

Health and Wellbeing Board

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update

7 July 2021

Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Notes and comments upon the progress of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) programme to date;
2. Supports the promotion and dissemination of findings and recommendations of the mental health needs assessment, implementing them where appropriate;
3. Notes the outlined thematic JSNA workplan for 2021/22 – 2022/23;
4. Supports the development of future needs assessments through promoting the work of the JSNA and supporting requests for resource to support the analysis and development of assessments.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the delivery of the JSNA programme since January 2021.

Mental Health Needs Assessment

- 1.2 The JSNA Strategic Group has previously agreed to proceed with thematic based needs assessments following the completion of the place based JSNAs. One area that was agreed to trial the thematic needs assessments was mental health, given that the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy had this as a priority, and due to commissioning plans in both CCG and Local Authority.
- 1.3 It was agreed in October 2020 that the needs assessment would be a joint piece of work between Coventry and Warwickshire.
- 1.4 A Task and Finish group has been developing the mental health needs assessment since September 2020. This is made up of local authority, CCG, CWPT, police and third sector representatives.
- 1.5 A survey and focus groups were conducted in March and April 2021 to obtain qualitative information from both residents and professionals working in the area of mental health. The findings have been incorporated into the final needs assessment and will be included as appendices.

- 1.6 The survey included: a general screening (using SWEMWBS); questions about the impact of Covid-19; questions about services (access and awareness); and wider determinants that impact people's mental health and wellbeing.
- 1.7 A total of 975 individuals responded to the survey (581 respondents to the Ask Warwickshire full version of the survey; 394 respondents to the SurveyMonkey Easy Read version). The Ask Warwickshire responses were analysed for the purposes of the needs assessment, with Easy Read findings incorporated where appropriate.
- 1.8 Key findings from the survey are outlined below.
 - 1.8.1 A third of all respondents (33.4%/n=192) indicated they felt confident talking about their mental health 'some of the time'. However, around 1 in 4 respondents felt like this only 'rarely' or 'none of the time'.
 - 1.8.2 Around 3 in 4 of respondents who are currently employed (75.1%/n=343) felt that their workplace actively promoted the mental health and wellbeing of employees.
 - 1.8.3 The most well-known types of service answered by all respondents (except those answering as professionals) were in the category "NHS Services". These included GPs (97.5%/n=425) and Accident and Emergency (97.0%/n=423). Services that were less well known tended to be those in the voluntary, community and charity sector.
 - 1.8.4 Professionals working in health and other organisations highlighted service inequalities among protected characteristic groups, those at financial disadvantage, including digital disadvantage, and those with other conditions/circumstances in addition to a mental health need.
 - 1.8.5 The COVID-19 pandemic was extensively mentioned for its wide-reaching impacts including disruption to services, an increase in waiting times, and access issues including the ability of people to cope with the shift to digital services and it was noted that some groups were especially disadvantaged by this. The isolation that lockdown brought was a particular issue for mental health (especially some groups) as was the anxiety around the pandemic generally. There was an expectation that demand for services would increase.
 - 1.8.6 Difficulties meeting service thresholds/criteria were often highlighted and there was a repeated feeling people had to reach crisis point before a service was offered. Additionally, there appeared to be problems when people presented with additional conditions (e.g. autism, dementia, or alcohol related problems) and didn't 'fit' service criteria.

- 1.8.7 Wider issues affecting mental health such as social isolation, lack of community support, discrimination, housing, and disadvantage were also mentioned as a significant part of promoting mental health and wellbeing.
- 1.9 Focus groups were conducted with the following groups: WCC Commissioners and Public Health; Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust Staff; voluntary and community sector organisations; unemployed individuals; carers of people with mental health difficulties; WCC Communities and Localities team.
- 1.10 A total of 98 individuals took part in one of 10 focus groups.
- 1.11 Key findings from the focus groups are outlined below:
- 1.11.1 COVID-19 has increased the complexity and acuity of presentations, particularly for individuals with severe and enduring mental illness.
 - 1.11.2 Partnership working between the NHS and Voluntary and Community Sector is seen as beneficial.
 - 1.11.3 Remote working has had some benefits but also some drawbacks including: reduction in quality, increased DNAs / cancellations and a negative impact on therapists' wellbeing.
 - 1.11.4 Remote working has highlighted digital exclusion of those without IT skills or equipment.
 - 1.11.5 Co-production and peer support were highlighted as important to service development and service users' recovery.
 - 1.11.6 Easily accessible information about services was a key theme for both professionals and individuals wanting to find out about available support.
- 1.12 Headline findings from the needs assessment will be presented to the board on 7th July.
- 1.13 A dissemination plan has been created to share the findings and recommendations of the needs assessment with relevant internal and external stakeholders.
- 1.14 As this needs assessment was the pilot of the thematic programme, an evaluation exercise will take place to understand which elements of the process worked well and which did not and would therefore require a different approach for future needs assessments.

