

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Health Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel
DATE: 12th February 2009

RE: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Purpose

To inform Members of the statutory duty to have a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, current process, and progress to date.

Section 1 CONTEXT

The JSNA is defined as

*“a process which will identify the current and future wellbeing needs of a local population, informing the priorities and targets set by Local Area Agreements and leading to agreed commissioning priorities that will **improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities**”*

Department of Health, December 2007

Proposed in a *Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-being (2007)* and *Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities (2007)*, the JSNA forms the basis of a new duty to cooperate for Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities and will provide a framework for health and social care to work in partnership to identify the needs of the population they serve and to identify the strategic direction of service delivery to meet these needs over the next three to five years. It is intended that the JSNA will develop into an ongoing process of a joint review of the health and social care needs of Was all's population

Section 2 Purpose of the JSNA

The JSNA is a means to inform commissioning strategies designed to improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities, and to inform health and social care planning decisions and delivery of priorities through the Local Area Agreement, in both the medium and longer term.

JSNA is a continuous process underpinned by three key principles:

- Partnership working
- Community engagement
- Evidence of effectiveness

A national minimum core dataset has been developed, which takes into account the DOH's key outcomes and the Local Government National Indicator set. There is an expectation that locally relevant data sets will be added.

Section 3 Process of delivering the JSNA

Strategic direction for the JSNA was given, in line with official guidance, by a Core Strategy Group which comprised of the ED of SCI, DPH, Director of Children's Services and the Director of Walsall Partnership.

A delivery group has been established, which includes Public Health analysts; Walsall Voluntary Action; Commissioning Managers across Social Care, Supporting People and Health; Public Involvement Specialists and LINKs.

A stakeholder event was held on 4th December to consult on the priorities within the JSNA and to encourage Borough wide ownership of the document

Section 4 Findings

The Interim JSNA (08) is based on

- Analysis of data provided by NHS Walsall and Walsall Council (i.e. the core data-set)
- Analysis of strategies and plans provided by NHS Walsall and Walsall Council

The JSNA analysis has confirmed that Walsall's LAA improvement targets and existing commissioning strategies are broadly focused on the right set of priorities and has highlighted areas such as sexual health where further work is required, and advises that any proposed revisions to the LAA should focus on tackling the key priorities identified through the JSNA

It contains recommendations concerning future areas of development around the following issues

- JSNA going forward
- Commissioning
- Addressing knowledge and data gaps
- Priorities for Walsall going forward

There are 15 recommendations in total.

The completed minimum core data set and the Interim JSNA (08) can be found on www.walsallpartnership.org.uk

Section 5 Future activity

The JSNA is an iterative process which will be refined over the next 12-14 months. As a result of the first draft two issues have been identified in respect of future work Firstly: the initial collection and collation of the data required to populate the minimum core data set has raised the question of whether Walsall has the infrastructure, in terms of information databases, analyst's and resources to support this work and the additional work proposed locally. At present different data is collected across the Borough, and systems are not necessarily compatible.

A task and finish group is currently working on this issue and will make recommendations to the Core Strategy Group on different options for progressing work in the future. The group also report into the People Executive of Walsall Partnership.

Secondly: the guidance is very clear in respect of ensuring that a good JSNA will include information from citizens, service users and carers “the local voice” element. Although the delivery group includes public information specialists, the Third Sector and the newly formed LINK’s there is a need to consider further the best ways in the future to collect this information.

Recommendations

That, subject to any comments that Members may wish to make, the report be noted.

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