

Harrow Strategic Partnership Board

19th March 2009

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update

The HSP Board is asked to:

1. Note the development and progress of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Background

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is intended as a strategic tool that identifies the health, well-being needs and inequalities of a local population to inform more effective and targeted service provision across agencies. The JSNA is also intended as a resource for stakeholders and partners to utilise and consider when prioritising, planning and reviewing services and developing needs assessments.

The JSNA is expected to influence the commissioning process across both health and social care and to provide information to support the LAA. In essence a JSNA should highlight areas of local need, inequalities and areas for priority action across statutory agencies and stakeholders.

The JSNA provides a range of information and presents the key themes that have emerged from the information gathering and engagement process. However, it does not include detail on specific issues or recommendations for action, as these will need to be addressed in the next stage of the JSNA process, by those responsible across organisations for planning and commissioning activities.

The duty to carry out and publish a JSNA is placed with the Director of Public Health and Directors of Adult Social Services and Children's Services respectively.

Progress

Since the last progress report to the HSP Board on 13th May 2008 the Harrow JSNA has been completed and published on the PCT and Harrow Council websites.

This first JSNA provides a wealth of detailed information and presents a comprehensive picture of both the causes and effects of ill health and social exclusion. Following the data analysis, feedback received from staff and members of the public in focus groups, meetings and surveys the following key themes have emerged and are detailed in the JSNA documents:

- **The challenge of success** - overall the residents of Harrow enjoy a comparatively high level of income and standard of living.

- **Inequalities** - not everyone shares in Harrow's success, as there are pockets of inequality and deprivation across the borough.
- **Ethnic diversity** - ethnic and religious diversity enriches the community and is likely to grow, but it also brings challenges in reaching a balance of integrated and separate service provision for different communities.
- **Increasing number of older people** - increasing numbers of older people will require a widening range of health and social care services.
- **Maintaining and improving health outcomes** - will need to be targeted for example around areas such as obesity, smoking and breastfeeding.
- **Offering greater choice and control** - innovative ways to meet the challenge of budget constraints will need to be developed, so that local people can continue to have greater independence, choice and control of their lives for as long as possible.
- **Strengthening community cohesion** - community cohesion was acknowledged as an important aspect in maintaining peoples sense of well-being.

The JSNA identifies that there is likely to be areas of hidden need requiring further investigation in the following groups:

- People who fund their own care provision (self funders).
- Asian groups who are under-represented in mental health services.
- Needs of adults who are currently not users of public services.

The JSNA also identified areas for further exploration that included:

- An analysis of anti-depression prescriptions, as well as other mental health treatments offered, by ward, ethnicity and socio-economic status, would increase understanding and reveal possible areas of action.
- As social profiles for drug users and alcohol mis-users may be very different, there is a need to differentiate between different pathways and outcomes.
- Reviews of adults with a learning disability, children and young people with learning disabilities, and an assessment of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service are taking place and will feed into JSNA updates.

Next steps

The development of the JSNA is an evolving process, which will be built up over time. The data collected as part of the JSNA, should be seen as an initial step in the delivery and provision of working towards better services for the residents of Harrow. All of the information and analysis has been completed for this year and the next phase of the JSNA will need to ensure that:

- The JSNA informs the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement refresh.
- The JSNA is used as a tool to inform and refresh commissioning and service development across the PCT and local authority.
- The JSNA is embedded, as an integral part of the planning cycle whereby detailed service level information is used to update the strategic needs assessment regularly.
- Ongoing work continues with PCT colleagues to address identified information gaps and to make improvements for the JSNA refresh. This

will include considering investing in a Dr Foster social care and health local population information software package.

- We learn from the experience of compiling this JSNA.
- More effective consultation is achieved with the local community and stakeholders when refreshing the JSNA.
- Key public health and council colleagues continue partnership development, effective pooling of resources and ideas to deliver the next JSNA refresh.

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