



Health and Wellbeing Board

Transgender Population - Follow up from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Report

Date: 18 July 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Catherine Mbema, Patricia Duffy

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on health and well-being of Transgender communities in Lewisham following the presentation of the LGBTQ+ JSNA topic assessment.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

N/A

1. Summary

The proposal for Lewisham to undertake a JSNA topic assessment focused on the LGBTQ+ population was agreed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the March 2023 Health and Wellbeing Board, work from this JSNA was presented.

2. Recommendations

For the Health and Wellbeing Board to review the document.

3. Policy Context

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.

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. 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.

The most recent version of the JSNA can be found here:

<https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/a-picture-of-lewisham/>

The priorities of The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023 were informed by the JSNA.

4. Background

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.

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. This report follows up on a presentation of that work.

5. Transgender Population

A variety of health inequalities are experienced by the Transgender population. These range from physical to mental health and can also encompass ability to access health services and experience within healthcare. This is despite gender identity being included as a protected characteristic within the 2010 Equality Act, thus giving the trans population explicit protection in their own right.

The 2021 Census gave robust estimates at both a national and local level regarding the size of the transgender population. In Lewisham, 1.02% of the population identified as transgender. This was double the national figure of 0.5%. Younger respondents were more likely to identify as transgender than older respondents.

Mental health was a key area that research within the transgender community has focused on. Transgender people are even more likely than members of the LGBTQ+ population who were not trans to have a mental health issue. This ranged across the spectrum of mental health, from depression and anxiety to self-harm and suicide attempts.

Research has also found that the transgender population experience issues accessing appropriate services and discrimination when in contact with services. This included having been subject to or witnessed discriminatory or negative remarks against LGBT

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people by healthcare staff. Transgender people (even more so than other LGBTQ+ people), being 'outed' without their consent, treated with inappropriate curiosity and subjected to unequal treatment because of who they are. As a result, more than a third of transgender people had avoided treatment due to fear of prejudice. Even more transgender people stated they have experienced a lack of understanding of specific trans health needs by healthcare staff; with some even being refused care.

6. Financial implications

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

The requirements to produce a JSNA are set out above.

8. Equalities implications

Gender reassignment, sex and sexual orientation are protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The LGBTQ+ topic assessment and this subsequent report have both highlighted health inequalities experienced by these populations.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

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

10. Crime and disorder implications

There are no Crime and Disorder implications from this report.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

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

12. Background papers

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

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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Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

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Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law, Governance and HR

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