

Warwickshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

17 July 2013

'Living in Warwickshire' Survey - Project Proposal

Recommendations

That the Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Board:

1. Note the proposal to undertake a 'Living in Warwickshire' survey in Autumn 2013, to provide a key part of the evidence base for the review of Warwickshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) during the early part of 2014.
2. Agree to act as the strategic project sponsor, and to agree to use the Board's name in promoting the survey to Warwickshire's residents to help encourage the maximising of survey response rates.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Between 2000 and 2008, a statutory duty was placed on local councils to undertake a prescribed 'User Satisfaction Survey'/'Place Survey' every two years. This helped in gathering perceptions data from local people about council services. Warwickshire County Council also carried out a variation on the prescribed survey in non-statutory years to build up a good time series of data, and also enable partners to gather data from residents relating to their services. The last time we were able to gather this perceptions type data was in 2009, and the council is now keen to gather a refreshed set of perceptions data.
- 1.2 In relation to health and lifestyle information, the West Midlands Regional Observatory carried out a very detailed survey of residents across the region in 2005. More recently in Warwickshire we have asked some limited questions relating to lifestyles in our Place Survey, and reported this through the 'Quality of Life Report' published by the Warwickshire Observatory, and some of the analysis has also been included in the Director of Public Health Annual Reports. However, this data is now becoming less relevant and less robust.

- 1.3 More recently, the Department for Health has published new guidance on the production of JSNAs in local areas, which gives greater flexibility around the processes we should adopt for delivering our JSNA than was previously prescribed. However, the guidance still recognises that an important part of the JSNA process is the role that consultation and engagement with local people has, so that it becomes a vital part of our evidence base.
- 1.4 The new JSNA guidance also suggests that Health & Wellbeing Boards need to consider what health and social care information the local community needs, how they access it, and what support they may need to understand it. Currently there are limited, or, where it does exist, often uncoordinated means of doing this.

2.0 Current Issues

- 2.1 During the preparation of our current JSNA material the limited data from community participation became obvious for some topic areas and priorities. Often the JSNA Working Group has had to rely on increasingly dated consultation or engagement findings. In some instances there have been data gaps at local level, and as a result the analysis carried out has been limited to using national or regional modelled data or synthetic estimates for a range of health and social care topics.
- 2.2 In completing our JSNA work to date in Warwickshire, we have also found that there is a lack of evidence about particular themes or issues, and we have limited contact with some seldom heard and vulnerable groups, which we recognise could be indicative of unmet needs and/or deprivation.
- 2.3 Under the evolving arrangements, it is recognised that we do not have any joint mechanism currently for collecting data and intelligence from residents to underpin our JSNA and Health & Wellbeing Strategy work, to provide a joint understanding of issues and priorities to inform overall improvements to health and social care services. However, the formal launch of the Health & Wellbeing Board gives the opportunity to address this gap.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Board sponsor a survey of local people which focusses on issues around 'Living in Warwickshire'. This would cover perceptions type data about life in Warwickshire, use and satisfaction with public services, and also lifestyle data and intelligence. The Board would be the public face of the work, and it would give the Board the opportunity to engage with residents around what is important to them, at an early stage in its life. It is important that the survey

content avoids duplication with other consultation exercises such as, for example, the GP Access Survey.

- 3.2 The survey could be high profile, which would show to residents that they are helping to inform local priority setting, decision making, and commissioning outcomes, and the opportunity to shape services for the future.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the survey sample size will provide statistically robust results at both County and District/Borough level. However, we also want to ensure sufficient numbers of responses to enable sub-district level analysis and provide further insight on the results. This is likely to be at Locality or grouped Locality level or on an Urban/Rural basis. We also plan to provide analysis on a range of other demographic characteristics (age, sex) where possible.
- 3.4 The survey would also be supplemented with a series of focus groups, to gather more in-depth insight around a range of issues identified through the survey, or related to specific communities or local areas in the county. These will help to further unpick, understand and gather richer qualitative intelligence on the key issues emerging from the survey findings.
- 3.5 We would want the results from the survey to be widely disseminated amongst partners and the public, with key messages and analysis disseminated over the following 12-18 months as part of the Board's communications and engagement plan, as well as informing analysis for the JSNA and any future refresh of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

4.0 Benefits for the Health & Wellbeing Board

- 4.1 The proposed survey would have a range of benefits for the Board:
 - To provide a useful and timely baseline for the Board as it starts its work in Warwickshire against which it can monitor its progress over time
 - Up-to-date data and intelligence from residents to better inform the work programme of the Board, provide an evidence base for the JSNA, and vital intelligence to shape future priorities through the Health & Wellbeing Strategy
 - Given the number and diverse nature of partners on the Board, it is vital to involve stakeholders from the outset of its work
 - Wider Board level involvement will help make it easier for different agencies to own the results, and encourage greater use of the intelligence collected

- Responses to the survey should be improved and will provide more statistically reliable results if supported by a wider range of strategic stakeholders locally.

5.0 Benefits for the JSNA

5.1 In providing benefits for our JSNA in Warwickshire, the survey will:

- Provide more robust material for the JSNA for its review in 2014, rather than relying on outdated data or data gaps
- Provide valuable data to better target local services and interventions which reflect local need, and provide information to help plan and commission new services
- Enhance joint working at a practitioner level
- Encourage efficiencies in the way we carry out consultations with residents in Warwickshire, by tying two large scale surveys together
- Promote greater integration amongst local authority services. With Public Health moving into local government there is an opportunity to use the evidence gathered to underpin more joining up of services and demonstrate the linking together of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

6.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps

6.1 Project Arrangements

6.2 The project will be managed through the existing JSNA Working Group. This comprises membership from both Public Health and the Warwickshire Observatory, along with representation from People Group (WCC) and also external partners such as Health Watch.

6.3 It is anticipated that elements of the project such as sampling, fieldwork, and data entry will need to be commissioned to an external provider. The analysis and presentation of the survey results could be carried out as part of the work programme for the JSNA Working Group, and we will be in a position to provide a range of agreed analysis, and bespoke analysis around key themes emerging from the survey.

6.4 Resources

6.5 Currently the project is being funded jointly by Public Health and, subject to approval, by the Resources Group of the County Council.

Supporting Papers

References:

1. 'Statutory Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategies', Department for Health, March 2013
<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/jsnas-jhwss-guidance-published/>

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