

**READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	13 March 2020		
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Update on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Model		
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<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	Reading Borough Council		

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report has been written to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on each of the three strands of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) model, as agreed in Health and Wellbeing Board in October 2018.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 outlines the main functionality of the Berkshire Observatory data tool.
- 1.3 Appendix 2 contains an example of a detailed needs analysis carried out by a partner organisation that has been included as part of the JSNA (to follow).
- 1.4 Appendix 3 shows the process for including local research on the RBC JSNA webpages.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the progress made by each strand of the new JSNA model.

**3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 In October 2018, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to progress the JSNA in line with a new model which provided a more cohesive and efficient approach to assessing the needs of the local population. The new JSNA model has been developed to contain three strands:
  1. A digital resource of data to describe the demography and wider determinants of health of the Reading population in a way that is user-friendly and configurable;
  2. A repository for detailed, service specific needs assessments carried out by internal and external partners with support from Public Health and Wellbeing officers;
  3. Improved engagement with local research groups, focusing on qualitative and participatory research.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

**4.1 Strand 1: Online Data Tool**

- 4.1.1 The Shared Public Health for Berkshire Team successfully procured a digital data resource, Instant Atlas, which is provided by Geowise. This tool has been localised to the six Berkshire Local Authorities and is called the Berkshire Observatory, available at <https://berkshireobservatory.co.uk>.
- 4.1.2 The Berkshire Observatory holds over 9,000 data indicators on the local population in Berkshire, pulled from a variety of public sources and automatically updated when new

data is released. The website offers detailed analysis of data, with tools that let users make comparisons at a council, ward and neighbourhood level across Berkshire, the South East and England. The mapping functionality of this data onto a Berkshire-wide footprint allows staff at all levels to access and interpret the data.

- 4.1.3 The Berkshire Observatory was soft launched on 2 September 2019 and the Public Health and Wellbeing Team in Reading have since been raising awareness of the website internally to staff at all levels, including specific workshops for teams that would benefit from using this tool as part of their service planning, such as Commissioning in Adult Social Care. The tool has also been promoted externally to local partners such as the voluntary and community sector, Older People's Working Group, Physical Disability and Sensory Needs Network and Berkshire West CCG.
- 4.1.4 The outcome of this work is that the Berkshire Observatory has started to become well-recognised and used as a data resource on the local population, informing strategic service planning and decision-making at Reading Borough Council and the wider community. It has also encouraged its users to work in health-oriented ways whilst promoting a prevention approach.
- 4.1.5 Appendix 1 illustrates the main functionality of each of the tools on the Berkshire Observatory.

## **4.2 Strand 2: Focussed Needs Assessments**

- 4.2.1 The second strand of the JSNA model focuses on producing content in alignment with needs assessments that have already been undertaken or are in the process of being developed by staff in the Council and its partners as part of its strategic development and commissioning.
- 4.2.2 If necessary, Public Health and Wellbeing officers can support development of needs analyses that enable commissioning activity and consider vulnerabilities and inequalities. Once these are completed, they are published online as JSNA content on the RBC website. A piece of work has also taken place to update the JSNA webpages on the RBC website to reflect the new model.
- 4.2.3 The overall aim of this strand is to build a library of resources with partners using a more integrated and coordinated approach, accompanied by analysis of local need and evidence of effectiveness as part of the design of interventions and pathways for health and wellbeing. This is a move away from the Public Health and Wellbeing team annually creating a large number of reports and thematic chapters which can result in duplication of work already completed by other areas within the organisation.
- 4.2.4 An example of one of the needs analyses is included in Appendix 2 (to follow).

## **4.3 Strand 3: Engagement with Local Research Groups**

- 4.3.1 The final strand of the JSNA model looks to improve engagement with local research, especially qualitative and participatory research, that captures service users' voice.
- 4.3.2 A working group was established with local partners to develop a Local Research and Evidence Framework to:
  - Provide guidelines for what will be published as local research and evidence on the RBC JSNA web pages, as well as a process and schedule for reviewing local research through the Virtual Panel
  - Create minimum expectations for setting out the context of local research
  - Set expectations for the ethical treatment of individuals who contribute to local research
  - Include mechanisms for review and revision to the framework when necessary

- Celebrate and publicise local research and create links between local commissioners/ strategic planners and organisations with capability to capture the voices of local people.

4.3.3. The work concluded on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with agreement to hold an annual review meeting in February of each year, providing an opportunity to reflect on the panel process and agree changes where needed, and to promote and celebrate local research projects.

4.3.4 Appendix 3 contains the process for local research to be included on RBC JSNA webpages.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 The JSNA contributes to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by providing a basis on which to identify the health and wellbeing needs of the population. This model creates a more cohesive and efficient approach to assessing those needs by:

- Improving the quality of information available to form the basis of effective commissioning and strategic planning across all service areas.
- Providing resources that support greater understanding of needs of vulnerable groups.
- Improving links with local qualitative research to provide an opportunity for service user voices to be articulated and taken into account.

## **6. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

6.1 Consultation and engagement has taken place between Public Health and Wellbeing officers and internal teams and external organisations to promote the usage of the Berkshire Observatory data tool within Reading.

6.2 In addition, communicating with partner organisations has assisted with planning and supporting the production of service-specific needs analyses.

6.3 The Local Research and Evidence Framework has required membership of internal teams and partner organisations that undertake qualitative or participatory research in Reading, including Policy Team, Neighbourhoods Team, Healthwatch Reading, University of Reading, Reading Voluntary Action and Berkshire West CCG.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report as no groups will be disproportionately affected by the new JSNA model. Through improved engagement with local research groups, the JSNA will incorporate viewpoints of under-represented groups.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no negative environmental implications related to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Preparing a JSNA, in partnership with local CCGs, is a legal requirement for local authorities. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) and the Health and Social Care Act (2012), Reading Borough Council has a legal duty to prepare a JSNA and a strategy for meeting the needs described in the assessment (the Health and Wellbeing Strategy) in partnership with its partner CCG.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications related to this report as the procurement of the Data Observatory tool has been funded by the existing flat rate contribution Reading Borough Council make to the Public Health Shared Team in Bracknell on an annual basis.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 There are no background papers attached to this report.