 September 2021, which was partially transferred to Taranaki DHB by the Ministry of Health on 12 October 2021. You have requested a response to the following mental health service questions:

10. How long does a 'vulnerable' person remain in the system post discharge, so that access to support can be expedited quickly should the need arise.

There is no specific timeframe, this is based on the needs of the individual.

19. What risk / benefit model is utilised to assess a person's vulnerability who has been discharged from 'active' support when changing national events could potentially trigger a relapse in their mental ability.

Taranaki DHB Mental Health and Addiction Services uses the attached risk assessment matrix to guide decision making in regards assessing a person's vulnerability.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards



Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer

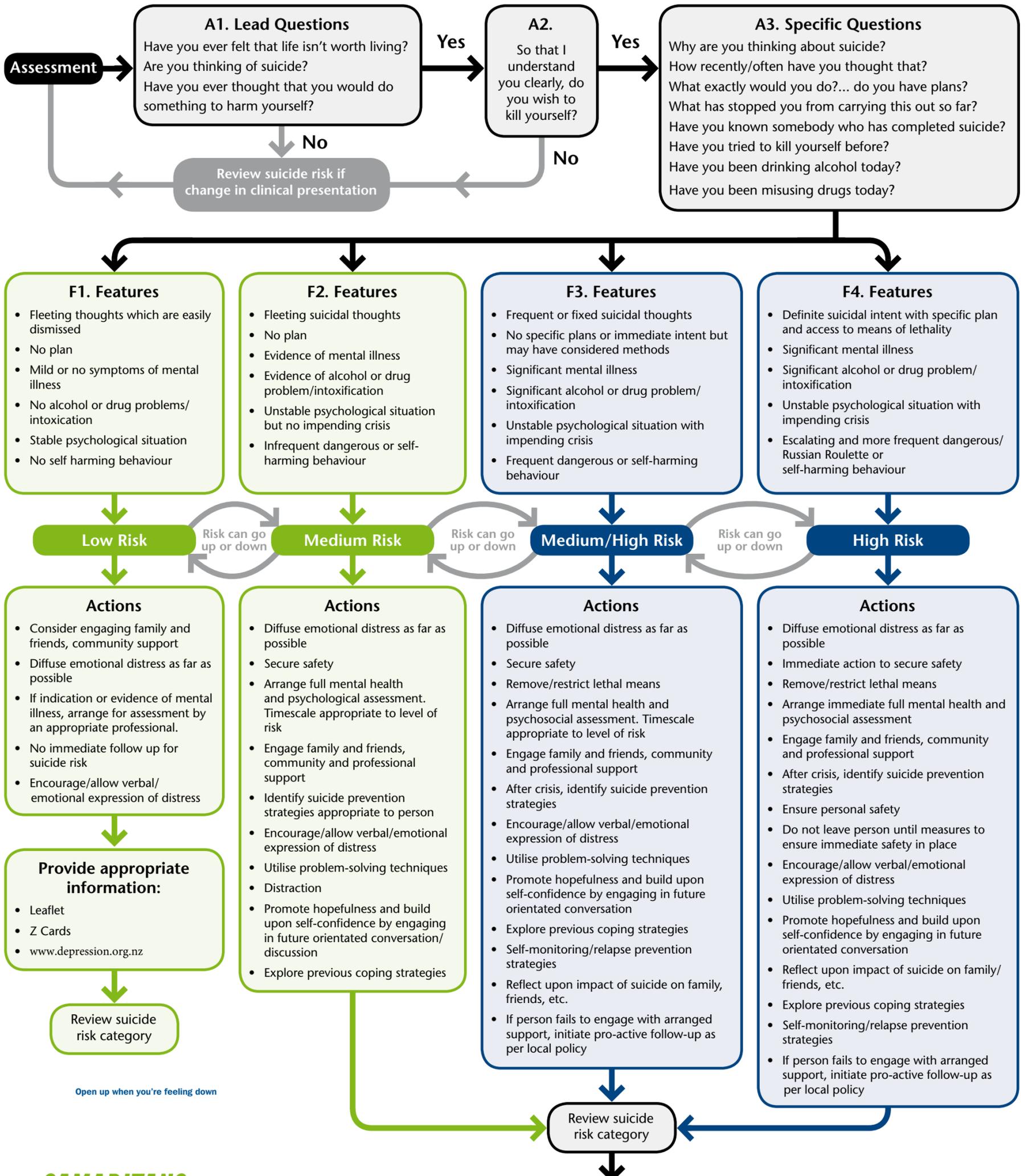
Mental Health Risk Assessment Action Matrix

Incorporating the Suicide Assessment and Treatment Pathway

Suicide Assessment and Treatment Pathway

This pathway should be used in conjunction with the Supporting Guidance document

Taranaki District Health Board



SAMARITANS
0800726666

At all levels of risk ensure compliance with Child Protection Guidance

At all levels of risk record suicide risk, action taken, those involved and review risk in future if change in clinical presentation

