

Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

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Title of Report Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Executive Summary

Meeting Date: 2 October 2014

Responsible Officer(s) Muriel Scott, Director of Public Health

Presented by: Celia Shohet, Assistant Director, Public Health

Action Required:

1. To consider and endorse the 2014 Executive Summary of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Central Bedfordshire.
 2. To ensure that commissioning intentions for 2015/16 and relevant strategic plans take account of the main themes and implications identified.
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Executive Summary

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| 1. | <p>The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies a number of themes which will need to inform the commissioning intentions and strategic plans of the Board and its constituent organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Bedfordshire is generally a great place to live but there are differences in people's experience which can be explained in part by the wider determinants of health.• There has been an improvement in life expectancy for both men and women in the deprived areas of Central Bedfordshire. Life expectancy for both men and women continues to be lower in the deprived areas and in Central Bedfordshire as a whole, although this gap is reducing.• Every child deserves the best possible start in life and although infant mortality rates have been comparatively low, they increased in 2011/12, driven in part due to poorer antenatal and post natal outcomes in south Central Bedfordshire.• Early years development is improving (as measured by school readiness) but still lower than the England average.• Educational attainment and employment for young people needs to be an area of continued focus.• Pupil absences have reduced but remain higher than the England and statistical neighbour averages. Action is being taken to reduce this further. |
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable children and young people are at increased risk of poorer outcomes and focused work is required to support children and young people to make healthy lifestyle choices and reduce risky behaviours. • Good Mental health and wellbeing is critical for all and continues to be an area of important focus. • Premature mortality is falling in Central Bedfordshire but is higher than statistical neighbours for cancer, coronary heart disease and respiratory disease. • There has been an apparent increase in smoking prevalence in Central Bedfordshire and the number of residents who have quit smoking has reduced. • Outcomes for drug treatment (measured by successful completions) in Central Bedfordshire have improved. • Central Bedfordshire has a greater proportion of its adult population classified as overweight or obese. • The increasing population of older people with their associated needs has many implications including housing and accommodation, support to maintain independence, the integration of care and the prevention of unnecessary admissions to acute or residential care. • The prevalence of dementia in those aged 65 years and over in Central Bedfordshire is predicted to increase as a result of changes in the population. A Health Needs Assessment is currently underway (to be completed towards the end of 2014) to determine the unmet need for dementia in Central Bedfordshire.
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Background	
2.	The Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to prepare and publish the JSNA and then to ensure that the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy meet the needs included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
3.	The full JSNA is refreshed on a rolling programme, determined by when data becomes available and new guidance is published. The aim is to review majority of the chapters annually, although not all have been updated and therefore cannot be reflected in the refreshed executive summary.
4.	The Executive Summary is the most frequently accessed and used part of the JSNA, therefore it needs to paint a concise picture of significant current and future needs in Central Bedfordshire. It is updated each autumn to reflect any changes to the needs assessed.

Detailed Recommendation	
5.	There are a number of areas within the JNSA which have changed since the 2013 refresh. Whilst it is not possible to outline all of these, some of the major areas which will impact upon health and wellbeing are detailed in paragraphs 6-10.

6	Although overall life expectancy has increased and the gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced, there is limited evidence that this increase has been because of increased years spent in good health. If people are living longer but in poor health, this has consequences for them and their families but also for health services and local authorities who may need to invest more resources in supporting people. The case for prevention and early intervention to enable people to live longer <i>healthy</i> lives becomes ever more compelling if the system is to cope with increasing demand.
7	Educational attainment remains a focus and shows improvements in a number of areas. Whilst the focus is often on the ‘headline’ data of GCSE results (and this won’t be published until late October for 2014) it is clear that a higher proportion of children need to arrive at school ready to learn – it is this good start in life which provides the firm foundation for the rest of education.
8	2014 was the first year that excess weight (rather than obesity) was measured nationally. The proportion of adults in Central Bedfordshire who have excess weight (69%) is significantly higher than the national average (64%) The reasons for this are likely to be multi-factorial and will require further action at many levels.
9	Smoking is the leading cause of preventable early deaths and unfortunately this year, the number of people quitting smoking nationally and locally fell. There are likely to be a number of reasons for this including the rising popularity of e-cigarettes. Action to reverse this decline in successful quits is already underway.
10	Dementia is already an area of increasing focus, through the re-procurement of mental health services, the introduction of dementia friendly communities and an in-depth piece of work to increase further the level of insight into what needs to be done to prevent dementia and support those who are affected by it.

Issues	
Strategy Implications	
11	The JSNA should drive the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and other commissioning strategies.
12	The JSNA website currently has limited functionality but work is underway to improve its accessibility and functionality.

