

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29th January 2025

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory requirement for each local authority area, under the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The JSNA is a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning; it collates and analyses data and information on local needs, to create intelligence and evidence that informs decision making and prioritisation of local priorities and collective actions across the local health and wellbeing system. This briefing proposes a revised approach and shape for the JSNA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Consider and approve the proposed approach to refresh and improve the Stockton-on-Tees JSNA.

DETAIL

1. The JSNA is a statutory requirement for the Health and Wellbeing Board. As such it is jointly owned by all Health and Wellbeing Board partners.
2. The JSNA is a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning. It aims to collate and analyse data and information on local needs, to create intelligence and evidence. This should shape and support decision-making and prioritisation of local evidence-based priorities and collective actions across local authorities, the NHS and other partners.
3. There is national statutory guidance for JSNAs, however local authority areas are free to undertake JSNAs in a way best suited to their local circumstances; there is no standardised template or format that must be used and no mandatory data set to be included. This remains at the discretion of each local authority area.

4. In general, local authorities have faced similar challenges and limitations with the development and application of current JSNAs. These issues range from collective ownership and capacity to support the development of content and analysis, the usability of current JSNA formats, and the collective use of JSNAs to inform and support decision making across organisations.
5. It is also important to clarify the purpose of the JSNA as a strategic tool. More detailed needs assessments / pieces of analysis are needed to inform specific pieces of commissioning work or to answer particular questions e.g. regarding uptake of services.
6. The voice of local people is reflected in the JSNA, through national evidence and through local intelligence from service reviews, consultations and engagement work with communities. As the JSNA provides an overview, more specific pieces of work with communities are needed to understand the detail of people's views and experiences in informing e.g. service model design.
7. The proposal is to strengthen the governance arrangements of the JSNA, through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure collective ownership and support for the development of the JSNA content, across partners. To facilitate this, it is proposed a further update is brought to the Board on progress, in November 2025 and then subsequent updates agreed.
8. Secondly, the proposal is to revise the format and hosting arrangements for the JSNA website.
 - a. The current JSNA website is hosted by an external organisation (NE-Web) through an annual contract. The plan is to move from this hosting arrangement (when contract finishes end of September 2025), to an in-house solution, supported by the SBC website team (to go live 1st October 2025). This in-house solution is preferred as this allows more freedom to revise the format and make ongoing revisions.
 - b. The format of the JSNA will be revised:
 - i. To incorporate PowerBI dashboards, to improve usability and move away from a static format to an interactive format.
 - ii. Simplify and align directly with the structure and priority focus areas of the new joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will ensure the JSNA is used to support the ongoing monitoring of the Strategy and delivery plan.
 - iii. In addition, the new format will ensure the JSNA can be used to support the ongoing monitoring of priorities in the new Council Plan, as well as informing the current Powering our Future transformational projects (e.g. on early intervention and prevention and on working with local communities). For example, community profiles have been added at the front end of the JSNA to provide an overview of health and wellbeing in local areas.
9. Work is already underway to revise the format and develop the refreshed content of the JSNA. This is currently project managed, with a rolling timetable of content development to be finalised for the live date (1st October 2025), when the new JSNA will migrate to

the SBC hosted website. This work has been progressed through a small working group. Topics areas already prioritised for development and either underway or soon to start are: smoking and vaping, healthy weight, green spaces and active travel, drugs and alcohol, homelessness, mental health and suicide, workplace health and sexual health.

10. The refreshed JSNA (Version 2.0) will address the ongoing challenges and limitations of the current JSNA version, ensuring there is collective ownership and better usability for SBC, NHS and wider partners. An example of draft content for the smoking topic is embedded in **Appendix 1**. The maintenance of the JSNA will sit with topic leads and data intelligence support will be given as required. This will be done regularly to ensure data is updated and any changes to need or additionally identified need is included within the rolling publications.
11. The revised approach to the JSNA will also be presented to a meeting of the Team Stockton board in the coming couple of months, to support multi-agency understanding and buy-in for the work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct revenue or capital spend associated with the JSNA. Work to implement the outcomes of the JSNA may result in financial implications for Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production of the JSNA ensures the Health and Wellbeing Board complies with its statutory duties under the Health and Social Care Act (2012). There are no further legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

This JSNA is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

The aim of the JSNA is to help ensure a good understanding of population need and assets, alongside provision and evidence base. This is with a view to ensuring the local system maximises assets, meets local need, addresses inequalities and effectively plans in a collective and strategic way.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

The JSNA will be reviewed with due consideration of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Council Plan.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

All wards in the Borough may be impacted by the implementation of outcomes from the JSNA. Where there are specific implications for individual wards in the course of its implementation, ward Councillors will be key in these discussions.

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Appendix 1

Example draft topic content: Smoking



Smoking.docx