

## Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – Final

### 1. Purpose

To provide the Board with the final key findings on the Walsall Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board to note the findings of the JSNA for the purpose to identify priorities for the Walsall Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy (HWBS).

2.2 The JSNA is presented at the Walsall Together Board as an enabler to both encourage utilisation of the insight, as well as awareness of / reassurance of the priorities identified.

2.3 A commitment to further contributing to; and utilising Walsall's JSNA, to help monitor organisational priorities and action.

### 3. Report detail

3.1 *“JSNAs will be the means by which local leaders **work together** to understand and agree the needs of all local people, with the **joint health and wellbeing strategy setting the priorities for collective action ... providing the evidence base for decisions about local services.**”*  
(Department of Health & Social Care, 2011).

3.2 A JSNA is:

- Statutory duty of the HWBB
- Used to identify local priorities
- Feeds into the development of the Walsall joint HWBS
- Assists in developing local plans to improve health and wellbeing of the population and to reduce health inequalities.

3.3 A refresh of Walsall's JSNA would have commenced in 2020, however it was delayed due to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic taking precedence.

3.4 This refresh aims to build upon previous iterations and add further value in the form of:

- Six key chapters and one supplementary
- Take an asset based approach to drive the 'so what...?'
- Incorporate qualitative data i.e. resident survey on Covid-19
- Learn from others JSNA best practice
- Continue to host on the [Walsall Insight](#) website
- Improve the end user experience by utilising Power Bi to further effect (as well as an opportunity to strengthen staff skills and expertise)

- 3.5 A JSNA Working Group (and Teams set up) met fortnightly, drawing upon the support and expertise of the **Walsall Insight Group** (WIG - further details in Appendix 1). WIG were tasked with refreshing the JSNA to inform the 'Joint HWBS'. A 'JSNA 2021 Refresh Progress Log' was devised and appropriate officers / Partner officers allocated in assisting with the refresh.
- 3.6 Our JSNA continues with the **Marmot life course approach** and is structured into **six key chapters**, with an additional supplementary seventh chapter dedicated to Covid-19. These include:
1. Health and wellbeing
  2. Healthy start
  3. Adult wellbeing
  4. Ageing well
  5. Place
  6. Economy
- Supplementary Chapter 7 - Covid-19

The **key findings** from the refresh have been shared previously with key themes including:

1. Mental health (children, young people and adults)
2. Healthy weight (children and adults)
3. Behaviour choices (diet, exercise, substance misuse)
4. Covid-19 implications (multi-faceted – i.e. impact on school readiness, mental health, business and economy, vaccination hesitancy and future preparations for 'living safely with Covid-19')
5. Health inequalities – widening gap with national (in general and specifically i.e. healthy life expectancy, infant mortality)
6. Dementia prevalence
7. Diabetes detection
8. Childhood immunisations – encouragement of uptake
9. Changing town centre – the Town Centre Master Plan and how to utilise the town centre differently – i.e. street furniture / design, culture celebration, Covid-19 memorial
10. Impact of poor air quality – M6 motorway J10 redevelopment works and the impact this will have.

The **three priorities** of focus for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25 are:

1. Mental wellbeing – especially isolation for all ages and the impact of Covid-19
  2. Our digital approach – infrastructure and inclusion
  3. Children and young people
- 3.7 During the development of the JSNA, a number of **HWB Development sessions** took place i.e. on mental wellbeing and JSNA priority formation.
- 3.8 A '**JSNA on tour**' showcase commenced to:
1. raise awareness with colleagues / service areas and amongst Partners of the 'so what' elements coming out of the insight
  2. prompted further discussions to ensure the suggested priorities were applicable and shaped appropriately

3. encouraged the self-serve elements and prompted colleagues to use the JSNA

This approach has proved successful, with Walsall's JSNA considered good practice, with learning sought from other areas as to the **successful approach of Walsall**.

3.9 The JSNA data / insight will continue to be iterative, with updates uploaded throughout the year to ensure it is timely and can be utilised for other purposes in addition to its original purpose of identifying priorities for the JHWBS.

**All JSNA material is available on the Walsall Insight Website - [Walsall JSNA](#)**

#### **4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements**

Good joint working arrangements are crucial in relation to our JSNA process and in delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The HWB will need to provide the leadership required to overcome potential barriers to effective action.

#### **5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities**

HWBs have a statutory duty to ensure they have a JSNA and HWBS in place. These are used to identify local priorities and develop local plans to improve the health and wellbeing of their population and reduce health inequalities.

