



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

The Health and Wellbeing Board's role in understanding and responding to our population's needs

Public Health Intelligence

January 2024

Assessing and understanding our population needs

- **Driving improvement in Health and Wellbeing requires sharing evidence for decision making.**
- **This ensures that we can:**
 - Make best use of resources
 - Target these resources towards need (and reduce inequalities)
 - Measure and monitor performance for continual improvement
- **Needs assessments are a key component; Health and Wellbeing Boards have statutory responsibilities in this area**

Needs Assessments and the HWBB

- **‘Needs assessment’ is a way of understanding which people in our communities have needs or problems that we can help address, so we can make sure there are accessible services and support in line with these needs.**
- **A ‘Joint Strategic Needs Assessment’ (JSNA) is a specific statutory requirement that local authorities must meet. The Health and Wellbeing Board has responsibilities in its development and delivery.**

What is the JSNA?

- Statutory Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies:
 - “JSNAs are assessments of the **current and future health and social care needs of the local community** – these are needs that could be met by the local authority, [ICBs], or the NHS CB. JSNAs are produced by health and wellbeing boards, and are unique to each local area. The policy intention is for health and wellbeing boards to also consider **wider factors that impact on their communities’ health and wellbeing**, and **local assets** that can help to **improve outcomes** and **reduce inequalities**. Local areas are free to undertake JSNAs in a way best suited to their local circumstances – there is no template or format that must be used and no mandatory data set to be included.”



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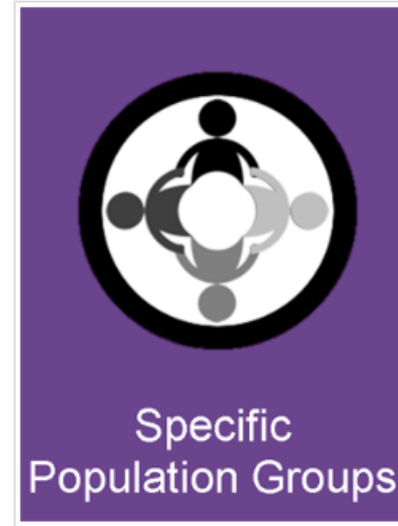
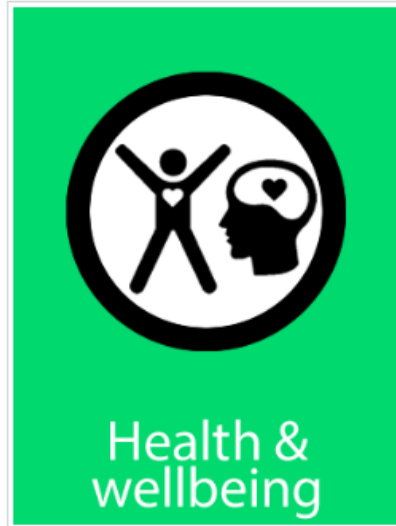
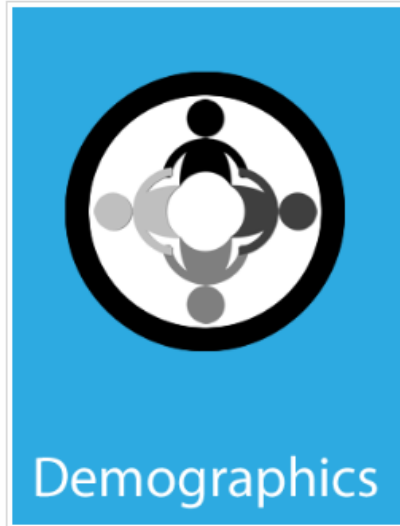
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About Trafford

This section provides key information about the population in Trafford and a brief summary of our health and wellbeing indicators. Detailed information on health and wellbeing priorities for Trafford can be found on the [Health and Wellbeing Priorities section](#).



<https://www.traffordjsna.org.uk/Trafford-JSNA.aspx>

Why do we do Needs Assessments?

- **Statutory requirements**
 - JSNA
 - Serious Violence Reduction
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Pharmaceutical needs
- **To understand our local populations**
- **To inform commissioning decisions**
- **Indirectly: to find out what we don't know**

How do we do a Needs Assessment?

