

Cheshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Progress report

Purpose

This report has been prepared to inform the Communities of Cheshire Partnership of progress in producing Cheshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Background

The requirement for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts to work together to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was created in the *Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act* enacted in October 2007 and supported by Government guidance published in December 2007.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will identify areas for priority action in Sustainable Communities Strategies and Local Area Agreements. Comprehensive Area Assessments, the new performance regimen for public bodies, will assess the extent to which commissioning decisions have been informed by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Local progress

A workshop attended by more than fifty stakeholders was held in November 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to increase stakeholder understanding of the value of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and seek views on how the process could work most effectively in Cheshire.

A steering group has been established with representation from Cheshire County Council and both Cheshire Primary Care Trusts. The Safer and Stronger LAA group and the Economy and Environment LAA group have also nominated representatives to contribute to the steering group.

At the first steering group meeting in February, the process and timescale for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment were agreed. Baseline statistics on the health and well-being needs are currently being collated and will be available in draft form in April. Although it is envisaged that Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will be an on-going process, draft recommendations will be available in September to inform Sustainable Communities Strategies, Local Area Agreement and Primary Care Trust planning cycles. Consultation events will be held for stakeholders over the summer months.

Next Steps

Community engagement is an essential element of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Plans to do this effectively without replicating good work which already exists are under consideration. Understanding whether services have delivered what was expected and whether service-users have had their needs met are essential.

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It is envisaged that there will be two Joint Strategic Needs Assessments reflecting the different needs of the West Cheshire and Chester and East Cheshire Local Authorities. At present, these Assessments are being developed using a common process but a decision will be taken by the steering group to split the processes when it makes sense to do so.

Further information regarding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be obtained from Claire Wildgoose, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Project Manager Claire.wildgoose@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk