

### What is needs assessment?

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

To do this, needs assessments should gather together local data, evidence from the public, patients, service users and professionals, plus a review of research and best practice. Needs assessments bring these elements together to look at assets, unmet needs, inequalities and 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 and 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 and guidance

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) placed a duty on local authorities and Primary Care Trusts to work in partnership and produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Health guidance following the 2012 Health and Social Care Bill states that councils and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have equal and explicit obligations to prepare a JSNA; this duty discharged by Health and Wellbeing Boards.<sup>2</sup>

The guidance signalled an enhanced role for Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to support effective commissioning for health, care and public health as well as influencing the wider determinants that

influence health and wellbeing, such as housing and education.

### Our local approach

The Brighton & Hove Connected Local Intelligence pages (<http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/local-intelligence>) hold the Strategic Partnership data and information resource for those living and working in Brighton & Hove. It is the home for needs assessments and their supporting data and evidence.

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

**Overarching resources:** JSNA summaries, Annual Reports of the Director of Public Health, survey results and information briefings

The JSNA summaries give a high level overview of Brighton & Hove's population and its health and wellbeing needs. They are intended to inform the development of strategic planning and identification of local priorities.

An overall summary is presented within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**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. dementia, or population groups e.g. trans. Needs assessments are publicly available and include recommendations to inform commissioning.

**Community Insight** - the information resource for the city, supported by Brighton & Hove Connected

Community Insight provides local data and maps of the population of the city <http://brighton-hove.communityinsight.org/>.

### City needs assessment steering group

Since August 2009, a steering group has overseen the programme of needs assessments. The group includes HealthWatch, Community Works, Sussex

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health. Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. 2007. Available at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_081267.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_081267.pdf) [Accessed 30/06/2016]

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health. Statutory guidance published on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies. 2013. Available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130805112926/http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/jsnas-jhwss-guidance-published/> [Accessed 30/06/2016]

Police and the two universities, in addition to members from the City Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.

### Local consultation

The JSNA summary develops from feedback and consultation. 2012 in particular saw changes to the way it was produced. These changes were informed by the new guidance, Outcomes Frameworks for Public Health, Adult Social Care and the NHS, but also from consultation with local partners and the community and voluntary sector. In particular:

- The CVSF conducted a gap analysis of the JSNA.
- We held a seminar for thematic partnership chairs, councillors, commissioners, community and voluntary sector representatives and providers on plans for the City's JSNA and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The 2012 draft summaries were consulted on and the JSNA informed by the responses.
- A third of the sections are updated each year, so that each section is updated at least once every three years.
- The updates include evidence gathered from a call to evidence from the community and voluntary sector.

### Inequalities and protected groups

Over the last few years the summaries have more systematically identified local inequalities in terms of equalities groups, geography and socio-economic status. Each report section has inequalities clearly evidenced.

In addition, there are sections which bring together the key needs of protected groups.

### Joint Strategic Assets Assessment

JSNAs should not focus solely on needs but also identify assets of local communities. Our approach to building assets into needs assessments is given in section 6.5.3.

### Voice

The voice of professionals, patients, service users and the public provides important evidence for the JSNA. This is embedded throughout these

summaries, and where we do not currently have this evidence it is included under the 'what we don't know' headers.

### What we don't know

Throughout the summaries, where there is a lack of local data, if possible other studies and evidence have been used to produce estimates for the city. Where this is the case it is clearly identified and where there is no evidence this is also stated.

### Assessing impact

In 2012 we tried to identify more systematically the impact on the city's population. The approach is set out in Section 3 along with the highest impact issues for the city. This fed into the prioritisation process for the first Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Board have jointly agreed the key priority outcomes for local people, based on the evidence in the JSNA and elsewhere.

### Further information

This summary, along with the portfolio of needs assessments and local data is available at: <http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/content/needs-assessments>