

Our approach to needs assessment Brighton & Hove JSNA Summary 2012

What is needs assessment?

The needs assessment process aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of current & future needs of local people to inform commissioning of services that will improve outcomes & reduce inequalities.

To do this needs assessments should gather together local data, evidence from service users & professionals, plus a review of research & best practice. Needs assessments bring these elements together to look at unmet needs, inequalities, & overprovision of services. They also point those who commission or provide services towards how they can improve outcomes for local people.

The common name for these needs assessments is **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**. Joint reflects that they should be carried out jointly by the NHS & councils as a requirement, but in terms of good practice should also include others locally with expertise to offer. Strategic reflects that they should be about providing the 'big picture' in terms of identifying local needs.

National policy & guidance

The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) placed a duty on local authorities & Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to work in partnership & produce a JSNA.¹

The 2012 Health & Social Care Bill sets out changes to JSNA, with the transfer of Public Health to local authorities, the change from PCTs to Clinical Commissioning Groups & the creation of local Health & Wellbeing Boards by April 2013. Draft guidance from the Department of Health states that local authorities & Clinical Commissioning Groups will have equal & explicit obligations to prepare a JSNA. This duty will be discharged by the Health & Wellbeing Board.²

The guidance signals an enhanced role for JSNAs to support effective commissioning for health, care & public health as well as influencing the wider determinants that influence health & wellbeing, such as housing & education.

¹ Department of Health, Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2007.

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_081267.pdf

² JSNAs and joint health and wellbeing strategies - draft guidance.

Department of Health. January 2012. www.bhlis.org/needsAssessments/jsna 11

Our local approach

In Brighton & Hove there are three elements to the needs assessment resources available:

Overarching documents: The JSNA summary, the State of the City Report & Annual Reports of the Director of Public Health

Each year, a JSNA summary, giving an high level overview of Brighton & Hove's population, & its health & wellbeing needs is published. It is intended to inform the development of strategic planning & identification of local priorities.

The information is primarily drawn from the city's needs assessment portfolio, which includes the Annual Reports of the Director of Public Health along with specific needs assessments & strategies including the Sustainable Community Strategy & the Housing Strategy. The JSNA summary is also used for the State of the City Report which provides high level facts & figures about the city.

Rolling programme of needs assessments on a specific theme or population group

A rolling programme of comprehensive needs assessments forms part of a portfolio of resources for the city. Themes may relate to specific issues, e.g. mental health & wellbeing, or population groups, e.g. children & young people. Needs assessments are publically available & include recommendations to inform commissioning.

BHLIS - the information resource for the city, supported by the city Analysis & Intelligence Network

BHLIS (Brighton & Hove Local Information Service – www.bhlis.org) is the Strategic Partnership data & information resource for those living & working in Brighton & Hove. It provides local data on the population of the city. This data underpins needs assessments across the city.

In line with the advances we have made in needs assessment over the past few years, BHLIS was relaunched in March 2012 as the home for needs assessments & their supporting data & evidence.

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City needs assessment steering group

Since August 2009, a city needs assessment steering group has overseen the programme of needs assessments. This includes the JSNA, but is broader & includes needs assessments which might typically sit outside the health & wellbeing sphere. However, given that JSNA includes the wider determinants of health, these needs assessments also inform this summary.

In 2011 the group broadened its membership to reflect this & now includes the Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF), Sussex Police & the two universities, in addition to the existing members from the city council, NHS & LINKs.

With the establishment of the Health & Wellbeing Board, the steering group will become a subgroup of the Board in relation to JSNA.

Local consultation

Each year the JSNA summary develops from feedback & consultation. This year in particular sees changes to the way the summary has been produced. These changes have been informed by the new guidance from the Department of Health, but also from consultation with local partners & the community & voluntary sector.

In particular, the CVSF conducted a gap analysis of the JSNA summary in January 2012 which has fed into the plans for this summary.

In March 2012, we held a seminar for councillors, commissioners, thematic partnership chairs, community & voluntary sector reps & providers on the plans for the JSNA summary & Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Feedback at the event has also informed the structure of this year's summary.

The draft report will be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board in May 2012. Between June & July, the draft summary will be consulted on with local partners & the public. The final report will then be published in September 2012.

Inequalities & protected groups

This year's summary will more systematically identify local inequalities in terms of equalities groups; geography or socio-economic status. Each report section has inequalities clearly evidenced. In addition, there are sections which bring together the key needs of each of the protected groups.

Joint Strategic Assets Assessment

The new guidance is clear that JSNAs should not focus solely on needs but also identify assets of local communities. As this is a new area, in this year's summary we set out the planned approach to building assets into needs assessments. This approach was informed by the JSNA & Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy event held in March 2012.

The 2010 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health mapped community resilience assets³ and is an important resource for JSNA.

Voice

The voice of professionals, service users & the public provides important evidence for the JSNA. This will be embedded throughout the summary, & where we do not currently have this evidence it will be included in 'what we don't know'. It is also a key element of comprehensive needs assessments.

What we don't know

Throughout the summary, where there is a lack of local data, if possible other studies & evidence have been used to produce estimates for the city. Where this is the case it will be clearly identified.

Assessing impact

In previous summaries we have listed the health & wellbeing issues for the city. This year we will try to more systematically identify the impact on the city's population. The approach taken will be clearly set out along with an impact matrix for the city; this will feed into the prioritisation process for the city's first Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Health & Wellbeing Board will jointly agree what the greatest issues are for local people based on the evidence in the JSNA. The Strategy will set these out along with what the Board will do to address them & what outcomes it intends to achieve. It will not include everything; but focus on the key issues that make the biggest difference.

Further information

The annual summaries, along with the portfolio of needs assessments & local data on health & wellbeing (& more) is available at: www.bhlis.org/needsAssessments

³ Brighton & Hove. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2010. www.bhlis.org/needsAssessments/publichealthreports