

## **PAPYRUS Campaign Objectives May 2004**

It is apparent that there is a lack of awareness amongst the general public, the industry and government of role of the internet in promoting suicide. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) does not include suicide in its remit. Similarly the government document “National Suicide Strategy for England” does not mention the role of the internet in suicide. Government publications such as the Home Office booklet “Keep Your Child Safe on the Internet” and website [www.parentsonline.gov.uk](http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk) do not mention the presence of suicide sites on the internet.

PAPYRUS lists below nine suggestions that would go some way to address the situation and hopefully contribute to the overall aim of reducing suicide. We consider they are realistic, practical and most can be achieved at very little cost.

### **1. Raising Awareness of the Dangers and the Promotion of Better Home Control of Internet Access.**

- (a) The “National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England” be modified as in “Goal 3: To Reduce the Availability and Lethality of Suicide Methods” to include reference to the need to publicise the dangers of suicide sites on the internet and ways of reducing access to such sites by young people.
- (b) The main retailers of PC’s ( eg Dixons; PC World ) be asked to distribute a free leaflet (eg an updated “Keep Your Child Safe on the Internet”) with each computer sold.
- (c) Government and industry investigate the possibility of retailing home computers with filtering software already fitted.
- (d) Government to add reference to the danger of suicide to their website [www.parentsonline.gov.uk](http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk) and also to the Home Office booklet “Keep your child Safe on the Internet.”
- (e) The website and booklet mentioned in 1(d) should also make it clear that some ISPs (e.g. AOL and BT) offer a degree of parental control of the internet and parents should consider this when choosing an ISP.
- (f) Government to finance courses on “Safety on the Internet for Parents.”

### **2. The Regulation of Websites and Chatrooms**

- (a) The IWF remit to include suicide websites and chatrooms.
- (b) Government and industry to pursue the possibility of filtering of suicide sites at the level of ISP.
- (c) Government to consider legislation to make the hosting and transmission of sites that promote suicide by ISPs illegal.
- (d) Government to legislate to make the accessing of suicide sites with the intention of promoting suicide a crime, perhaps using Australia as a model.