Thematic Work Programme

1.15 Following a prioritisation process that took place in December 2020 and January 2021, a two year thematic work programme was developed which is outlined below.

Theme	Provisional Timescales	Comments
Mental health	October 2020 – June 2021	Pilot is currently underway and due to be completed in July 2021.
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment	September 2021 – October 2022	Following a decision from NHS England this needs assessment (which is a statutory requirement) was pushed back by 1 year with a refreshed deadline of April 2022.
Health visiting 0-5	June 2021 – September 2021	This needs assessment will inform the recommissioning of the Health Visiting contract. Final approval of an extension option was approved on 20 th January. This will result in a contract start date of 1/1/2023.
End of Life care	April 2022 – October 2022	A needs assessment will help identify where to best allocate support within the hospice sector and also look at wider system support.
Children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing	July 2022 – June 2023	This needs assessment will inform the recommissioning of the CAMHS/Rise service. The current contract will end July 2022 and an extension option taken up to July 2024. The needs assessment will be required by July 2023 to inform specification development for the new contract that will commence in July 2024.
Substance Misuse	October 2022 – April 2023	This needs assessment will inform the recommissioning of the drugs and alcohol contract. The new contract will go live in April 2024.

Table 1. Proposed JSNA Work Programme (2021/22 – 2022/23)

1.16 It should be noted that these timescales are proposed and may be adjusted slightly as work is progressed over the two-year period. This may include changes required if additional requests are made for needs assessments during this time. The Health and Wellbeing Board will be informed of any changes to the work programme.

1.17 Children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing was also proposed as an item to be included in the workplan between July and December 2021 to inform an extension to the current contract. However, it was felt that it would be more beneficial to conduct a broader piece of work prior to the new contract due to start in July 2024. Scoping work will be undertaken to identify whether this will be a joint needs assessment with Coventry, reflecting the adult mental health needs assessment. Therefore, this theme has been scheduled to take place between July 2022 and July 2023.

1.18 Through the prioritisation exercise a number of themes were identified for 2023/24. These themes will be kept on a “horizon scanning” list and scoped over the next two years to identify whether they will be included in a future JSNA work programme. The themes identified are as follows:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Social inequalities and deprivation
- Care homes

- 1.19 In addition to the items above, it is proposed that a desktop exercise (rather than a full needs assessment) is undertaken to cover the theme of bereavement services. This exercise will aim to understand what services are currently available across Warwickshire and an estimate of current need. This will be undertaken with Strategy and Commissioning colleagues.
- 1.20 Scoping work has started for the Health Visiting 0-5 needs assessment. A range of indicators have been identified and South Warwickshire Foundation Trust have been engaged to clarify what data they can provide as part of the needs assessment.
- 1.21 An update of progress on the Health Visiting 0-5 needs assessment will be provided at the next Health and Wellbeing Board.

Grapevine Project

- 1.22 WCC commissioned Grapevine to mobilise and engage communities in action planning. A Community Organiser started in February 2020 to work in Lighthorne Heath, Shipston, Wolston and Camp Hill initially for 12 months.
- 1.23 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the project was put on hold and the officer placed on furlough. The officer commenced work again in September and began working with communities whilst observing social distancing. However, following further restrictions in the winter months it was agreed that the project would be placed on hold and Grapevine would recommence work once restrictions were eased.
- 1.24 At the time of writing this report, a meeting is being set up with Grapevine to develop a plan for restarting this project. Further updates will be provided at the next Health and Wellbeing Board.

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

- 1.25 The [Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020/21](#) focused on Warwickshire residents and their experiences of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to understand how it has impacted on their health along with other challenges they have faced and where they have found support.
- 1.26 The report includes a section providing an update on the JSNA programme. This includes the place based needs assessments, the COVID-19 Health Impact Assessment, and information about the future approach of the JSNA programme.
- 1.27 A [Monitoring Health Inequalities Dashboard](#) has been created to sit alongside the Annual Report. It contains a range of indicators in relation to health inequalities, using the four quadrants of the Population Health model approach, and includes data at a JSNA area level where possible.

1.28 At this stage, a number of the measures do not yet show the impact of the virus but are ones that we want to monitor. The indicators do not reflect the full spectrum of health inequalities but moving forwards, relevant indicators will be added following prioritisation by the health and care system and agreed by the Director of Public Health.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 None

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None

Appendices

1. None

Background Papers

1. None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

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