

Wirral's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Briefing Note/Update - December 2011

Background

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) required Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of the health and wellbeing of their local community. We are currently reviewing and refreshing the third version of Wirral's JSNA with the original versions having been produced in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

What is a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment?

The JSNA intends to be a systematic review of the health and wellbeing needs of the local population, informing local priorities, strategies and targets and leading to a review of commissioning priorities that will improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities throughout the Borough.

Information from Council, NHS and other partners is collected and collated to inform the JSNA and this reflects the important role that all organisations and sectors have (statutory, voluntary, community and faith) to improve the health and wellbeing of Wirral's residents.

Since March 2011 the delivery of Wirral's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been supported by a Programme Lead (seconded from Wirral Council) and Senior Analyst who will lead the review of current content, develop future information for inclusion and work across sectors and partners to enhance the involvement, participation and communication of Wirral's JSNA.

The new staff members will also look to develop the current access to the JSNA document dataset and wider information sources and move toward a more dynamic and interactive access for users of the web based data, information and intelligence

Proposals in the Health & Social Bill

The proposals within the 2011 Health & Social Care Bill further place the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as a key component of the future developments in health & social care and core to the work of the new Health and Wellbeing Board. This new board will be required to lead the continued development of the local JSNA so providing a strong information and intelligence system. (See Figure 1.)

The Bill goes on to describe how the JSNA will underpin the development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Bill will place obligations on Local Authority, future GP Consortia Commissioners and NHS Commissioning Board when exercising their commissioning functions in relation to the details in Wirral's JSNA and Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

The Health & Social Care Bill is currently at the Committee stage of the House of Commons and no dates are as yet detailed for its Royal Assent. Health & Wellbeing Boards will form beneath a Council Cabinet/Committee structure. In some areas boards have formed in shadow form and this is the case for Wirral. Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board met for the first time in September 2011 and again November and December with a schedule of meetings and development events planned for 2012.

Wirral's shadow Health & Wellbeing Board

Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs) will assess local needs (through the joint strategic needs assessment) and develop a shared strategy (in the form of a new joint health and wellbeing strategy) to address them, providing a strategic framework for commissioners' plans. The likelihood would see a strategy by late summer 2012 that informs commissioning ahead of April 2013.

HWBBs will look to join up commissioning approaches (Figure 2.) across health, public health, social care and wider services that the board agree are directly related to the health and wellbeing of a community. Improved alignment of commissioning strategies should ensure continuous improvement for health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole population.

Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The strategy will provide the overarching focus for improving health and wellbeing across the county and will be shaped and accessed by a wide range of stakeholders, including providers, commissioners, and the public. The strategy will set out the aspirations for improving the health and wellbeing of local people, consider the priority areas of need and inequality that should be addressed, and the interventions and levers that should be applied to drive improvements across the system of care. The health & social care bill seeks to place a duty to have regard to assessments and strategies and will require local authorities and their partner commissioning consortia (including NHS Commissioning Board) to produce a joint health and well-being strategy to meet the needs identified in the joint strategic needs assessment.

Wirral's JSNA Executive Board

The work of the JSNA is directed through the JSNA Executive Board, whose members include the Directors of Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Public Health, GP Commissioning Consortia Chief Officers and Chief Executive of Voluntary & Community Action Wirral (VCAW) and articulated through the JSNA Work Plan. This plan recognises the need for significant and continued action in relation to all methods of engagement, including those with patients and the public, that informs the JSNA and in turn service commissioners and others.

Future for JSNAs

The duty to undertake a JSNA was in recognition that strategic planning for health and wellbeing was best done in partnership, and based on evidence. It is intended to provide a powerful model for joint working in every locality. New Government proposals for health and social care policy place the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) at the heart of local health improvement.

Throughout 2012 the content in Wirral's JSNA will continued to be reviewed and refreshed and as part of an iterative process as and when significant new data becomes available. This way the JSNA becomes a current and important source of data. By engaging, involving and working with the variety of local stakeholders it will provide more information that will make the JSNA a more complete source of knowledge and information.