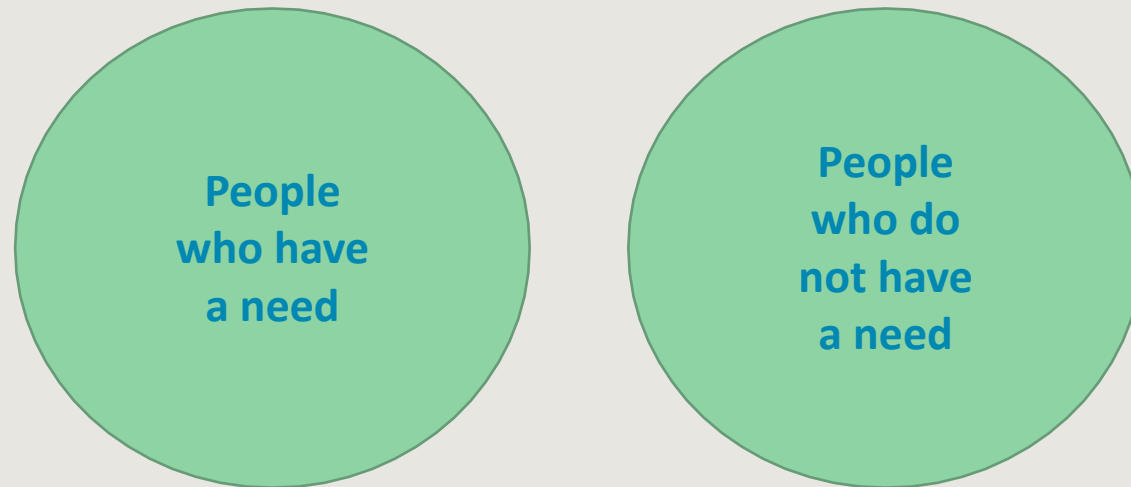
- **Not a one-person/one team job**
- **Requires:**
 - topic expertise
 - methods expertise
 - oversight
- **Also needs:**
 - Buy-in/support from leadership and other interested parties
 - Access to stakeholders
 - Stakeholders might include practitioners, commissioners, VCFSE, service users, community representation, professional bodies

How do we do a Needs Assessment?

- **What should it cover?**
 - Population – which group(s) are we interested in?
 - Context – what type of needs? What setting(s)? What intersections?
 - Outcomes – percentages? Changes over time? Against what baseline?
 - Timeframes – over what time period?

Identifying the population

- At the most basic level, you are looking to categorise everyone as:



- However, this is a bit oversimplistic.
- Also, it is difficult to pin down which groups people fit into without referring to other contextual information

Identifying the population

- Although a needs assessment is not a service evaluation, it is inevitable to think about people who are current service users when defining the population
- But we don't stop there as that would miss out some groups of people
- Example:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| People who have a need and are receiving a service | Needs are met |
| People who have a need and are not receiving a service | Unmet need |
| People who do not have a need but are receiving a service | Wrongly allocated resources |
| People who do not have a need and are not receiving a service | No change required |

Considering the context

- **Considerations when carrying out a Needs Assessment**
 - Short term vs long term needs
 - 'Simple' vs Complex needs
 - Different settings (e.g. home, care facilities, workplaces)
 - Population characteristics (e.g. protected characteristics)
 - Lifecourse

Opportunities and Benefits

- **We can commission/design services that are better aligned with our populations' needs**
- **We can look at changes to populations over time and consider whether services need to evolve accordingly**
- **We can potentially identify groups who are not well-served by current provision and try to address these inequalities**
- **If we identify gaps in the data or groups which are not well-represented then this insight could be used to influence change**

Challenges

- **Collaborative buy-in:**
 - How to make a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment truly *Joint*?
- **Data at the right level of geography, for all groups**
 - Trafford-level or smaller geographies
 - Inequalities in data representation
- **Time and resource**
 - Time consuming to complete; other demands on capacity
- **Prioritisation**
 - Some are statutory requirements, others driven by local needs
- **Maintenance and upkeep of existing needs assessments**
 - Limited life span

Existing/forthcoming Needs Assessments in Public Health (2024/25)

- **Existing**
 - General JSNA
 - Mental Health
 - Pharmaceutical needs
 - Sexual Health
 - Health Inequalities
 - Smoking
- **Forthcoming/In progress**
 - Serious Violence
 - Alcohol and substance misuse
 - Oral Health
 - Mental Health: revise and combine with CYP
 - Ongoing JSNA refresh

Forward planning

We aim to develop a work plan for Needs Assessment activity for the next 12 months, with quarterly progress reviews.

Questions for the Board:

- **What topics/areas of practice does the Board consider might benefit from a Needs Assessment in the next 12 months?**
 - Where is there greatest uncertainty around population need in relation to services provided?
 - How should those topics be prioritised?
 - How do we make best use of the insights gained?