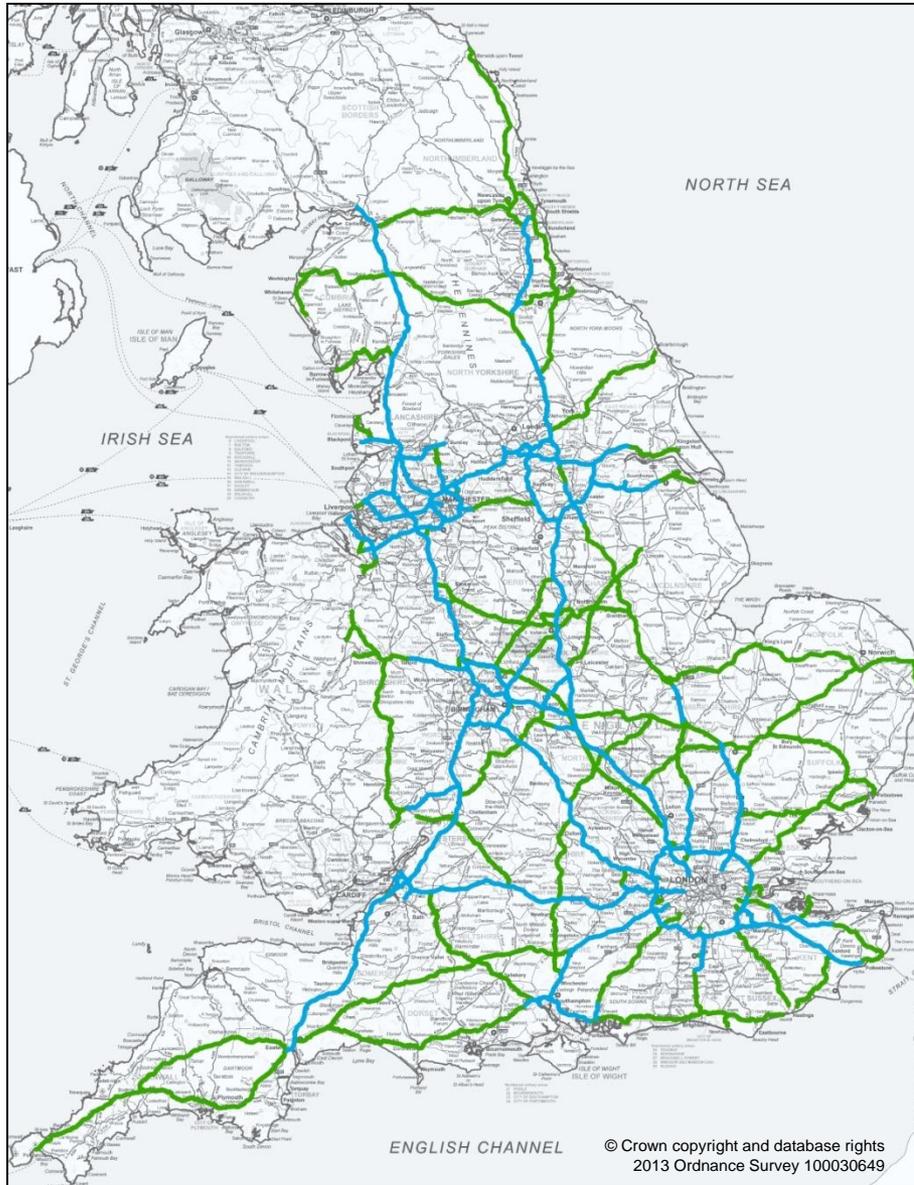




Highways England is the government company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's strategic road network.

