

Moving to a more dynamic JSNA – An update on the Milton Keynes Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the BLMK Population Health Intelligence Unit

Author: Ian Brown, Chief Officer for Public Health at Bedford Borough Council

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Purpose of Report:

The report gives provides an overview of a new approach to maintaining a [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) for Milton Keynes and seeks formal support from the Health and Care Partnership for this new way of working. The report also sets out progress towards establishing the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Population Health Intelligence Unit.

1. Recommendations

The Partnership is asked to:

- 1.1 Endorse the new, dynamic approach to the JSNA and note that going forward this will replace the previous arrangements.
- 1.2 Promote the new JSNA website as a useful resource for understanding local needs and supporting effective service planning.
- 1.2 Engage with the ongoing JSNA development process and provide feedback on the content and presentation of the JSNA.

2. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- 2.1 The JSNA provides a local assessment of current and future health and social care needs. Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory responsibility to produce a JSNA and must have regard to the JSNA when preparing their Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy¹. The shared public health team for Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire lead the JSNA process on behalf of the MK HCP.
- 2.2 The Milton Keynes JSNA previously consisted of a series of static topic-based chapters that were difficult to maintain and not widely used. The aim of the new JSNA is to bring together existing public health intelligence products

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jsnas-and-jhws-statutory-guidance>

more clearly under the JSNA banner, alongside a series of new interactive data dashboards and in-depth chapters.

- 2.3 The new JSNA website replaces the previous JSNA process and is an important resource for those working within the Council, NHS and beyond who are planning and delivering services on behalf of and in partnership with local communities. It will also be a source of information for anyone in the wider community who is keen to understand the many factors that impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Milton Keynes.
- 2.4 The JSNA takes a life course approach (from pre-conception to end of life). It should not be seen as a static document but as an evolving resource. New content will be added over time and content can be shaped to meet users' needs.
- 2.5 As well as previous Director of Public Health reports, the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, various topic-based needs assessments and population profiles, at launch the JSNA includes the following new resources:

Population and Place Data Dashboard – a PowerBI dashboard providing the latest data on the population of Milton Keynes including: age and sex, ethnicity, life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and population density.

Children & Young People Data Dashboard – a PDF dashboard, which will be upgraded to PowerBI by the end of 2023. It includes: the latest data on fertility, birth and infant mortality rates, smoking during pregnancy, birth weight, school attainment, childhood obesity and hospital admissions.

Children & Young People Detailed Analysis – the factors that impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and the interventions to address them. Sections on healthy pregnancy, healthy birth and early years and school-aged years.

- 2.6 The following elements will be added by the end of 2023:

Ageing Well Data Dashboard – including the latest data on over 65 population demographics and projections; life expectancy; mortality; morbidity; and disability-adjusted life years.

Living and Working Well Dashboard – including the latest data on smoking; drug and alcohol use; sexual health; healthy weight; national screening programmes; and wider determinants, including employment and deprivation.

- 2.7 Over the next 12 months further content will be added on topics including an adult learning disabilities data dashboard and detailed analysis for Special

Educational Needs and Disabilities; vulnerabilities and inequalities for children and young people; living and working well; and ageing well.

