

JSNA REVIEW

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board
On: 10 July 2025
Report Author: Kedei Ettah
Report Sponsor: Dr Matthew Pearce – Director of Public Health
Item for: Decision



1. Purpose of the Report

To update the health and wellbeing board on proposals for a review of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board approves the production of a rapid ‘State of the District’ report, in parallel with conducting a review of the current JSNA.
- 2.2 That Health and Wellbeing Board partners to agree to:
 - Commit to actively supporting the JSNA review process; and
 - Identify and nominate suitable representatives from their organisations to participate in the JSNA Steering Group.

3. Implications

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	No Financial Implication
Human Resource:	There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the decision to review the JSNA. However, the review process may have indirect HR implications in the following way: Cross-departmental collaboration: Input may be needed from other council departments (e.g adult social care, housing etc.). which could require coordination and temporary adjustments to workload.
Legal:	No legal Implication

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Risk Management:	Description	Likelihood	Impact H/M/L	Mitigation strategies
	Lack of stakeholder engagement (e.g. ICB, VCSE, Communities)	Medium	High	Early engagement plan; use existing networks (e.g HWB, VCSE); Schedule workshops and surveys; Feedback loops
	Overload of request from partners to include “everything”	High	Medium	Define and communicate scope clearly; use prioritisation matrix; maintain project governance
	Outdated or incomplete data (Post covid or smaller populations	High	High	Supplement with qualitative data, local intelligence and service user feedback; note limitations clearly
	Resource Limitations; staff or analyst capacity	Medium	High	Work with data analyst team for both Reading and West Berkshire; Adjust timescales if needed.

Property:	N/A
Policy:	<p>The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is underpinned by both national legislation and local policy frameworks shown below:</p> <p><u>National Policy Drivers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and Social Care Act 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks for JSNA • Requires Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to publish JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWS) • Statutory duty for Local authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to jointly assess the health and care needs of the local population. 2. NHS Long Term Plan (2019) 1. West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasises prevention, tackling health inequalities and place-based planning. • JSNAs support local systems to align with ICS population health management approaches. <p><u>Local Policy Drivers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA underpins the strategy by providing evidence for needs, inequalities and priorities. • Themes often include mental health, ageing well, early years and health protection 2. West Berkshire Council Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA links to strategic priorities such as thriving communities, healthy lives and equal opportunities • Ensures that health evidence shapes local service delivery and policy

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	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		There are no impacts arising directly as a result of this report. However, the JSNA will be expected to disaggregate data by deprivation, ethnicity, disability and demographics to highlight underserved groups and support targeted interventions. These impacts will be assessed when the JSNA is brought back for approval.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		There are no impacts arising directly as a result of this report. However, the JSNA will be expected to identify specific health and wellbeing needs and inequalities that affect different groups, which is a prerequisite for evidence-based decision-making that promotes fairness and inclusion. These impacts will be assessed when the JSNA is brought back for approval.
Environmental Impact:				None
Health Impact:				None
ICT Impact:				None
Digital Services Impact:				None
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The JSNA links to strategic priorities such as thriving communities, healthy lives and equal opportunities and ensures that health evidence shapes local service delivery and policy
Core Business:	X			The JSNA highlights variations in Health outcomes across different population groups and geographical areas in West Berkshire. This enables the council to

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				direct targeted interventions and funding where the need is greatest, ensuring fairer access to services and support.
Data Impact:		X		None
Consultation and Engagement:	Matt Pearce – Director of Public Health Steven Bow – Public Health Consultant Alice Luker – Senior Data Analyst Kedei Ettah – Public Health Practitioner Graduate Trainee			

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This paper sets out the proposed process and timeline for reviewing and refreshing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in West Berkshire. The JSNA is a key shared intelligence resource that enables the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and its partners to understand local population needs and inform strategic decision-making.
- 3.2 The current JSNA, hosted on the [West Berkshire Observatory](#), includes a wide range of thematic needs assessments and data. However, upon a public health self-assessment using the LGA Strengths and Risk Tool, issues and opportunities relating to the JSNA were identified and discussed highlighting the need for improvement to ensure the JSNA is fit for purpose.
- 3.3 The proposed approach combines the delivery of a rapid ‘State of the District’ JSNA in parallel with conducting a broader review of the JSNA’s structure, content, and delivery model. The latter process will run until winter 2025 and will involve cross-sector collaboration, including the formation of a Steering Group, stakeholder workshops, and a survey to inform development.
- 3.4 The HWB is asked to:
- Approve the proposed approach and timeline
 - Request partner organisations to support the review process and nominate representatives to the JSNA Steering Group.
- 3.5 A final paper, including the outcomes of the review and an updated State of the District JSNA, will be brought back to the Board later this year.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 JSNAs analyse the health needs of populations to inform and guide commissioning of health, well-being and social care services within local authority areas. The JSNA will underpin the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) and will inform the commissioning plans of the HWB member organisations.