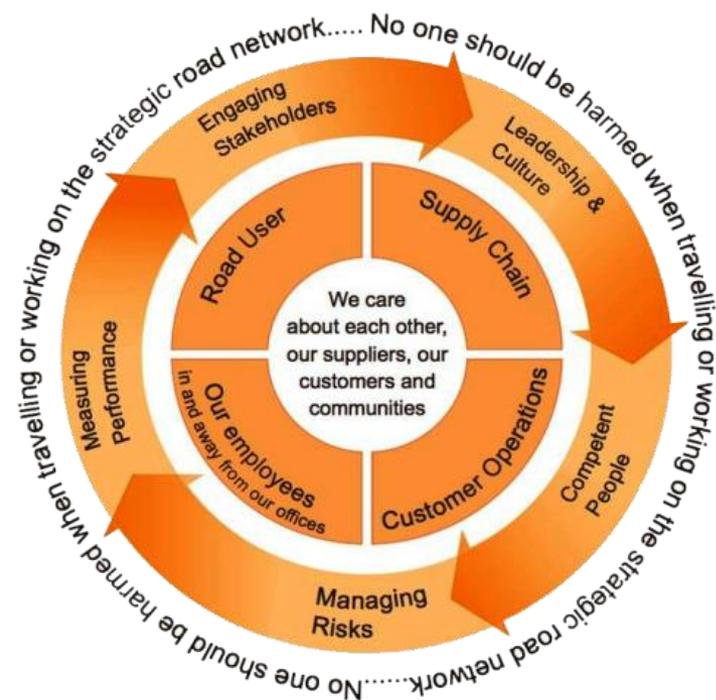
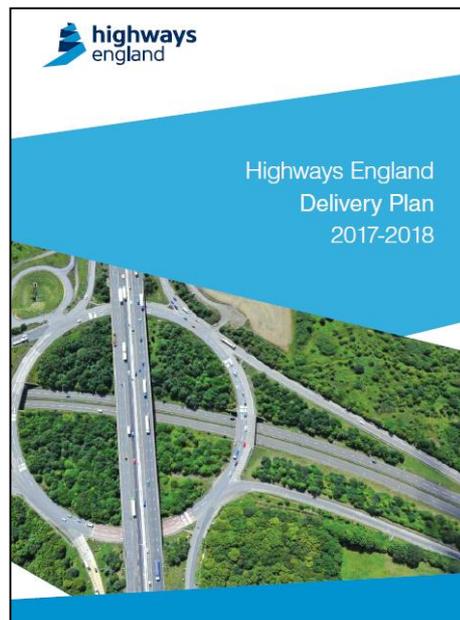
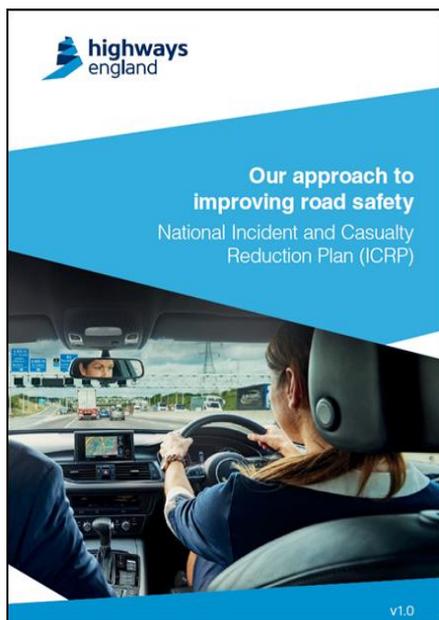
Our ambition is to ensure England's major roads are more dependable, durable and most importantly – safe.

Highways England – Strategic Road Network



- **4,300 miles (40% Motorway & 60% All Purpose Trunk Road).**
- **34% of all road travel and 67% of all freight.**
- **4 million vehicles use the network daily.**
- **Our Traffic Officer Service attend over 7,000 incidents every month.**