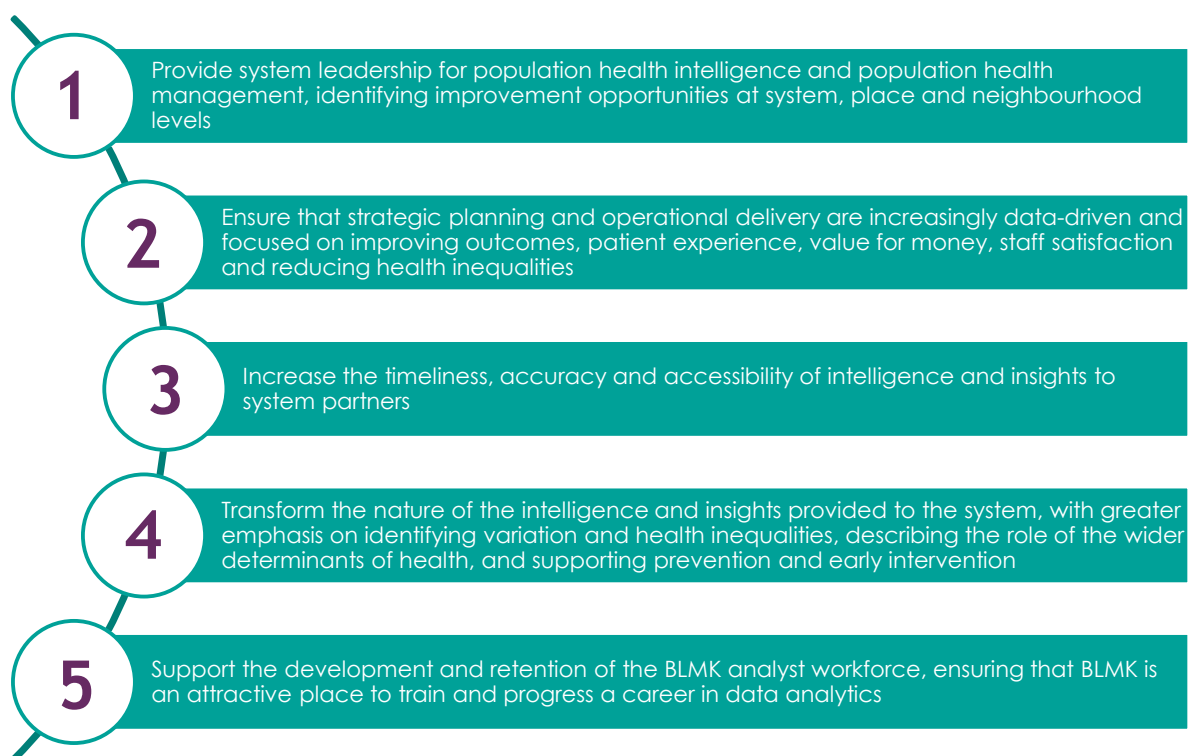
- 2.8 To remain up-to-date and relevant the JSNA platform requires the on-going support and engagement of teams across the local authority, as well as BLMK ICB and other NHS partners, local Healthwatch and the community and voluntary sector. This can sometimes be a challenge due to competing priorities within the teams.
 - 2.9 The Milton Keynes JSNA is overseen by a steering group that includes representatives from Milton Keynes City Council Public Health, Children's and Adult Social Care teams, as well as BLMK ICB and Healthwatch Milton Keynes. The development and maintenance of the JSNA is overseen by the Public Health Evidence and Intelligence team, which is part of the shared public health service across Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes City councils. The team can be contacted at:
jsnafeedback@bedford.gov.uk
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3. BLMK Population Health Intelligence Unit

- 3.1 All Integrated Care Systems (ICS) have been asked by NHS England to establish a 'shared intelligence function' which is a *"system-wide, multi-disciplinary collaboration of intelligence professionals, with representation from analytical leaders and key teams across the whole ICS"*².
- 3.2 Building upon existing collaborative working between the local public health intelligence teams and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), BLMK ICS has invested in the development of the BLMK Population Health Intelligence Unit (PHIU), which is being hosted by the public health team at Bedford Borough Council.
- 3.3 The PHIU will harness existing analytical capacity and bring in new resources to create an integrated team that produces high quality local insights to inform decision making by ICS partners across BLMK.

² <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/building-an-ics-intelligence-function/>

3.4 The five PHIU objectives are:



- 3.5 The PHIU will undertake a number of discrete projects each year to address strategic system-level questions, e.g. ‘how will population growth and demographic change over the next 20 years affect demand for health and care services?’, as well as providing routine analytical outputs, e.g. self-service dashboards, to provide operational and clinical insights for programmes of work at local authority ‘place’ and neighbourhood levels.
- 3.6 The PHIU will consist of a dedicated core team hosted by Bedford Borough Council, adding analytical specialisms that are currently in short supply across our system. This team will draw on the existing expertise of analyst colleagues from across the system.
- 3.7 As well as working with the ICS digital programme to influence the digital and data strategies (including the development of a Strategic Data Platform), the PHIU will be responsible for improving data literacy among non-analysts and championing evidence-based decision making across the ICS.
- 3.8 While there is potential overlap between the JSNA and PHIU functions, the PHIU will be focussed providing new insights derived from linked health and local authority data, increasing analytical skills and capacity, and developing a data-driven culture. Relevant outputs from the PHIU will be hosted on the JSNA platform, and over time the PHIU will help to improve the quality of JSNAs and ensure that JSNAs inform decision-making in the NHS.

3.9 A Consultant in Public Health has been recruited to lead the PHIU and work is underway to recruit to the core PHIU posts. A work plan is being developed, and several projects are already completed or underway including:

BLMK Employment and Health Data Pack – a set of infographics that describe how employment and related health conditions vary across BLMK for specific population groups. This data pack was used to inform the discussions at an ICS seminar on 21 July 2023.

BLMK Early Years Data Pack – a set of infographics describing how early years outcomes vary across BLMK. This pack will be used to inform the discussions at an ICS seminar on 24 November 2023.

BLMK Population Health Modelling – estimating future demand for major health conditions and the potential for mitigation through preventative interventions in order to inform strategic decision making across the ICS. This work will be based on a set of new population projections that are adjusted for planned housing growth.

Fuller Neighbourhood Profiles – the PHIU is developing a series of neighbourhood profiles to support primary care and system partners to implement the recommendations of the Fuller Stocktake. The neighbourhood profiles will include information on local population demographics, health needs and community assets.

3.10 The PHIU implementation timeline is as follows:

