
Meeting: Children, Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6 October 2009

Subject: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Progress Report

Report of: Deputy Director Children Families & Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services

Summary: This report describes progress made in developing the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) as it relates to Children and Young People living in Central Bedfordshire.

Contact Officer: Martin Pratt. Deputy Director – Children, Families & Learning

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Joint function between the Council and the PCT.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider and note progress made in developing the JSNA as it relates to Children & Young People in Central Bedfordshire, and in light of its function as the primary source of population information used for developing the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) and making commissioning decisions**
 - (a) agree how they would like to monitor future progress; and**
 - (b) agree how they might use the content of the JSNA to inform their work in relation to the Council's responsibilities for Children, Young People & Families.**

Background

1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) placed a duty on upper tier local authorities and PCTs to undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which was introduced as part of the *Commissioning framework for health and well-being* published by the Department of Health in March 2007.

A JSNA is the means by which Local Authorities and PCTs describe the future health, care and well-being needs of the local populations and set the strategic direction of service delivery to meet those needs. It provides an opportunity to look ahead three to five years so that:

- services are shaped using local communities' views ('voice');
- inequalities are reduced;
- social inclusion is increased; and

- and to inform commissioning decisions so that future investment and disinvestment decisions improve outcomes while reducing cost

The JSNA is intended to enable PCT Directors of Commissioning to work together with the Directors of Children's Services, Adult Services and Public Health to identify health and social care outcomes and performance measures, for inclusion in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the Children & Young People's Plan. It also informs both joint and single agency commissioning decisions.

The JSNA is a live document which is updated as new demographic information becomes available.

Three phase development

3. In Bedfordshire, the JSNA was initially developed in three stages and covered the whole county. From September to November 2007 existing information was collected with a limited amount of additional data e.g. Hospital admissions and migrant workers. The document was focused principally on health activity and the adult population.
4. The second phase, from January to March 2008, was the point at which the Children & Young People's Plan needs assessment was incorporated into the JSNA. The document remained however, very health focused.
5. The major focus of Phase 3, which ran from August to November 2008, was to improve the balance of the content between Children and Adults. Some progress was made and the existing material was refined and updated. This version of the JSNA directly informed the NHS Bedfordshire Strategic Plan 2009-13.

Recent developments

6. Following Local Government re-organisation it was recognised by all the partners that the existing JSNA was unlikely to be able to meet the planning and commissioning needs of the new Councils and their partners, unless the data was disaggregated and the governance arrangements reflected the new structure of Local Government. It was also recognised that, although the JSNA now contained much of the required data there was very little analysis.
7. Action has now been taken to disaggregate the data to provide a JSNA which is specific to Central Bedfordshire, to establish appropriate governance arrangements with the PCT and other health partners reflecting the Council's needs relating to both Children & Young People's services and Adult Social Care & Health and to jointly appoint project management and analytical capacity to improve the quality and accessibility of the document.
8. The current JSNA has informed the development of the Children & Young People's plan, which was considered by this committee previously, has been adopted by the Children's Trust and recently approved by the Executive. It has already added value to the planning and commissioning work being undertaken by the Council and its partners.

Future priorities

9. There has been significant progress made with partners developing the JSNA since the inception of the new Council in April. However, it has yet to achieve its potential as the primary source of population needs analysis. Therefore future priorities are to refresh the current document during in the next six months, to develop the analytical content so that it doesn't simply describe population characteristics and trends but provides an appropriate and incisive commentary and to improve the accessibility of the document, through both revising the format and through making it available via web access. This is intended to support the increased use of the JSNA, not only by commissioners from the PCT, the Council and the Children's Trust, but also voluntary sector agencies and communities.

Conclusion and Next Steps

10. This paper is intended as a briefing for the Committee on the historical and legal context of the JSNA and to provide a report on progress to date. The current JSNA is appended for information. The committee is asked to consider and note progress made in developing the JSNA as it relates to Children & Young People in Central Bedfordshire, and in light of its function as the primary source of population information used for developing the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) and making commissioning decisions to
 - **agree how they would like to monitor future progress; and**
 - **how they might use the content of the JSNA to inform their work in relation to the Council's responsibilities for Children, Young People & Families.**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The JSNA underpins the Children's Trust's future commissioning of services and so supports delivery of the following priorities

- **Educating, Protecting and providing opportunities for children & young people;**
- **Creating safer communities; and**
- **Promoting healthier lifestyles**

Financial:

Use of the Joint strategic Needs analysis to inform commissioning decisions will lead to greater efficiency in the delivery of services by the Council and its partners.

Legal:

The JSNA is a statutory requirement placed on Local Authorities by The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007).
It supports the duties placed on the Council in the Children Act (2004) in relation to Children's Trust's.

Risk Management:

Appropriate use of population needs analysis should reduce financial and reputational risk.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

N/A

Equalities/Human Rights:

N/A

Community Safety:

The JSNA will support strategic decision making intended to improve the safety of Children & Young People

Sustainability:

N/A

Appendices:**Appendix A – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Children Summary
Central Bedfordshire (April 2009)**

(Note – Appendix A was the Executive Summary of the JSNA as at April 2009, this report outlines progress that has been made since that Executive Summary was published)

Background papers

(hard copy available upon request at Priory House, Chicksands)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)