### **Background papers**

All JSNA material is available on the Walsall Insight Website - [Walsall JSNA](#)

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## Appendix 1 – Walsall Insight Group (WIG)

### 1. Purpose

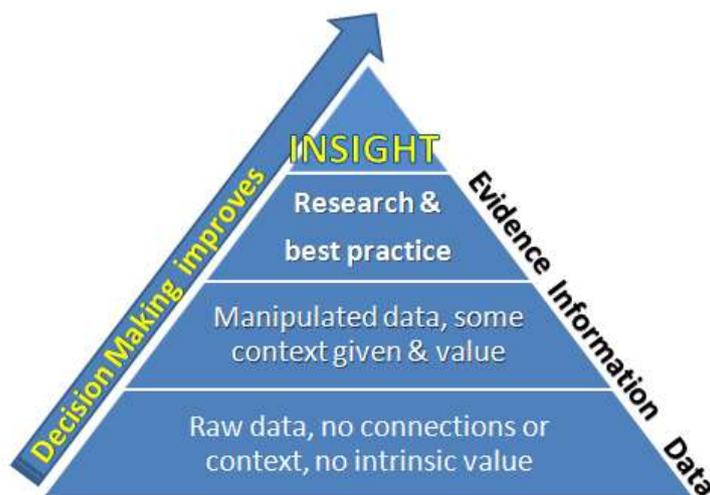
The Walsall Insight Group (WIG) aims to bring together colleagues from different service areas across Walsall Council whose responsibility it is to ascertain a level of ‘*Insight*’ as part of their job role.

Insight needs to be recognised as a valuable business asset. It is defined as ‘**the capacity to gain an accurate and deep understanding of someone or something**’ (Oxford Dictionary, 2017).

Sharing insight with colleagues and working more collaboratively as part of the Insight transformation programme, will improve intelligence that can then be utilised to make informed council related decisions – this is the overall vision for the programme.

The Insight triangle highlights the levels at which ‘insight’ is created – data (both qualitative and quantitative) and information are used together to generate intelligence / evidence.

Using insight in this way will ensure the council is making evidenced and informed decisions.



### 2. Objectives of the Group

The key objective of this group is to work collaboratively, to utilise analytical expertise when analysing data to understand the needs of and to inform key decisions aimed at improving outcomes for the borough of Walsall.

WIG members will be committed to providing insight in relation to the Council’s and Partner’s Boards, this will be achieved via a number of ways including:

- Harness and add value to the boroughs information assets through analysis in order to understand the boroughs key priorities and to hence inform strategic decision-making processes aimed at delivering improved outcomes for the borough.
- Develop a performance framework and monitor delivery against The Walsall Plan.

- Contribution to key Insight products such as - Locality profiles; JSNA to inform local delivery and highlight priorities.
- Learning and provision of expertise training to help sustain skill levels amongst all WIG members.
- Collaborate with wider intelligence networks to understand the extent of and hence manage the delivery of agreed forward programme of the borough's analytical and information needs.
- To work towards contributing to the three key strategic assessments.
- To recognise, harness and strengthen capabilities within WIG and wider intelligence network so that products are fit for purpose and of a good quality; incorporating creative, innovative, qualitative and informative outputs that informs sound decisions and hence leads to positive outcomes for the borough.
- WIG to act as peer support on more formal basis, to assist in developing personal analytical and technical skills.
- To identify and to act on areas for improvement relevant to delivery of forward programme of analytical needs. For example development of Walsall's Local Information System (LIS).
- To adhere to and facilitate delivery of agreed Partnership Data Sharing Protocol and other information governance guidelines in relation to GDPR 2018.

### **3. Membership**

Recognised Walsall Council colleagues who have an 'insight' responsibility within their job role.

It is recognised that membership will extend to Partners in due course as they too play a vital role in the delivery of insight and the success of Insight as a LA transformation programme is pivotal.

### **4. Role of the Nominated Representatives**

The role of members is:

- To work collaboratively across the insight network in order to meet the analytical needs of their service i.e. JSNA
- To act as a channel to facilitate the wider analytical group networks contribution into analytical outputs.
- To act as an analytical 'champion' for WIG and a source of advice within their own service area / organisation.
- To act as a point of contact for partner organisations on analytical issues within their service area
- To refer issues to the group as appropriate
- To draw on the expertise of the group for specific projects i.e. JSNA
- To promote a culture where evidence is paramount to effective decision making.