

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 11th JULY 2019**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT – AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH****Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the recommendations that have arisen from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Air Quality and Health chapter.

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. The local authority and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have equal and joint statutory responsibility to prepare a JSNA for Leicestershire, through the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 amended the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to introduce duties and powers for Health and Wellbeing Boards in relation to JSNAs.
3. JSNAs are a continuous process and are an integral part of CCG and local authority commissioning cycles. Health and wellbeing boards need to decide for themselves when to update or refresh JSNAs or undertake a fresh process to ensure that they are able to inform local commissioning plans over time.
4. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) sets out a vision for the future of health and care services. It focuses on ensuring that consistently quality services are delivered which are easier for local people to access. Where possible, it is important that the JSNA is used as the evidence base for the STP.
5. The purpose of the JSNA is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages. It should be viewed as a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning with the aim to develop local evidence-based priorities for commissioning which will improve the public's health and reduce inequalities.
6. The JSNA will be used to help to determine what actions the local authority, the local NHS and other partners need to take to meet health and social care needs, and to address the wider determinants that impact on health and wellbeing.
7. The local authority, CCGs and NHS England's plans for commissioning services will be expected to be informed by the JSNA. Where plans are not in line with the JSNA, the local authority, CCGs and NHS England must be able to explain why.
8. The JSNA is a statutory document that is used by many organisations to evidence changes to the commissioning of local services. As such, if any organisation receives a legal challenge to the services they commission based on the JSNA, the local authority could also be part of that legal challenge. It is essential that the process

that is followed meets the legislation that is set out and that the JSNA is a robust document.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the recommendations arising from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Air Quality and Health Chapter.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The last full JSNA for Leicestershire was produced in 2015 and can be accessed at: <http://www.lsr-online.org/leicestershire-2015-jsna.html>.
11. The Health and Wellbeing Board received a paper in January 2018 which proposed that the JSNA would be published in subject-specific chapters throughout a three-year time period on an iterative basis, in line with CCG and local authority commissioning cycles. This approach was supported with the JSNA outputs agreed as:
 - Subject-specific chapters of an assessment of current and future health and social care needs.
 - Infographic summary of each chapter
 - A data dashboard that is updated on a quarterly basis to allow users to self-serve high level data requests
12. The Health and Wellbeing Board considered the adult mental health chapter in some detail at its Development Day in Autumn 2018. This resulted in the development of an Action Plan which is being considered as a separate item on this agenda.

Background

13. The JSNA Air Quality and Health chapter was published online in June 2019 following discussion at the JSNA Reference Group. A link to the full chapter can be found under Background papers section towards the bottom of this report. A summary of the recommendations arising from the chapter is provided below.

Summary of Recommendations JSNA Air Quality and Health

14. By its nature, air quality cannot be controlled by geographical boundaries or by a single individual alone. Instead collective, systematic efforts are required to reduce air pollution and its harmful effects on health. The key recommendation from the comprehensive JSNA chapter is that the Leicestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Steering Group should agree a plan to deliver joint actions to tackle poor air quality and related health issues. All key partners and stakeholders should commit to deliver this plan over the next three years.
15. Six objectives, and associated recommendations, are set out below and these could form the basis of the partnership action plan.

Objective 1: Clear leadership, vision and strategic direction

- Leicestershire County Council (LCC), district councils, and CCGs should commit, through working together in annual action plans, to making Leicestershire a healthy place to live, work and travel by dedicating resources (as appropriate) to reduce harmful emissions and mitigate against the negative impacts to public health and the environment of poor air quality.
- LCC should lead by example by delivering against the Environmental Strategy and aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- LCC, district councils, and CCGs should map and engage with the various fora that exist to understand and engage meaningfully with local businesses, voluntary sector agencies or Leicestershire residents on environmental/ air quality and health issues.

Objective 2: Collaborative partnership working

- The partnership should support local authorities to continue to work together and seek public health advice when tackling air quality and health issues through promotion of the work of the LLR Air Quality forum and East Midlands Air Quality network.
- Public health specialists, as members of the LLR Air Quality Forum, should support consideration of wider issues related to air quality and, as appropriate, invite key partners (e.g. health and social care colleagues).
- The partnership steering group should review and refresh the terms of reference based on the agreed priorities and, as appropriate, widen the membership, sharing information with the Leicestershire Environmental Health management group to ensure alignment with other work in this area.
- LCC Public Health Department should provide further resource to support whole School Approaches to adopt Air Quality and Active Travel as part of the Healthy Schools programme.

