

**Health Scrutiny Panel
Middlesbrough Council
29 May 2008**

**Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Briefing Note**

1. Purpose of this note

1.1. This note is to update on the position regarding Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

2. Background

2.1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the means by which Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities will describe the future health, care and well-being needs of local populations.

2.2. JSNA has the potential to develop the health and social care response so that it more closely meets the wants and needs of local people. It will provide an opportunity to look ahead at least three to five years and support and direct the change that needs to happen in local service systems so that:

- services are shaped by local communities
- inequalities are reduced and inequity is addressed
- social inclusion is increased

2.3. Local Area Agreement objectives will be based on the findings of the JSNA amongst other things.

3. Process for preparing the first JSNA

3.1. The Department of Health has issued guidance primarily for Directors of Public Health, Adult Social Services and Children's Services. The guidance reflects the consensus from the national consultation on the purpose and content.

3.2. A good JSNA is heavily data and information reliant. The *Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing* contained a suggested “minimal dataset” for JSNA, which has been generally welcomed. This work is being developed further via the Association of Public Health Observatories. The local North East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) has almost completed the first version for local use. The dataset will be based on

- Usefulness to commissioning
- What data are likely to be available
- What data are of sufficiently high quality to be reliable
- Views from stakeholders, including the consultation responses

The minimal dataset will refer to the Health and Social Care Outcomes and Accountability Framework and the National Indicator Set.

3.3. The work locally is being driven by a Steering Group and supported by a Working Group. Both groups include representatives from the Local Authority, the Primary Care Trust and the voluntary organisations.

4. Timetable

4.1 The timetable for completion in the current financial year is as follows:

End July 2008	Draft JSNA available for consultation
Early September 2008	Final JSNA published
End October 2008	JSNA approved by appropriate Boards
End January 2009	Joint Commissioning Strategies produced.

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