Strategic Direction for Safety



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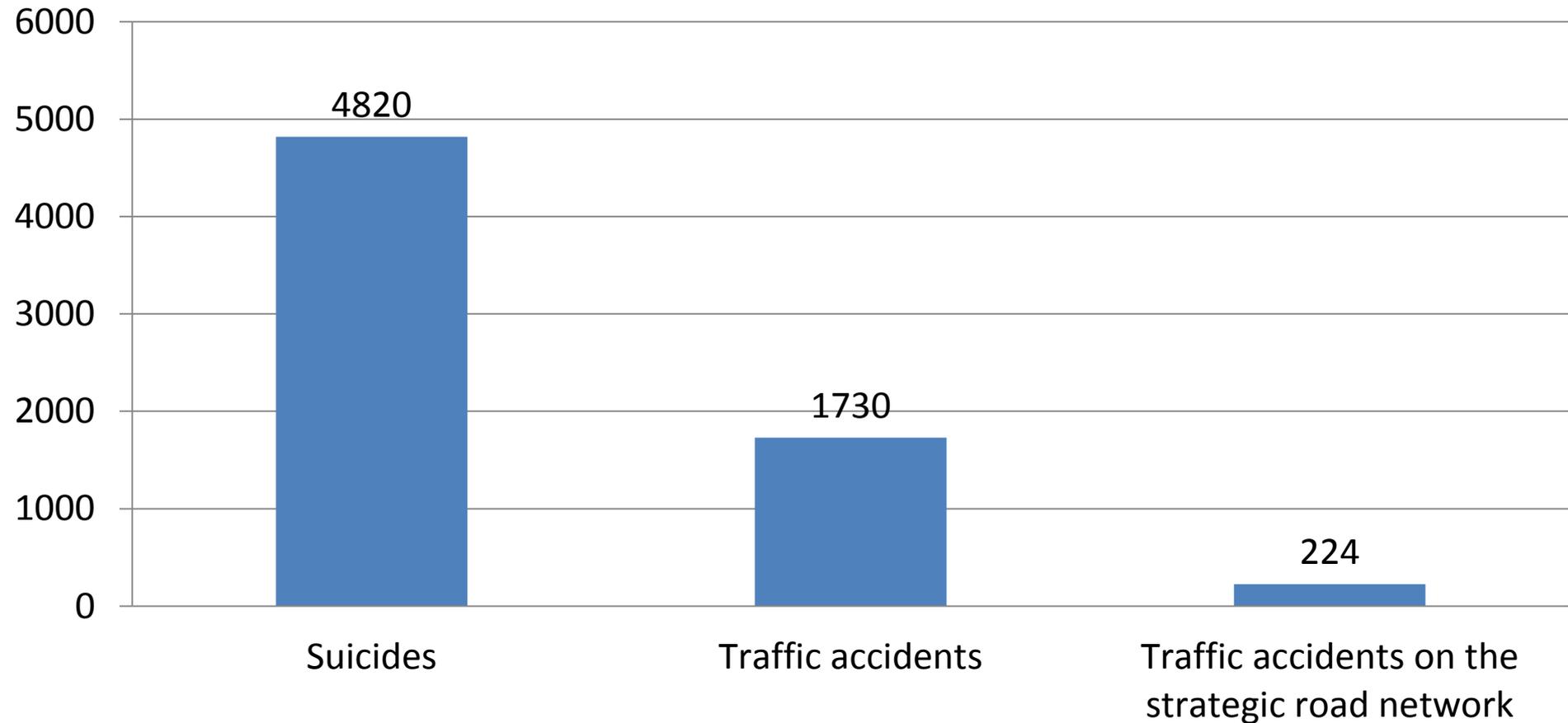
Develop a suicide prevention group with key stakeholders and develop an action plan to reduce the number of suicide attempts across the strategic road network.

Start date:
January 2016

Target end date: March 2018

Owner: Executive Director Safety,
Engineering and Standards

Fatalities in England 2015



Suicides on England's Road Network

Identified deceased persons from ONS mortality data

- Whose deaths resulted from confirmed suicide or in circumstances which connote suicide
- Who died on the highway
- Who were residents of England
- Whose deaths were registered between 2001-2015

