

Motion: 19 November - International Men's Day

This Council notes that 19 November is International Men's Day, a day recognised globally to highlight the contributions of men and boys, while also addressing the challenges they face.

Council further acknowledges:

- The persistently high suicide rates among men, who account for around three quarters of all suicides in England and Wales.
- The 2025 International Men's Day theme of "Celebrating Men and Boys."

Council pays tribute to the work of local and national groups, such as the Campaign Against Living Miserably, the Samaritans and MenTalk Health Swale and their tireless efforts in supporting men's wellbeing.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a mental health crisis in Swale.
2. Commit to ending the stigma around men's mental health through a comms campaign.
3. Actively promote the support services available to residents - including: Mind, MenTalk Health Swale Group, the Samaritans and CALM.
4. Call on central government and Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Trust to urgently improve the doctor to patient ratio in Swale and to ensure better access to mental health services at the point of need.
5. Call on local schools to promote mental health awareness, particularly with boys.
6. Pay tribute to the men in our community who have tragically died by suicide and the families, friends and colleagues they have left behind who continue to suffer.

Proposed by Cllr Tom Nundy

Seconded by Cllr Paul Stephen