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4.2 The main goal of the JSNA is to accurately assess the health needs of the local population that can be met through any of the functions of the Council and the ICB. The NHS and upper-tier local authorities have had a statutory duty to produce an annual JSNA since 2007.

4.3 The JSNA is:

- Joint – that is owned by, and for the benefit of, all HWB partners
- Strategic – that is high level, identifying the key priorities for the area, not elucidating them in exhaustive detail
- Needs Assessment – it outlines the physical and mental health needs of residents.

4.4 What is the JSNA currently in West Berkshire?

- The JSNA is not a single document, but refers to everything on the [West Berkshire Observatory](#) which includes: thematic needs assessments, population and demographic data, health and wellbeing profiles, data on deprivation, housing, economy and employment, environment, children and young people, as well as tools like the COVID-19 recovery dashboard and public health annual reports.
- The recent LGA review of HWB emphasised the fundamental importance of the JSNA as the basis for enabling the HWB to make informed decisions about its priorities – and recognised that work is needed on the current JSNA to make it fit for purpose.

5. Proposal

5.1 Rapid “State of the Nation” JSNA

- The recent LGA review of the Health and Wellbeing Board identified the desire by the board members to focus on a small number of priorities that were informed by evidence of need.
- A relatively short overview of the key health needs of West Berkshire will be produced using data and intelligence that is readily available. This will be reviewed by HWB members in a workshop in autumn to inform decisions about the Board’s priorities for action in the short to medium term.
- Due to the short timeline, this will necessarily be concise and not exhaustive. It will serve as a starting point for conversations, and the workshop will be instrumental in testing the findings, informing the review, and shaping the production of a more systematic JSNA delivered in partnership with colleagues from across the system.

5.2 Review of the JSNA approach

5.2.1 In parallel, a review of the JSNA and the associated processes and infrastructure will be conducted.

5.2.2 To guide the review and improvement of the JSNA, the following key questions are proposed for consideration:

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1. What are the required functions and typical used cases of the JSNA?
2. Is the current JSNA for West Berkshire fulfilling its function of meeting the needs of the Borough and key stakeholders?
3. What needs to change in order to improve its functionality?
4. How is the JSNA produced and delivered?
5. What should the JSNA end product look like?
6. What do areas of good practice look like?

5.3 Governance

HWB	Accountable for production of the JSNA
Steering Group	Led by Director of Public Health, with strategic partners, meeting at key milestones to guide the review process
Working Group	Public health group will meet regularly to oversee development of the JSNA and coordinate the Review.

5.4 Method

The following method will be used to gather insights, validate themes, and ensure that the final recommendations are informed, evidence-based, and reflective of stakeholder perspectives.

- Review of good practice from elsewhere
- Survey of stakeholders
- Workshop to triangulate findings and develop recommendations
- Report writing and finalisation

5.5 Timeline

State of the District Report	Autumn 2025
JSNA Review Completed	Winter 2025

6. Options Considered

1. Do nothing (leave the JSNA as it is)
2. Update the JSNA immediately without review and evaluation
3. Conduct a review and evaluation of the current JSNA approach as a precursor to updating the JSNA and the underlying processes.
4. Produce a rapid "State of the Borough" JSNA, in parallel with conducting a review of the current JSNA, to inform the future JSNA approach (recommended option).

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 This paper outlines the planned review of the West Berkshire JSNA to ensure it effectively informs the Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners about local population needs. The review will continue through to winter 2025, allowing time for meaningful engagement, analysis, and collaboration across the system while the State of the District report will provide a basis for a shared understanding of the key health needs to inform immediate priority setting by the HWB.
- 7.2 The outcome of the review, along with a refreshed State of the District JSNA, will be brought back to the HWB in a paper later this year for consideration and further action.

Background Papers:

[Berkshire Observatory – West Berkshire – Welcome to the West Berkshire Observatory](#)
[Health and Social Care Act 2012](#)

[NHS Long Term Plan v1.2 August 2019](#)

[Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030 - West Berkshire Council](#)

[Council Strategy 2023-2027 - West Berkshire Council](#)

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following 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 a more robust and inclusive approach to understanding local health needs, identifying gaps in service provision, and informing evidence-based decision-making. By improving the functionality, relevance, and accessibility of the JSNA, these proposals aim to ensure that local strategies and interventions are better aligned with the needs of different population groups, particularly those at greater risk of poor health outcomes.