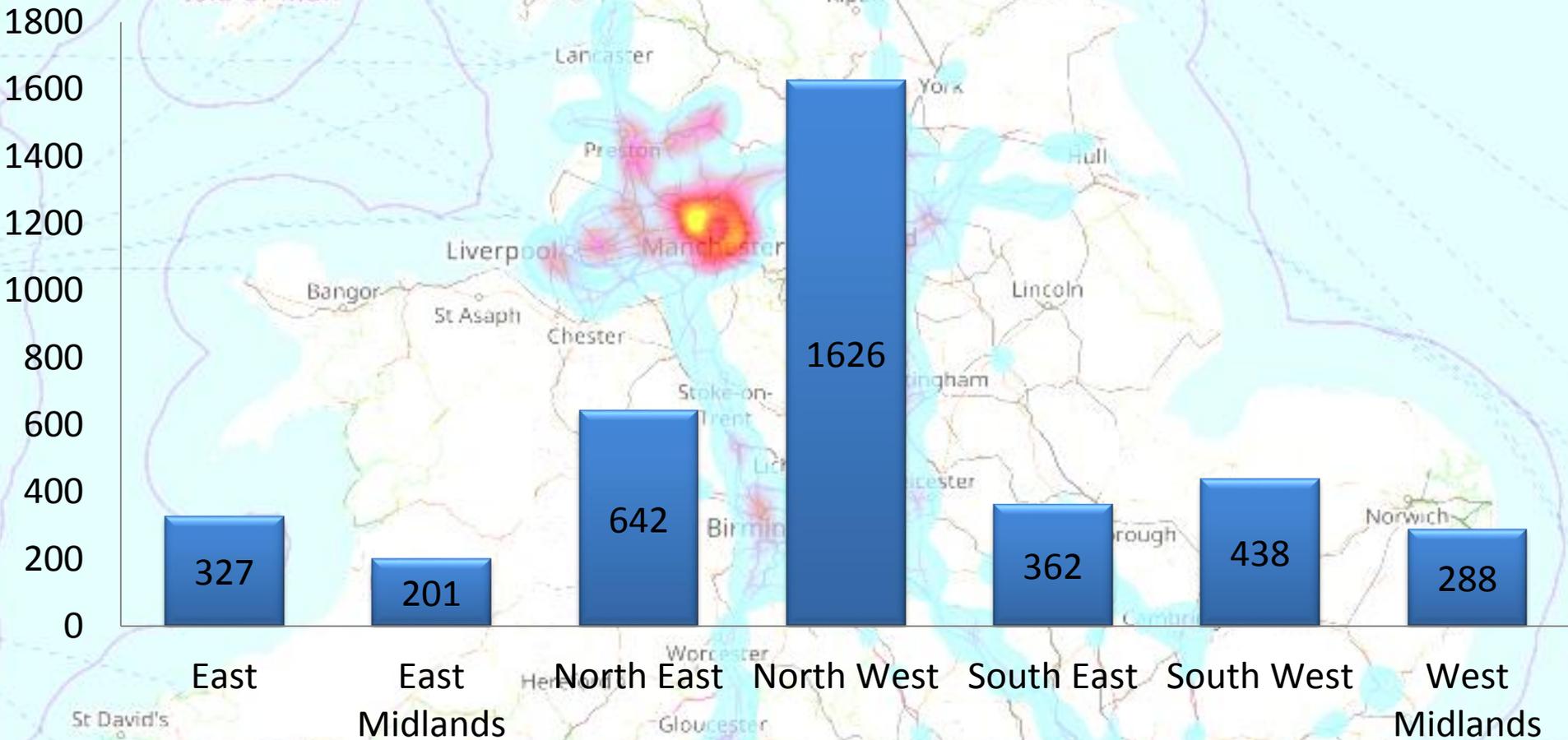
Summary of findings (1)

- 392 identified suicides
 - Annual totals between 15 and 41
- Sex profile broadly in line with national statistics
- Age profile broadly in line with national statistics
- North West England significantly over-represented

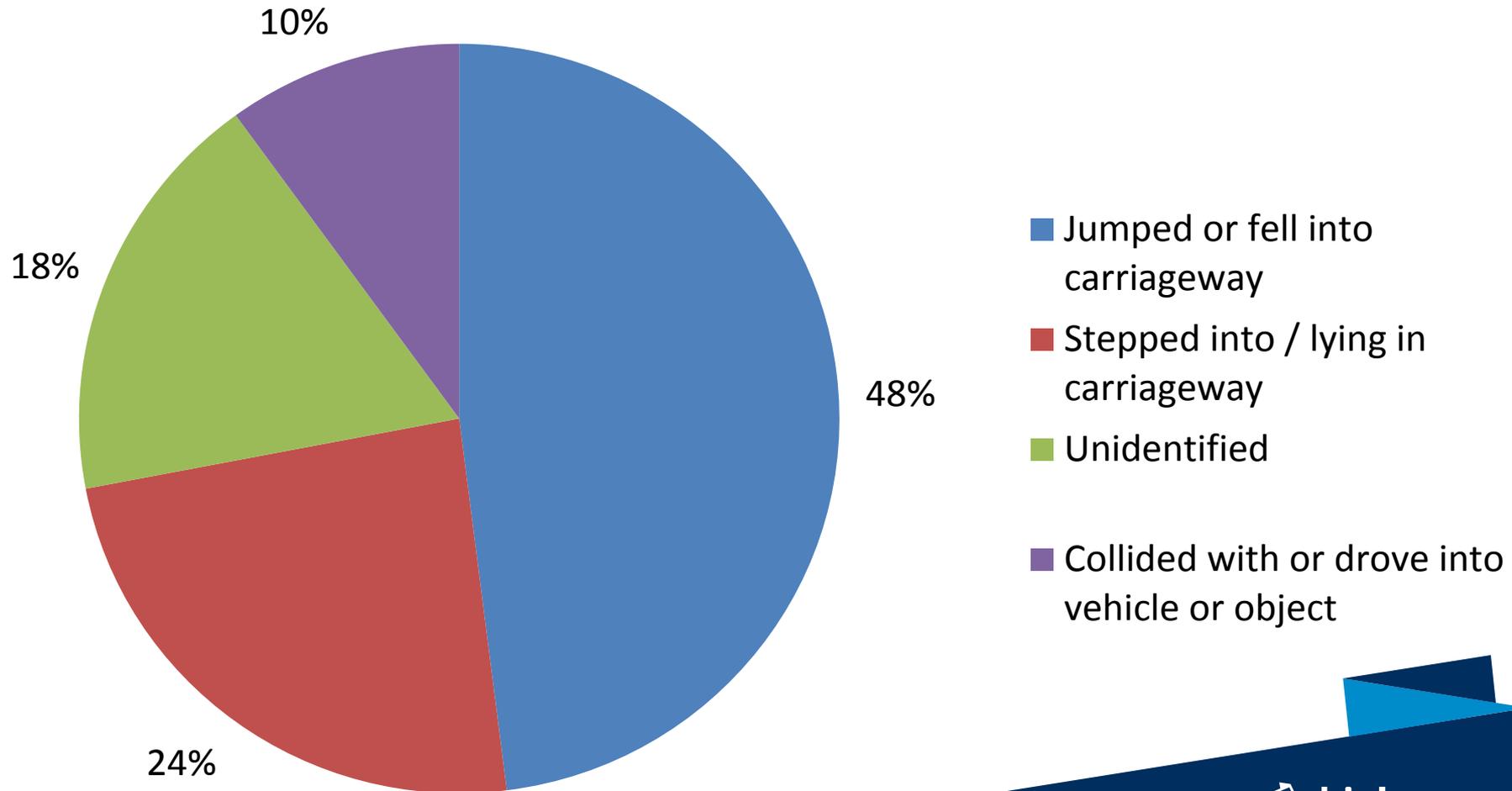
Summary of findings (2)

