

JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENTS FOR CHESHIRE

PURPOSE

This report has been prepared to inform the Cheshire Communities Partnership of progress in producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are shared statements on the health and wellbeing needs of the populations of Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. The Councils and Primary Care Trusts for each area have a legal duty to undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in order to inform commissioners and providers on the development and improvement of services to address needs.

The aim of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is to:

- Identify the health and wellbeing needs of the population;
- Identify groups whose needs are not being addressed;
- Provide information to be used in the planning, development and delivery of health and social care services over the next three to five years, and set a clear direction for the next ten years;
- Identify the causes and impacts of health inequalities and attempt to address these in the design of services.

LOCAL PROGRESS

Early Findings Reports

Each area has now produced a report which sets out some of the initial findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, and identifies what the Primary Care Trusts and County Council think are the main issues affecting people's health and wellbeing within Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. The reports have been distributed widely throughout Cheshire and the Primary Care Trust Directors of Public Health are highlighting the JSNA at meetings with partners to raise awareness of its importance.

Local people and partner organisations are being asked what they think of health and well-being in Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East and whether they agree with the reports' early findings. Questionnaires have been made available and their completion encouraged; the deadline for completed questionnaires in Cheshire East is Friday 20th February 2009. In Cheshire West and Chester, the deadline was Friday 30th January 2009 and the responses received are currently being analysed. The results of this engagement exercise will be reported to the appropriate forums in the near future.

Web Page Launches

Cheshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are dynamic needs assessments which are hosted on the Primary Care Trust websites to enable them to be continually updated and refined as new information and intelligence is developed locally, nationally

and internationally. The web pages for both assessments were launched in autumn 2008 and are now available at www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/JSNA and <http://www.cecpct.nhs.uk> under publications.

The sites contain information and data on the population of Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East and cover areas such as:

- Lifestyle and Risk Factors
- Burdens of Ill Health and Disease
- Children and Young People Services

Each section of the website will contain a number of indicators/measures with key findings and recommendations highlighted.

NEXT STEPS

The Project Manager is liaising with partners to identify what further information can be included in the JSNAs to ensure that they are comprehensive. Examples include Cheshire Probation Service, Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and colleagues leading the development of Strategic Housing Market Assessments for both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East. Cheshire Constabulary, who was originally represented on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Steering Group, will also be invited to include relevant data.

In the future, the Primary Care Trust Directors of Public Health will continue to provide strong leadership for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; however it will be important to ensure that the accountability for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment also sits within the new Local Authorities. The future arrangements for both areas will be discussed shortly.

RECOMMENDED: That the Partnership

- (1) receives and notes this report.**