



## Health and Wellbeing Board

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

**Date:** 8 March 2023

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to outline initial findings from the LGBTQ+ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

This needs assessment was originally proposed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with work resuming in late 2022. The board are requested to review preliminary recommendations.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The proposal for Lewisham to undertake a JSNA topic assessment focused on the LGBTQ+ population was agreed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As with other Public Health work, this was paused due to the additional demands on the team's capacity, with work recommencing at the end of 2022.

- 1.2. Initial findings have agreed with external research that there is a disproportionate burden of ill health within the local population who identify as LGBTQ+.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to review the document and consider recommendations.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The production of a JSNA became a statutory duty in 2007. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 placed a new statutory obligation on local health and care partnerships to jointly produce and to commission with regard to the JSNA. The Act placed an additional duty to develop a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for meeting the needs identified in the local JSNA.
- 3.2. The objective of a JSNA is to provide access to a profile of Lewisham's population, including demographic, social and environmental information. It also provides access to in-depth needs assessments which address specific gaps in knowledge or identify issues associated with particular populations/services.
- 3.3. These in-depth assessments vary in scope from a focus on a condition, geographical area, or a segment of the population, to a combination of these. The overall aim of each needs assessment is to translate robust qualitative and quantitative data analysis into key messages for commissioners, service providers and partners.
- 3.4. The most recent version of the JSNA can be found here: <https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/a-picture-of-lewisham/>
- 3.5. The priorities of The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023 were informed by the JSNA.

## 4. Background

- 4.1. To undertake its responsibilities the Board needs to be periodically updated on the local population and its health needs. Individual JSNA topic assessments provide in-depth analysis and recommendations for that specific service/population group.
- 4.2. A recommendation from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's review entitled: "Provision for the LGBT+ Community in Lewisham", included that the Council should ensure there is a specific JSNA for the LGBT+ community.

## 5. LGBTQ+ JSNA Topic Assessment

- 5.1. Extensive research has shown that people who identify as LGBTQ+ experience a disproportionate burden of ill-health.
- 5.2. This JSNA includes recently released data from the 2021 Census on responses to questions on sexual orientation and gender identity which were included in the national census form for the first time. This showed that just under 14,900 Lewisham

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residents stated that their sexual orientation was other than straight or heterosexual, which equates to 6.1% of the population aged 16+.

5.3. Responses to the 2021 Census question on gender identity showed that almost 2,500 Lewisham residents stated that their Gender Identity was other than the sex they were registered at birth. This equates to 1.02% of the local 16+ population.

5.4. The draft JSNA topic assessment can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

5.5. Key recommendations from the JSNA topic assessment include:

#### 5.6. Data Collection

The release of 2021 Census data now gives local authorities and partners better understanding of the proportion of their population who identify as LGBTQ+. However, whilst there are good examples of appropriate recording, several services still do not collect relevant data from service users or include in consultation exercises. Furthermore, some services include this question in their equality monitoring forms but there will be high levels of not asked/not recorded responses which makes analysis incomplete. Better data collection is key to understanding levels of service use and whether people's experience of a service is impacted by either their sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### 5.7. Signposting

Where LGBTQ+ specific services are run, a repeated theme is the importance of signposting to other relevant services or places that can offer help with wider support, for example housing, employment and money management. Having LGBTQ+ affirmative staff and training was identified both by staff and services users as extremely important.

#### 5.8. Engagement

National research and feedback from METRO's service user forums found inequalities with access to and within services used by those who identify as LGBTQ+. Wider consultation with LGBTQ+ service users for all services would benefit this population.

#### 5.9. Training

A key example of the benefits of training was the much higher rates of LGBTQ+ service user satisfaction for those using a GP whose practice was 'Pride in Practice' accredited. Furthering training opportunities and encouraging expansion to the Pride in Practice programme would help anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ and is registered with a Lewisham GP to have a more positive experience.

### Conclusions

There is a wealth of evidence that the LGBTQ+ population experience a disproportionate burden of ill-health. With the recently released 2021 Census data, local areas can more accurately understand the size of their population who identify as LGBTQ+. Given this baseline there is now opportunity to further understand whether services are meeting the unique needs of this population. Further work with local LGBTQ+ residents and service users is needed to better understand the most effective ways of doing this.

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## 6. Financial implications

6.1. There are no specific financial implications at this stage. If further discussions take place on commissioning services in the future the financial implications will be considered at that point.

## 7. Legal implications

7.1. The requirements to produce a JSNA are set out above.

## 8. Equalities implications

8.1. Both Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The LGBTQ+ topic assessment has highlighted health inequalities experienced by this population.

## 9. Climate change and environmental implications

9.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications from this report.

## 10. Crime and disorder implications

10.1. There are no Crime and Disorder implications from this report.

## 11. Health and wellbeing implications

11.1. The JSNA has highlighted there are health inequalities experienced by the LGBTQ+ population that should be addressed.

## 12. Background papers

12.1. Details of the Lewisham JSNA process are available on the Lewisham Observatory:  
<https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/jsna/>

Full details of the 'Provision for the LGBT+ Community in Lewisham Scrutiny Review'  
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/g5165/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Mar-2019%2018.30%20Safer%20Stronger%20Communities%20Select%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

## 13. Glossary

Term	Definition
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Plus

## 14. Report author(s) and contact

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