- It is likely around a third of suicides on England's roads occur on the strategic road network
- There are on average 324 suicide attempts each year
- The north west of England is significantly over-represented
- Sunday evenings (2000-2200) see the most attempts

Suicide attempts by region (2006-16)



Suicide incidents by circumstance



Suicide Prevention: Our Approach

Our vision

We understand that suicide is not inevitable; it is preventable, and our vision is that no one attempts to take their life on our roads. Our vision will be achieved through a number of key principles:

- **Prevention:** To reduce the number of people who reach a point in their lives where they wish to take their own life.
- **Crisis Intervention:** To intervene with those who do reach a crisis point to reduce the number of people who attempt suicide.
- **Postvention:** To reduce the known impact of a suicide or attempted suicide. This includes reducing the impact amongst the public, and addressing the trauma that our staff, supply chain and any witnesses to a distressing event may experience.

Delivering our vision



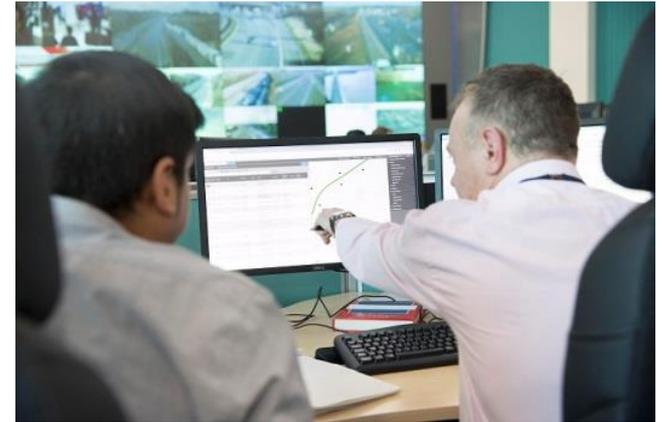
Developing our capability

Improving crisis intervention

Providing better information and support to those affected

Adopting a multi-agency approach

- In November our suicide prevention strategy will be launched
- We will shortly publish a suicide prevention toolkit
- Every June we will report on our progress



Improving crisis intervention

- Our frequently used / high risk locations are being prioritised nationally



- Funding has been made available to develop plans to address these locations

- We will train our staff to have the skills and confidence to identify and approach a potentially suicidal person

Providing better information and support to those affected

- We are reviewing our procedures to better support those affected by traumatic events



- We are continuing our work to de-stigmatise mental health and help seeking

Adopting a multi-agency approach

- We are currently identifying new ways of working with other organisations to share best practice
- A multi-organisational expert panel will be established this year
- Our data is useful to other organisations - we will work with them to implement data sharing processes



**We understand suicide is never
inevitable, it is always preventable**