Objective 3: Consideration of air quality and health in planning and development

- LCC Public Health Department should consider formalising its commitment, through dedicated resource, to routinely deliver specialist support for strategic spatial planning, local area plan development (including capability building) and work on major developments to reduce sources and public exposure to air pollution.
- LCC and district councils should commit to integration of air quality into planning policy as well as policies that influence strategic and local development plans. A health in all policies approach could be adopted to achieve this.

- LCC Public Health Department should support and develop members and local planners, through training and mentoring, to consider the health impacts of planning proposals and urban re-development. Dissemination of opportunities will include utilising the distribution list of the LLR Air Quality forum.

Objective 4: Aligning air quality and health with environment and transport decisions

- Planning and Highways Authorities should seek to implement a hierarchy of sustainable travel which prioritises walking and cycling above other forms of transport. This includes prioritising investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, especially where this would encourage and facilitate active travel to schools and workplaces in areas of high urban density.
- LCC Environment and Transport Department, working in collaboration with district councils, should consider providing further resource to expand the work being delivered to support business, schools and developers to make and deliver comprehensive travel plans. This methodology should be used to deliver travel mode shift for business, schools as well as new places in Leicestershire.

Objective 5: General communication with the public and organisations about air quality and health

- LCC, district councils, and CCGs should provide air quality and health information to residents, local businesses, health organisations, local early year's settings, schools colleges and universities; explaining how people and organisations can minimise emissions of pollutants and exposure to poor air quality.
- LCC, district councils, and CCGs should deliver key messages on air quality and health, and links to Data Air Quality Index (DAQI), through updating existing online portals as well as through leaflets, face to face contact and other formats that meet their needs. Partners should align and join up public health messages around being active with those about reducing emissions and exposure to air quality through active and sustainable travel choices.
- LCC, district councils, and CCGs should train and mentor front line staff to deliver messages around air quality and health as part of their daily role.

Objective 6: Targeted communication and campaigns with priority groups and key organisations about air quality and health

- LCC Communications Department, working in collaboration with local communication networks, should consider leading on a programme of work to design, deliver and evaluate campaigns to reduce emissions of air pollutants. This may include promoting anti-idling, reducing multi fuel stove use and/ or making active and sustainable travel choices.

- LCC Communications Department, working in collaboration with local communication networks, should consider leading on a programme of work to design, deliver and evaluate campaigns to reduce individuals' and communities' exposure to air pollutants. These may be focused in Air Quality Management Areas, urban centres or directed at priority groups (for example, children, individuals at risk of ill health due to multi-morbidity or key workforce groups). Further work is required to investigate need as well as unintended consequences of adopting an air quality alerting system aimed at those who are particularly susceptible to negative health effects from poor air quality.

Conclusion

16. This JSNA chapter details a comprehensive look at the air quality and related health issues pertinent to Leicestershire and its constituent district councils. A cross organisational steering group is in the process of producing the follow-on Air Quality and Health Partnership Action Plan that is expected to deliver against these recommendations.

Background papers

JSNA Air Quality and Health Chapter can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.lsr-online.org/leicestershire-2018-2021-jsna.html>

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

17. The JSNA is subject to an EHRIA. This is being conducted on an ongoing basis in consultation with the council's policy officers. A representative from the Leicestershire Equality Challenge Group (LECG) sits on the JSNA Reference Group and members of the LECG participate in the Task and Finish Groups which oversee the development of each chapter.

Environmental Implications

18. The JSNA chapter provides evidence about air quality and health related issues and makes recommendations to improve current co-ordination of activities with a view to improving air quality and mitigating the impacts on health. The recommendations are summarised in this paper.

Partnership Working and associated issues

19. The key recommendation from the comprehensive JSNA chapter is that the Leicestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Steering Group should agree a plan to deliver joint actions to tackle poor air quality and related health issues. All key partners and stakeholders should commit to deliver this plan over the next three years.