

Briefing Note

Title: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Refresh**Date: 27 February 2024****Prepared by: Parmdip Dhillon****Job Title: Principal Public Health Specialist****Intended Audience:**Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential

Purpose

To introduce the new, refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment webpage, dashboard and compendium of topic specific needs assessments. To outline the future plans for continuous development of the JSNA, including wider partner involvement. To encourage utilisation of the JSNA and invite partner input into the development of the JSNA.

Background

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) is a high-level assessment of the “current and future health and social care needs of the local community”, which could be met by the local authority or NHS commissioning bodies. JSNAs were introduced in 2007 as a statutory duty to be met by local authorities and primary care trusts (PCT’s). The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred the responsibility for developing and overseeing the implementation of JSNAs to local Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB’s).

The role of JSNAs is to provide HWB’s with data on the health and social care needs of the local population. This enables partners to set intelligence-based priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities and helps inform the local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) to achieve those objectives.

JSNA’s collate data from multiple sources, including routine collection (e.g. Census, annual surveys), services (e.g. NHS, schools), and community engagement (e.g. community consultations, focus groups), and can be complemented by topic specific needs assessments. A topic specific needs assessment is an in-depth analysis of a particular health and wellbeing determinant or population group which helps understand a particular need or problem in more detail and informs the commissioning of services.

Local Actions

Wolverhampton’s refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is formed of two key elements:

- Overview Dashboard – Provides a broad overview of key Health and Wellbeing factors in Wolverhampton and how they compare to comparator areas.
- Topic Specific Needs Assessments – Provide an in depth exploration of the needs and inequalities within a certain topic, taking into account the quantitative, qualitative and academic evidence.

The JSNA webpage is currently hosted on the WVInsight website, which can be accessed at <https://insight.wolverhampton.gov.uk/> and the JSNA can be accessed via the JSNA tab on the top-right of the screen. At the time of writing the JSNA webpages were on schedule to be made accessible to the public following the Health and Wellbeing Together meeting on the 13th March 2024.

The plan for the JSNA is for to be a 'live document' that will be in a state of continuous development. This will aim to ensure that the JSNA changes as the Health and Wellbeing landscape changes and remains fit for use. The JSNA will go through a quarterly review process, in which the indicators available on the Overview Dashboard will be reviewed to ensure that they are the most appropriate to assess health inequalities in the City and newly available indicators will be added. The compendium of topic specific needs assessments will also be reviewed at this stage to ensure the latest topic specific needs assessments are available. We will also look to add new components to the JSNA over time to work towards making the package more culturally responsive.

However, to develop a culturally responsive JSNA, we require support from a wide range of partners across the Health and Wellbeing landscape in Wolverhampton. We would require access to more granular data and intelligence that can enable us to further highlight inequalities across the City. There needs to be further improvements in the way that data is recorded by services across the City, such as routine recording of protected characteristics, which would further enable the assessment of inequalities in the population. We are keen for there to be a collective ownership of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment from partners across the Health and Wellbeing Together board, to further develop joint working and support it to becoming more culturally responsive.

Recommendations

That Health and Wellbeing Together agree to the following:

- To recognise the refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and encourage it's use across the Health and Wellbeing landscape in Wolverhampton.
- For partners across the Health and Wellbeing Together board to engage with City of Wolverhampton Council in the continuous development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with a view to further developing it into a culturally responsive JSNA.
- To further raise awareness of the refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, could partner organisations invite Public Health colleagues to relevant strategic meetings over the next three months, prior to the next review.