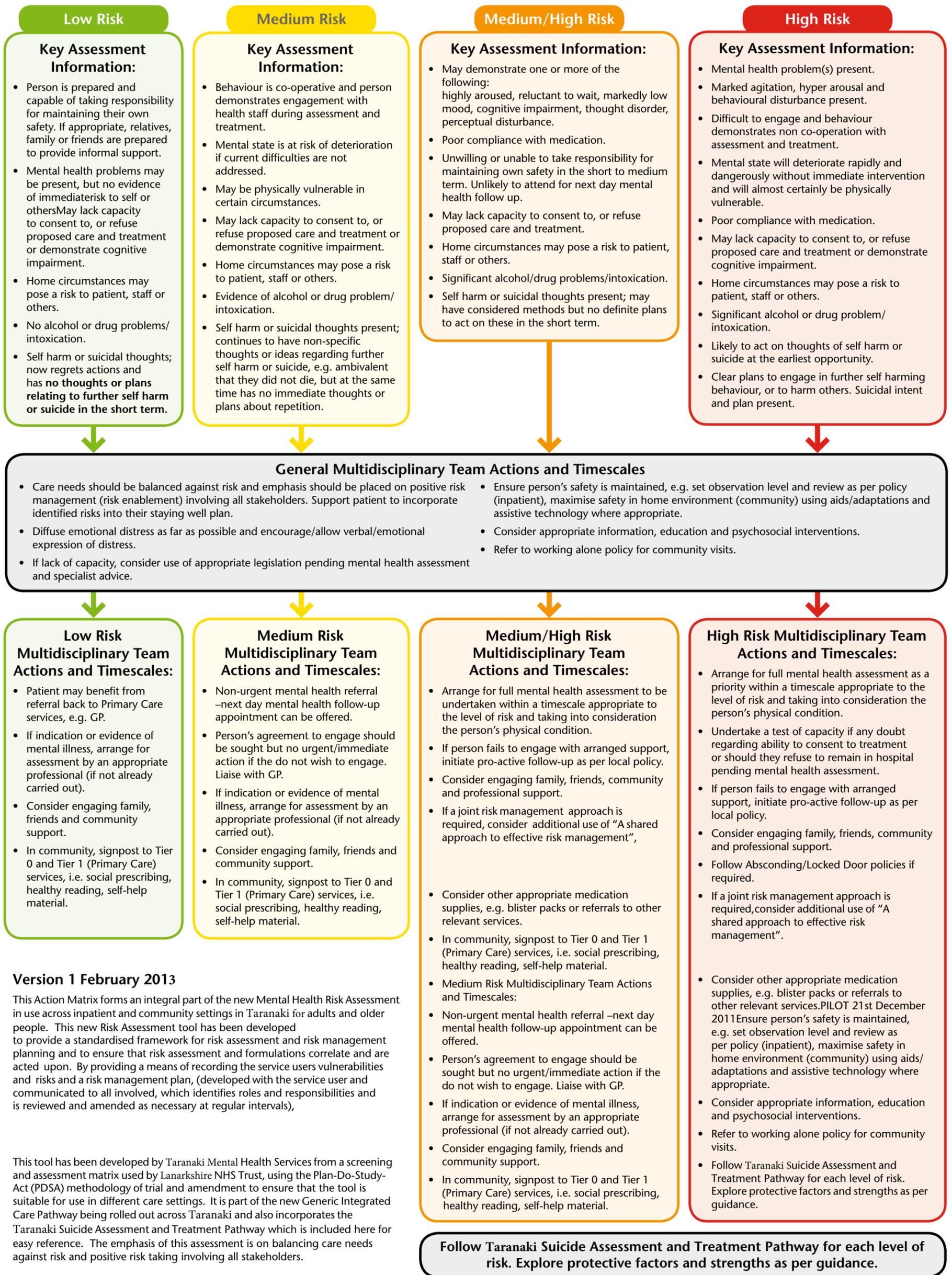
If not in contact with Mental Health services consider referral to:

- General Practitioner
- Accident and Emergency Crisis Plan
- Community Mental Health Team
- Outpatients (Psychiatry)
- Addiction Team

This pathway is intended as guidance only and staff should use their professional judgement when making decisions

In consultation with the person, inform GP and key support agencies regarding outcome of assessment irrespective of level of risk identified

Mental Health Risk Assessment Action Matrix



Version 1 February 2013

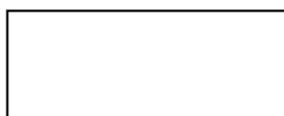
This Action Matrix forms an integral part of the new Mental Health Risk Assessment in use across inpatient and community settings in Taranaki for adults and older people. This new Risk Assessment tool has been developed to provide a standardised framework for risk assessment and risk management planning and to ensure that risk assessment and formulations correlate and are acted upon. By providing a means of recording the service users vulnerabilities and risks and a risk management plan, (developed with the service user and communicated to all involved, which identifies roles and responsibilities and is reviewed and amended as necessary at regular intervals),

This tool has been developed by Taranaki Mental Health Services from a screening and assessment matrix used by Lanarkshire NHS Trust, using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) methodology of trial and amendment to ensure that the tool is suitable for use in different care settings. It is part of the new Generic Integrated Care Pathway being rolled out across Taranaki and also incorporates the Taranaki Suicide Assessment and Treatment Pathway which is included here for easy reference. The emphasis of this assessment is on balancing care needs against risk and positive risk taking involving all stakeholders.

How does the Risk Assessment and Action Matrix work?

The Initial Risk Assessment aims to identify the history and current risks for the service user, allowing the health professional to make a formulation and decide what the overall level of risk is for that person, at that time. The risk level is colour coded – green = low, yellow = medium, amber = medium/high, red = high.

The level of risk identified has a correlating colour coded section on the Risk Action Matrix which gives details of the issues that may be present for a person in that risk category and actions that could be carried out to minimise these risks. Once these actions are identified and documented it may then be possible to decide on a lower revised risk rating for the person. The initial assessment should be agreed with the relevant team members and a review date documented. The review updates the current risks and again referral is made to the Action Matrix for actions and interventions to manage any further risks identified.



Further Information

More information about suicide risk can be found at www.chooselife.net General support and advice can be found at:

www.samaritans.org
Tel: 0800726666

www.depression.org.nz

Dial 111 in emergency situations