
West Berkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 29 September 2022

Report Author: Sarah Shildrick

Report Sponsor: Tracy Daszkiewicz

Item for: Decision



1. Purpose of the Report

To provide the Board with an update on the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) against the model for JSNA agreed by the Board in 2018. This includes an overview of the enhancements that have been made to the West Berkshire Observatory site; and proposes a mechanism for further development and integration via a West Berkshire JSNA steering group, supported by JSNA superusers.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For the Board to NOTE the developments to the local JSNA.
- 2.2 For the Board to ENDORSE the proposal of the formation of a West Berkshire JSNA steering group supported by JSNA superusers.

3. Executive Summary

Recent enhancements have been made to the West Berkshire Observatory to develop this as the home of the West Berkshire JSNA, and to lay the foundations for further integration of existing and future needs assessment processes. To achieve this integration, we are asking the Board to endorse a proposal to form a West Berkshire JSNA steering group. The group will meet to ensure that all needs assessments are included as part of JSNA and that JSNA is referred to when commissioning and planning services. We are also asking the board to endorse the engagement of JSNA superusers whose role will centre around the promotion of JSNA within their own work area.

4. Supporting Information

Context

- 4.1 In 2018, the Board agreed to progress the JSNA in line with a new model which provided a more efficient and cohesive approach to assessing the needs of the local population and of evidencing this assessment. The approach was built upon a vision for the West Berkshire JSNA that views it as an overarching process, incorporating the wide range of local population needs analysis undertaken by Board member organisations as part of their duties. The new model was implemented throughout 2019/20 and broadly consisted of two strands:

- (1) An online digital data toolkit, kept up to date using automated processes that is open and accessible to all for a range of purposes.
 - (2) A library of detailed needs assessments carried out by internal and external partners, with support from Public Health and Wellbeing Officers
- 4.2 Prior to recent updates, these two strands were separated, the former hosted on the West Berkshire Observatory website¹, and the latter hosted on the Council's website.
- 4.3 In September 2021, a process began to draw these strands together. The key aims were to enhance the West Berkshire Observatory in order that it provides the platform to deliver both strands of JSNA.
- 4.4 This was delivered by the Berkshire West JSNA Project Group which is a small working group consisting of a representative from the Berkshire West Public Health team and one representative from each of the Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham Public Health and Wellbeing teams.

Updates to the West Berkshire Observatory

- 4.5 The original West Berkshire Observatory had a generic colour scheme and branding which has been updated to reflect the colours and logos of West Berkshire Council.
- 4.6 The digital data tools have been moved under one section of the header menu to make space for more locally developed reports and support features. These are described below:
- (1) A section to hold local needs assessment reports as they are developed
 - (2) JSNA summary reports covering people and place: these bring together live data from the National Data Service and places it in the context of local assessments and plans such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - (3) Covid-19 recovery report: bringing in live data from the National Data Service against as key indicators for monitoring recovery from the pandemic
 - (4) A support section including Frequently Asked Questions, and video guides
 - (5) A site news section to keep users up to date as new content is added
 - (6) A site survey to gain users perspectives of the site

Further development and integration

- 4.7 The response to the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic paused activity relating to JSNA. The work described above looked to bring this back online, laying the foundations to

¹ The West Berkshire Observatory was launched in 2019. It was originally built by and is hosted and supported by ESRI UK. They provide an off-the-shelf product based on their National Data Service. This is a service that automatically draws down data from several organisations including the Office for National Statistics. On top of this sits several templated reports, maps, and data visualisations.

be further built upon. The next phase of JSNA development looks to enhance and integrate existing needs assessment processes within and across organisations.

4.8 The options considered to support this are presented below.

5. Options Considered

The Berkshire West-wide JSNA project group remains as is with no further capacity identified. The West Berkshire representative will have responsibility for agreeing to and ensuring the completion of any local actions to meet the aim described under 4.7. This option was rejected as it creates the risk that opportunities to build JSNA into local processes will be missed or the capacity will not be sufficient to develop them.

6. Proposal(s)

- 6.1 Form a West Berkshire JSNA steering group. Suggested minimum membership would include representatives from each council directorate. The group would be required to meet on a six-monthly to quarterly basis.
- 6.2 The steering group would allow for cross-organisation / directorate input which would make the JSNA locally responsive and timely and enable better JSNA resource planning. This would be achieved by the steering group:
 - (1) having oversight of a schedule of needs assessments and identifying priority future assessments;
 - (2) establishing a common approach to needs assessments including how these will become part of the JSNA evidence;
 - (3) identifying opportunities to further develop the JSNA evidence base particularly in relation to qualitative local information;
 - (4) performing an annual review of the JSNA summary reports, providing final sign-off.
- 6.3 The Berkshire West project group would continue to operate as a working project that will continue to manage the Observatory site infrastructure and content.
- 6.4 The steering group would also be supported by, and be responsible for nominating, JSNA superusers. Superusers will be responsible for:
 - (1) maintaining a schedule of needs assessments/local plan updates and ensuring that these are conducted using a common approach
 - (2) ensuring that their colleagues are aware of the JSNA vision
 - (3) promoting the use of the JSNA and the Observatory site within their organisation/department
 - (4) ensuring that their organisation/department evidence their own assessments of need on the Observatory site

- (5) feeding back any comments or suggestions about the Observatory site to the Berkshire West JSNA project group/West Berkshire JSNA steering group

7. Conclusion(s)

- 7.1 The enhancements to the West Berkshire Observatory provide the foundation to continue to develop the JSNA and give a platform on which to evidence assessments of local need. The site will continue to be maintained and developed by the Berkshire West JSNA project group.
- 7.2 However, to integrate wider needs assessment work into a common JSNA process there is a requirement to ensure cross-organisation/directorate input. The West Berkshire JSNA steering group would provide the co-ordination needed to meet this requirement.
- 7.3 JSNA superusers would ensure that this integration occurs and will be pivotal in promoting the JSNA so that it is fully utilised.

8. Consultation and Engagement

Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group.

9. Appendices

None

Background Papers:

[JSNAs and JHWS statutory guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jsnas-and-jhws-statutory-guidance)

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- ☒ Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- ☒ Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- ☒ Help families and young children in early years
- ☒ Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- ☒ Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by providing local commissioners and service providers with a wealth of evidence of population need in order to guide action against all five priorities.
