



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 26th FEBRUARY 2026
REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, LAW AND GOVERNANCE
JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME OF WORK

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is:
 - to provide an update on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) work completed during 2025 using the revised dashboard led approach.
 - to present proposals for establishing a JSNA Steering group and for the prioritisation and sequencing of future JSNA work programme
 - to present the updated demography dashboard which will be relevant for all life course priorities.

Recommendation

2. The board is recommended to:
 - (a) approve the establishment of a JSNA steering group to undertake the prioritisation and sequencing of JSNA topics which will guide the ongoing development of the JSNA programme of work.
 - (b) note and provide feedback on the new demography dashboard.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision

3. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a process which assesses the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the population and underpins local planning for health and care services, in particular the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). It involves working with local partners to ensure a broad approach to assessing issues affecting health, including key social and economic determinants of health, where appropriate. Since 2013, the statutory responsibility for the development of the JSNA lies with the local Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. 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.'

5. In December 2024, the Board approved a new approach for the JSNA process from 2025 onwards, concentrating on updateable data dashboards on broader life course topics aligned to the Joint health and wellbeing strategy themes.

Background

6. The Business Intelligence (BI) Service within the County Council currently leads on the JSNA chapters, working with other agencies and analysts as appropriate, as the holders of the data or intelligence related to health.
7. Health data availability and tools and methods of presentation have moved on greatly from 2013 when JSNAs became a mandate of the HWB. Data is much more available and updated more frequently. Therefore, awaiting traditional chapters to be completed can mean they are out of date when published or not updated quickly enough when new data emerges.
8. At the HWB meeting on 5 December 2024 the board approved a move to a core data dashboard based JSNA approach allowing data to be updated in line with data releases. This comprehensive supporting data/dashboard based JSNA intelligence set, that will focus on up-to-date dashboards, profiles and self-serve tools based on a variety of data sources including OHID (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) fingertips, ONS and NHS Digital sources. This enables the JSNA intelligence set to support commissioning across the county, without awaiting publication of longer, harder to interpret written chapters.
9. Since moving to the data dashboard-based approach, the refreshed JSNA work during 2025 has consisted of:
 - a. the development of a comprehensive needs assessment to inform the Joint health and wellbeing strategy review.
 - b. the creation of a demography dashboard. This dashboard includes demographic breakdowns on a variety of topics including ethnicity, age, gender and language for the whole of Leicestershire. The dashboard also displays data visualisations as well as written narrative.
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/r.i.team.leicestershire.county.council/viz/DemographyJSNADashboard/Introduction?publish=yes>
 - c. updating the existing inequalities dashboard previously developed as part of the JSNA for 2022-2025. The dashboard provides the middle super output area level data on both demographic and health indicators for the whole of Leicestershire.
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/r.i.team.leicestershire.county.council/viz/InequalitiesJSNA/Titlecard?publish=yes>

Proposals/Options

10. The next phase of the JSNA programme of work will focus on agreeing the priority themes for future JSNA dashboard development. It is proposed that those themes align with the recently revised JLHWS to ensure the JSNA programme of work continues to support and inform strategic planning, commissioning and partnership priorities across the system.
11. It is proposed to establish a JSNA steering group comprising of partners from across system, place and neighbourhood including representatives from the Health and Wellbeing Boards operational delivery groups. The steering group will agree the prioritisation and sequencing of JSNA dashboard development and consider whether any topics outside of the life course framework require further analysis, either through a full JSNA dashboard or shorter targeted data pack.

Resource Implications

12. The principal resourcing for the development of the Leicestershire JSNA is provided by the County Council's Business Intelligence Service, funded by the public health grant, and staff in the Public Health Department. The new approach will allow analytical resources to be dedicated to priority analytical work and a more strategic approach, rather than trying to cover everything in detail over a 3-year cycle regardless of priority.

Background papers

Report considered by Health and Wellbeing Board at meeting on 5 December 2024:

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s186893/New%20approach%20to%20JSNA.%20HWBv5.pdf>

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality Implications

13. The JSNA takes due regard and assesses need and health inequalities in relation to the equality and human rights of different population groups. In particular, it examines sources of Health Inequalities. By moving to the pilot approach, it will allow us to look at topics in more depth, including inequalities data where available.

Human Rights Implications

14. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Partnership Working and associated issues

15. The JSNA is a statutory function of the HWB, but it's success depends on collective responsibility from the HWB organisations and departments. A collaborative approach ensures that the JSNA remains a shared responsibility of the entire system, emphasising that it is not merely a public health function but a fundamental HWB function, requiring active ownership and contribution from all stakeholders. Providing appropriate data and self-serve tools, that meet the needs of the board and partners, will support effective and appropriate usage.
16. The LLR Data Cell will continue to oversee overall intelligence delivery for the ICB/LLR area and join up to avoid duplication to ensure that intelligence resources are deployed to best effect.