Colleagues are encouraged to access the large and varied amount of data and information through the JSNA website through this link [Wirral JSNA](#) and also to subscribe to the JSNA Data Update emails, join the Joint Intelligence Group and/or contact the JSNA Programme staff for support.

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Figure 1. JSNA & relationship to Health & Social Care Bill proposal

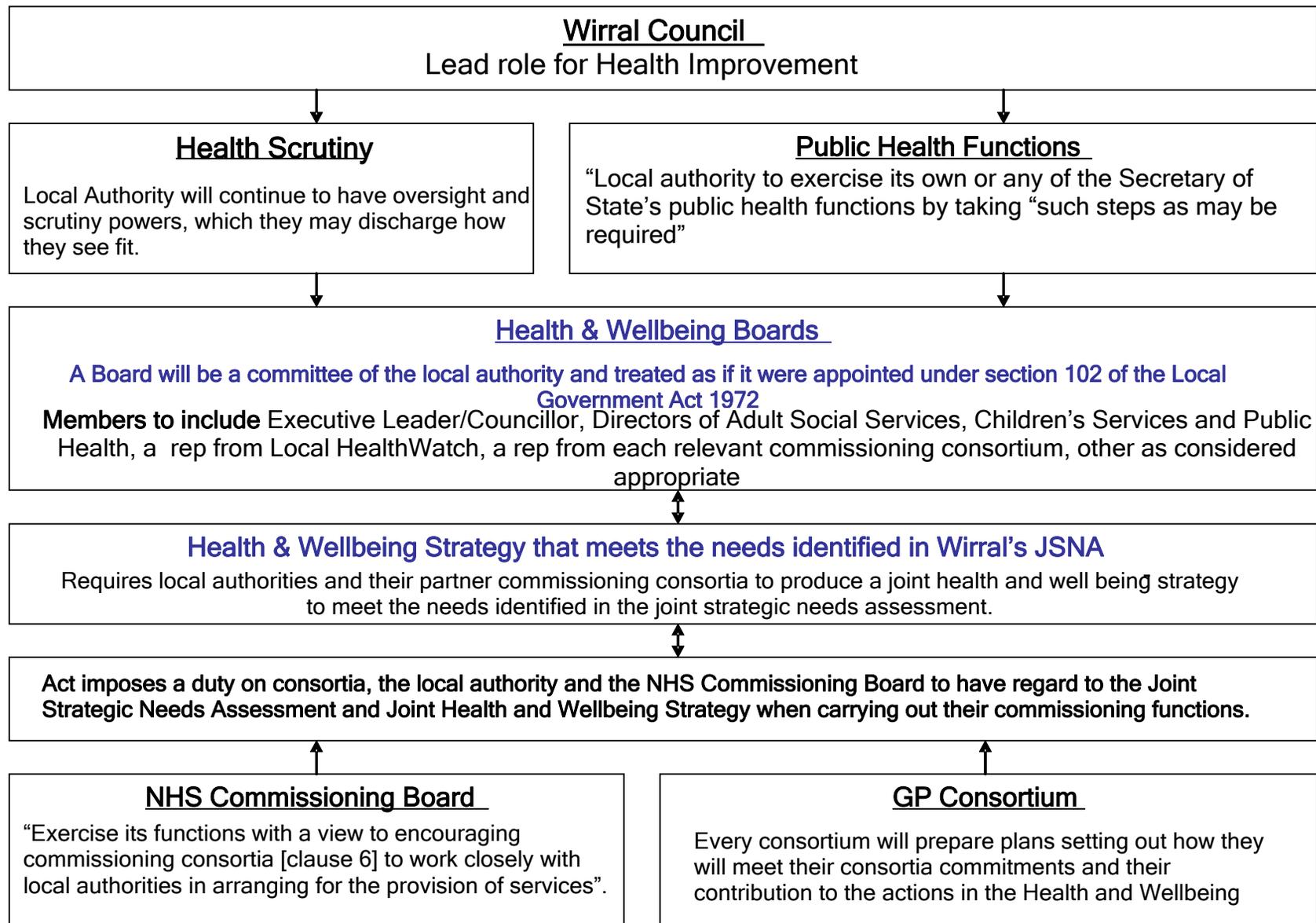
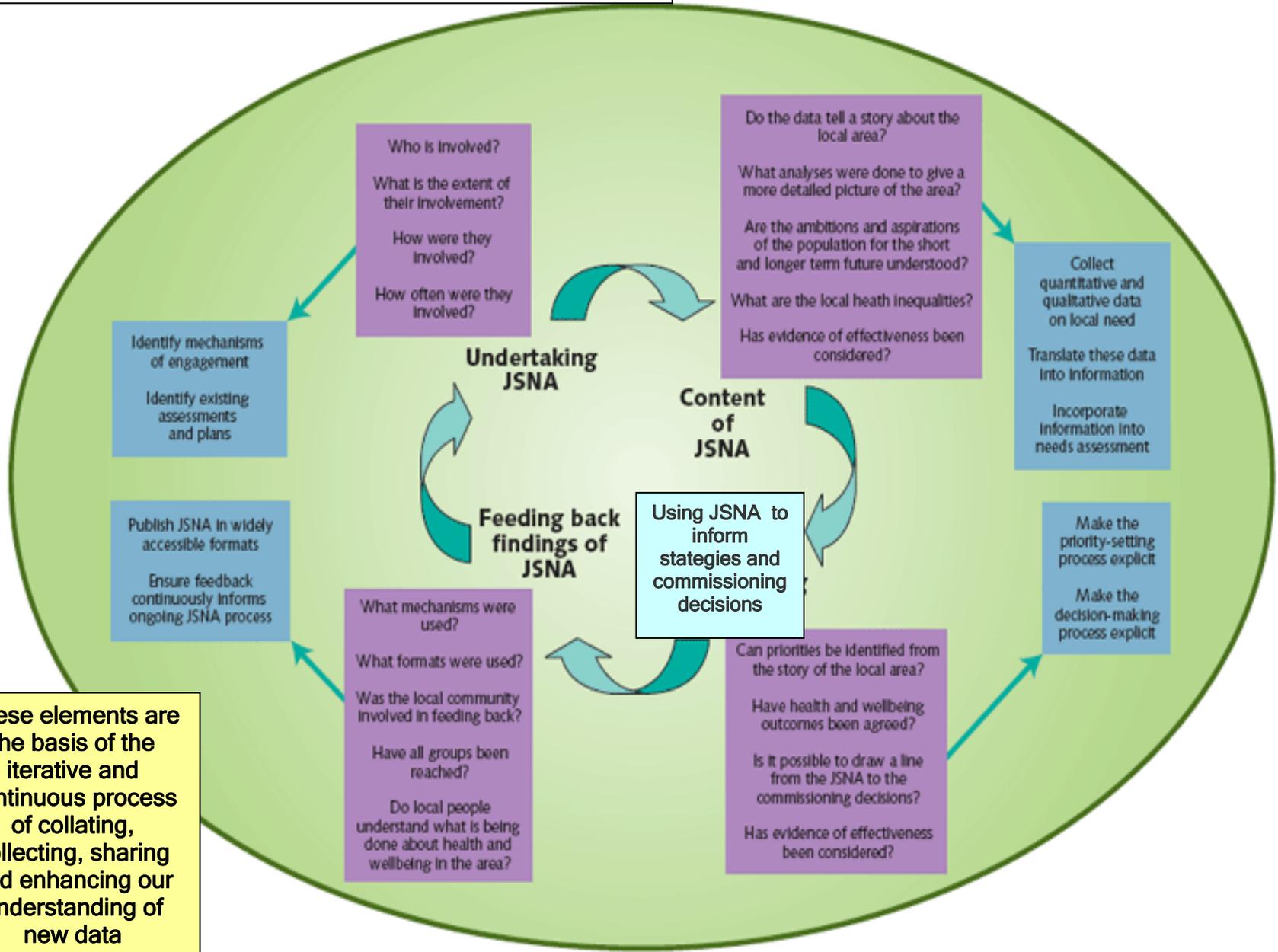


Figure 2. JSNA & Commissioning Process (older diagram)



These elements are the basis of the iterative and continuous process of collating, collecting, sharing and enhancing our understanding of new data