

Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) – Draft Emerging Key Findings

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

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

2.2 A commitment to further contributing to; and utilising Walsall's JSNA to help inform 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 last year (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 (and strengthen staff skills and expertise) by utilising Power Bi to further effect

3.5 In the development of the JSNA a number of HWBB Development sessions have taken place ie on mental wellbeing and JSNA priority formation to inform the development of priorities. Discussions with services ie Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS); Adult Social Care (ASC) and Housing colleagues have been had to glean views and seek further input.

- 3.6 A JSNA Working Group (and Teams set up) has been meeting fortnightly, drawing upon the support and expertise of the Walsall Insight Group (WIG - further details in appendix 1). WIG have been tasked with refreshing the JSNA to then inform the joint HWBS. A 'JSNA 2021 Refresh Progress Log' has been devised and appropriate officers / Partner officers allocated to assisting with the refresh (an updated version is in appendix 2).
- 3.7 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 emerging key findings from the draft 2021 JSNA to date are set out below. Also included by Chapter are the positives emerging, building on the strengths Walsall has.

Chapter 1 – health and wellbeing:

- Varied population density, increased diversity, increased inequalities, lower life expectancy / healthy life expectancy

And - diversity creates opportunities and different experiences.

Chapter 2 – healthy start:

- High infant mortality, higher low birth weight babies, high obesity (reception and year 6), high self-harm, low educational attainment, high number of looked after children and decrease in immunisation uptake

And - Low numbers of those not in education, employment or training (NEET), low hospital attendances, low risky behaviours, low smoking prevalence.

Chapter 3 – adult wellbeing:

- Inactive, poor diets, higher drug use, high rates of diabetes

And - high health check uptake and low homelessness.

Chapter 4 – ageing well:

- Higher rate of premature deaths (cancer + cardio-vascular disease), increasing falls, higher MHD

And - low social isolation, good detection of disease (diabetes), good reablement and support at home.

Chapter 5 – place:

- Poor air quality, increasing road accidents/impact, increasing domestic abuse, crime/safety concerns, increased deprivation (IMD), high retail unit vacancies/changing town centre

And - well connected, good access to woodland, rich and diverse trades, arts and heritage

Chapter 6 – economy:

- Unemployment claimant high esp. young people (18-24), gap on matching skills to jobs, low income economy, high fuel poverty

And - diverse job roles across the borough, skilled trades, national companies HQs within the borough.

Supplementary Chapter 7 – Covid-19:

- “enduring transmission” in parts of the borough, continued pressures on health and care services (business continuity), long-covid, impacts on workforce (undetermined), continued requirement for response, taking resources.

However – a strong community response, exposed assets we didn’t know, built lasting partnerships.

- 3.8 An overview of the views and outputs from the recent JSNA focussed HWB Development Session are summarised below, with further assimilation of these taking place.

Do the finding’s ‘feel about right’?:

- Concerns about the years in ill health – how can we improve?
- What are the impacts on mental health in general and as a result of Covid-19?
- How do we address the continuing health inequalities long term in a sustainable way?

Are there any gaps?:

- Adults with learning disabilities
- Details of hospital admissions and reasons for such

Other Comments:

- Links to neighbouring LA JSNAs?
- Good working relationships are key to success.
- Go back to using the ‘every contact counts’ principle.
- A commitment that strategic plans are linked to a JSNA evidence base.

- 3.9 The timeline for JSNA 2021 reporting, aims to have a final draft in November 2021. This commitment is achievable with direct input and support from identified officers and Partners.

Updated content is being uploaded onto the Walsall Insight website - [here](#) in due course. Chapter 1 is currently live, with other Chapters coming soon.

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

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

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Appendix 1 – Walsall Insight Group (WIG) Network

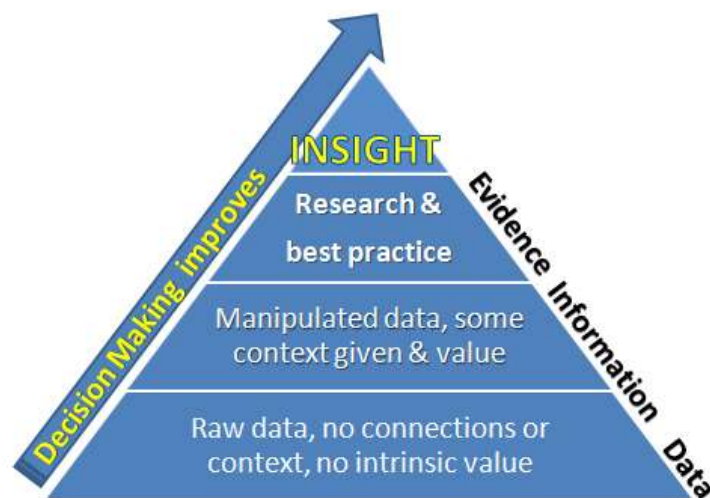
1. Purpose

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 Representative

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.

