New findings from an 'all deaths together' review process

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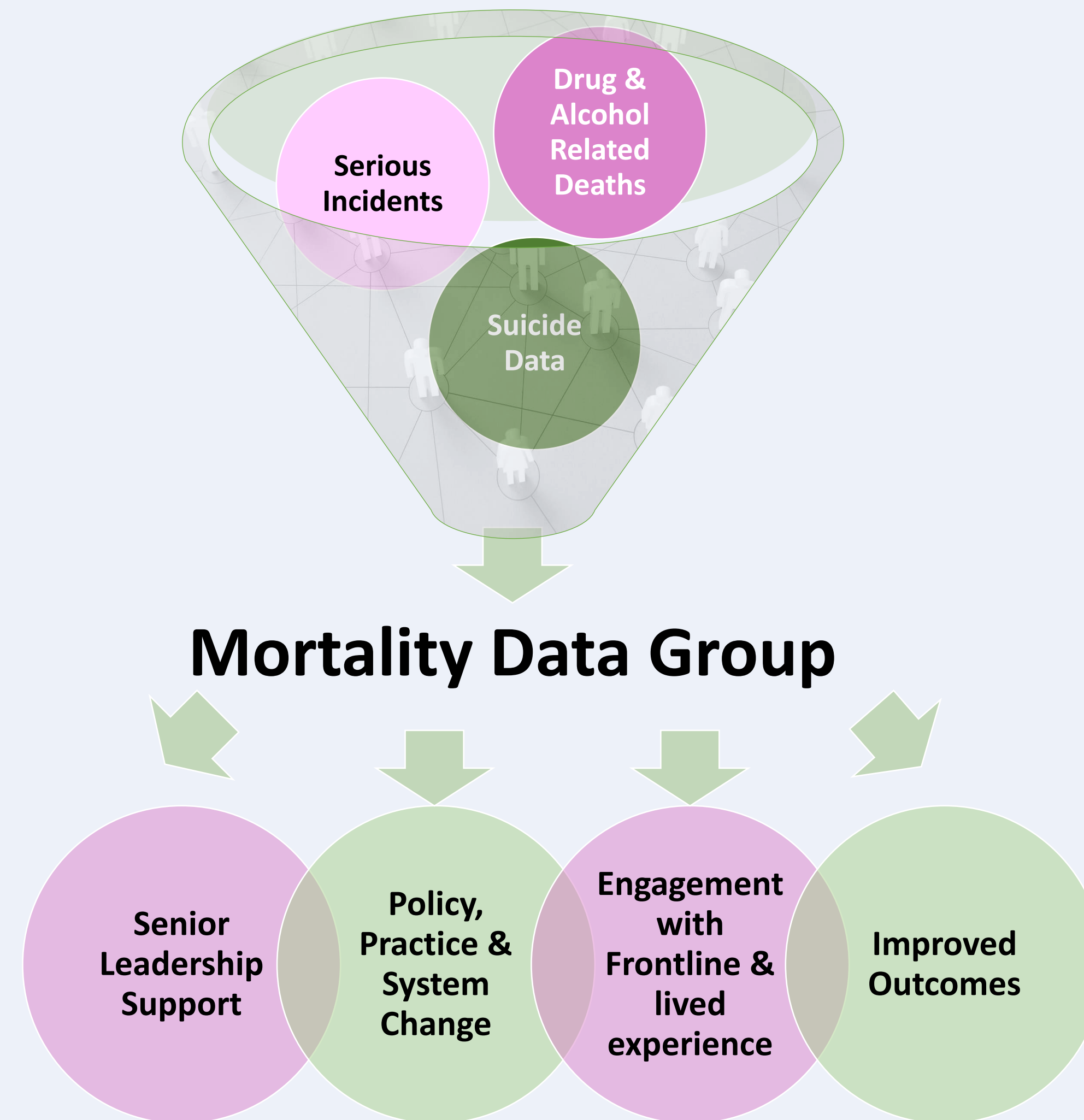
What's the problem?

In North Yorkshire we have an aging population of adults facing multiple disadvantage, with difficulties such as substance use dependency, mental ill health, physical health problems and difficulties accessing specialist services. We had a series of separate siloed processes for reviewing and learning from deaths.

What we did:

North Yorkshire Council has set up a **Mortality Data Group**, which seeks to combine three internal independent death review processes (Drugs and Alcohol Related Deaths, serious adult social care deaths, and suspected suicides) with the aim of taking an epidemiological 'all deaths together' approach to analysing patterns and trends. By drawing together crosscutting themes from a range of processes, we have increased our ability to Identify wider patterns and factors contributing to premature death of individuals facing multiple disadvantage. We agreed a senior sponsor for the work to ensure the work had a voice at director level and commitment to reducing preventable deaths.

Serious Incidents · **Drug & Alcohol Related Deaths** · **Suicide Data**

Mortality Data Group

Senior Leadership Support · Policy, Practice & System Change · Engagement with Frontline & lived experience · Improved Outcomes

Example:

The group works by analysing all available data to find themes and trends. Our multi-disciplinary approach enables these to be addressed swiftly to improve practice.

Early analysis indicated a theme around access to Care Act Assessment and eligibility for those with chronic substance use. We were able to address this through; improved access to training, development of new practice bulletins, bespoke spotlight sessions for frontline workers as well as resources to support access to care and support where people present with complexity or problems that inhabit engagement

Progress & Aims:

The group have completed deep dives into death reviews, safeguarding data, completed literature reviews and consulted with practitioners. We have identified early themes relating to legislation, assessment skills and culture. Senior leadership support has been key to sharing findings and recommendations for enacting swift change.
We aim to continually identify emerging themes and trends and analyse these holistically, using the wide reach and influence of the multi professional group to plan and implement innovative and person centred improvements.

A review of local adult safeguarding data found 502 cases cited as experiencing self-neglect within a 12 month period. 55% of cases reviewed experienced multiple disadvantage and 22% disclosed past trauma.

What's Next?

The group has been going for 4 months and so much has been achieved so far! We will continue to evolve over the coming months and aspire to create:
-Multiagency and departmental working
-Joining silo systems together
-Impact of data and intelligence sharing
-Multi team approach to presenting issues
-Improved practice and support for people facing multiple disadvantage