



Oxfordshire's

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008:

Using information to keep people well

Oxfordshire 
Primary Care Trust



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

What is the JSNA?

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the means by which the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and local authorities work together to understand the future health, care and well-being needs of their community. This understanding is critical to ensure that services meet the needs of the local population. The knowledge this yields underpins the evidence-based strategic plans that PCTs and local authorities are required to produce. It also informs the Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets and priorities and the Delivery Plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy (Oxfordshire 2030) for the next 3 to 5 years.

The dual aim of this document is to describe what a JSNA is and tell you about the potential of the process that underpins it. This JSNA is the first time such a huge wealth of data has been brought together into a single product shared between both Oxfordshire PCT and Oxfordshire County Council. This combination of health, social care and other data produces much added value and gives us some key messages about the totality of the circumstances in which local people are living. Although there is much that is new about the JSNA, we have had a long-standing legacy in Oxfordshire of making good use of needs assessments and a strong tradition of working jointly across social care and health for adults and children.

The most immediate findings of this JSNA confirm what we already knew about our communities. Generally Oxfordshire is a healthy place, where life expectancy is above average and increasing. Our ageing society is something to celebrate as it has led to an increase in the number of relatively fit and active older people. Many older people want to continue to be active contributors to society in employment, in their families and in their communities. However forecasts show that there will be significant changes to the structure of our population in the coming years. Health inequalities are often, but not always, associated with aspects of deprivation. And these pose additional challenges if we are to continue to improve health and well-being for everyone in the county.

Using the JSNA to dig beneath the surface of this overall picture, the critical importance is to prioritise our combined efforts to address the following key strategic issues:

- tackling inequalities and breaking the cycle of deprivation;
- reducing mortality and improving life expectancy;
- responding to an ageing society and the needs of older people;
- meeting the needs of those with long-term conditions and improving the availability of mental health services;
- improving children and young people's life chances;
- increasing healthy lifestyles to prevent and reduce harm (e.g. obesity).

The knowledge produced by this assessment and the processes around it enable us to ask some important questions such as, have we got our current understanding right? Are there some critical gaps which we need to give more attention? Do we have the right plans and services in place and, if not, what more should we be doing to make life better for local people? This year, we have included information obtained from a number of consultations with local people. In future years, we are planning to integrate this with knowledge gathered from the new ways in which we shall seek to obtain feedback about the JSNA itself.

Local authorities and the PCT will continue to work closely together to combine their efforts to make Oxfordshire a good and healthy place to live. We know from feedback and consultation that this is likely to be welcomed by most people. We see needs assessments as an essential step towards putting local people and their needs at the centre of our planning processes. We also see it as part of a general move towards greater investment in prevention that preserves health and well-being.

The value of the JSNA has already been demonstrated in a number of very concrete ways by informing us to deliver better services that are targeted in the right places, for example:

- JSNA information was presented to the Strategy & Performance review of Adult Social Care in preparation for budget setting for 2008-09;
- JSNA findings were presented in a PCT Planning workshop to help inform investment, disinvestment and/or service improvement priorities for 2009-10;
- Data from the JSNA was used by the PCT Trust Board (April) to help determine the location of new walk-in, GP-led health facility;
- Community Development for Older People are putting additional resources into six wards where need has been revealed as highest;
- The PCT has used the JSNA to inform its review of the PCT Operational Plan;
- JSNA data was used to support an Extra Care Housing grant bid to the Department of Health. South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire district councils have also used joint analysis of housing needs to develop their Extra Care Housing provision. Cherwell District Council used JSNA data to assist in its housing needs analysis;
- JSNA data was requested in May 2008 to inform the planning and development of services provided via the Mental Health pooled budget;
- In June 2008, a Service Manager used JSNA information to help her identify the training needs for Home Support staff;

This assessment raises the awareness of the core data set. It outlines some of the key health and care messages about our local population that are captured by this information. This should give you a flavour for the type of analysis that is possible and how this can help inform service planning, change, improvement and decision making. We hope you will be encouraged to find out more and to think about how else you can use the core data set in your work.

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More information about the JSNA and its core data set can be found on the Health and Well-Being Partnership website.

www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk/wps/wcm/connect/OxfordshirePartnership/Partnerships/Health+and+Well-Being+Partnership/

If you want to request information or give us feedback please email or telephone the contact details below

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