



LIFESAVER Sir Bobby Charlton is backing an attempt to cut the suicide toll in young men by removing the stigma of getting treatment for mental health problems

Sir Bobby's new goal to kick suicide into touch

MANCHESTER United legend Sir Bobby Charlton is kicking a bid to cut the number of suicides in young men.

The project encourages them to use mental health services by combating negative stereotypes often associated with seeking treatment.

Most suicides occur in young men - many with mental health problems - and it is the most common cause of death in men aged under 35.

Sir Bobby was launching the NHS-funded 'It's a Goal!' programme at Old Trafford today.

It will use football skills, videos of games, workshops and discussions to help young men with depression and anxiety by developing their confidence, motivation and communications skills.

The programme will also run at Stockport County and Burnley's football grounds.

Sir Bobby said: "Young men who are fearful of going into a

mental health unit are much more likely to walk into a football stadium.

"Once they are here, we can offer them the kind of therapeutic help they just cannot get anywhere else. I really believe this can be a life-saver."

■ Sir Bobby's brother Jack, 74, collapsed during a family holiday in Spain yesterday. He was taken to hospital but later discharged with medication to treat high blood pressure.

survey, said: "While we all knew that loan providers were operating on much bigger margins in this post crunch period, it is quite shocking when you realise just how much the cushion has grown."

Since 2004, lenders have lost a major revenue stream after the Financial Services Authority banned the sale of single premium payment protection insurance, where premiums for the loan are paid up front.

Competition in the loans market has also reduced, with only 29 lenders down from 62 five years ago. Lenders are also using personal pricing, under which loan rates are set according to how much risk the borrower poses.

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