

Briefing Note 2 Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA): For Directors of Transport Services and their staff

Headline: Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are carried out by all top tier local authorities and can identify transport, among other services, in helping to improve health outcomes. They, therefore provide an opportunity for Transport departments to work collaboratively with public health to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

Introduction

There are many different factors which have an important influence on people's health. The factors which have been found to have the most significant influence are often termed the wider determinants of health. While health services make a contribution to health, most of the key determinants of health, for example, education, employment, housing, environment, and transport lie outside the direct influence of healthcare. Yet interventions in such areas such as transport planning can have major impacts on people's lives, not least the ability to travel actively in safety given that there are significant health and wellbeing benefits. Not the least of these is extending life years and those free of disease and illness, and the contribution such improvements can bring to the economy and wider societal goals. In order to achieve such goals it will be for local authorities, in partnership with Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB)¹ to demonstrate improvements in public health outcomes through achieving progress against those indicators that best reflect local health need (as set out in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and reflected in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWSs).

JSNA and JHWS explained

Since 1 April 2008, local authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) have been under a statutory duty to produce a JSNA - an assessment of the current and future health and social care needs and assets of the local community. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have an equal and joint duty to prepare JSNAs and JHWS for their HWBs.² In drawing up their priorities, as members of HWBs, they will both have a duty to work with other partners such as the police and community safety partnerships to undertake a JSNA. Based on these they will have to develop JHWSs – a strategy for meeting the identified needs in the local area based on evidence in JSNAs.

JSNA aims

Specifically, the aim of a JSNA is to:

- Provide analyses of data to show the health and wellbeing status of local communities
- Define where inequalities exist

¹ See DfT Briefing Note 1 Health and Wellbeing Boards: Briefing for Directors of Transport Services and their staff

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http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_13173_3.pdf

- Provide information on local community views and evidence of effectiveness of existing interventions which will help to shape future plans for services
- Make specific recommendations based on information / evidence gathered

HWBs can request relevant information when preparing JSNAs or JHWSs – and those asked have a duty to supply the information. They should ensure that staff supporting JSNAs and JHWSs have easy access to the evidence they need.

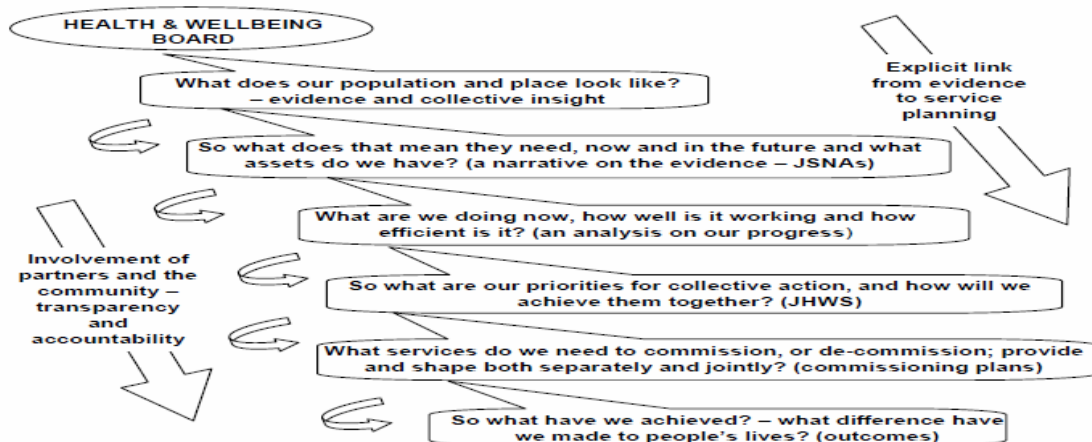
What are JHWSs?

JHWSs are strategies for meeting the needs identified in JSNAs. As with JSNAs, they are produced by HWBs, and are unique to each local area. They should explain what health and wellbeing priorities the HWB has set in order to tackle the needs identified in their JSNAs. This is not about taking action on everything at once, but about setting priorities for joint action and making a real impact on people’s lives.

Measurement against Public Health objectives

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, JSNAs and JHWSs must inform local authority commissioning plans, and so they are highly likely to have an impact on how the Department of Health ring-fenced grant to local public health teams is spent. It is therefore envisaged that specific progress against measures set out in each Public Health teams’ Outcome Framework³ will be being built into the JSNAs and JHWS, as appropriate.^{4 5}

Figure 1 – How JSNAs, JHWSs and commissioning plans fit together



Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies – draft guidance (Dept. Health, July 2012)

Figure 1 illustrates how both JSNAs and JHWS relate to HWBs and ultimately delivery of commissioned services.

³ See DfT Briefing Note 3 Public Health Outcomes Framework: Briefing for Directors of Transport Services and their staff

⁴ Dept Health, 2012 Improving outcomes and supporting transparency. Part 1: A Public Health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016.

⁵ Local Authority Circular (DH) (2013)1