



## Health and Wellbeing Board

### Lewisham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Update

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to update the board on the Lewisham JSNA.

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

N/A

## 1. Summary

This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the in-depth topic assessments which were previously prioritised by the JSNA Steering Group.

## 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 health 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.

In Lewisham, an overall profile of Lewisham's population is produced every 2 years and is called 'The Picture of Lewisham'. Each year, a number of in-depth JSNA topic assessments are also completed following a nomination and prioritisation process co-ordinated by the public health team.

The most recent version of the Picture of Lewisham and JSNA topic assessments completed can be found here: <https://www.observatory.lewisham.gov.uk/a-picture-of-lewisham/>

The priorities of The Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-23 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.

## 5. In-depth Topic Assessment on Immunisations

In recent years the UK has seen a decline in immunisation performance, not reaching population coverage targets for childhood immunisations, and losing our measles elimination status due to re-established endemic transmission. There is significant variation in uptake and coverage of the vaccine between different communities that reflect wider health inequalities. Historically, Lewisham has not achieved its immunisation targets.

This needs assessment provides an overview of routine immunisation coverage and uptake in Lewisham, highlighting local and national trends, as well as showing the impact COVID-19 pandemic has had on immunisation programmes. Alongside this are detailed analyses examining the variation in MMR and prenatal pertussis vaccination

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uptake, given the recent rise in cases nationally. Inequalities in vaccination uptake were observed among different ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds for MMR and prenatal pertussis. Data inconsistencies, stemming from factors like population mobility and outdated GP records, pose challenges to accurate vaccination coverage measurement in Lewisham.

Through this in-depth analysis, supplemented with local insight, the possible barriers to uptake were discussed. Key barriers to vaccination uptake identified included informational, practical, technical and social/cultural barriers. Approaches discussed to improve uptake included improving patient access to reliable information and services, working with trusted organisations and people and providing further training to the primary care workforce. A list of recommendations is summarised.

The needs assessment has been shared with stakeholders, with the aim to finalise by the end of the year.

## **6. In-depth Topic Assessment on Cancer Screening**

In 2022, there were an estimated 20 million new cancer cases and 9.7 million deaths worldwide. Cancer is a relatively common disease with approximately 1 in 5 people set to develop cancer in their lifetime. More men die from cancer than women, with approximately 1 in 9 men dying from the disease compared to 1 in 12 women. There have been improvements in cancer survival rates for some cancers, mainly due to advances in treatment, detection through screening programmes and a greater awareness of the disease.

Participation in screening varies both within and between national screening programmes. Generally, those who are at higher risk of the condition they are being screened for, are less likely to participate. Lewisham's under 75 cancer mortality rate is roughly in line with England and is above the London average. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer screening coverage in Lewisham was significantly lower than the England average for breast, bowel, and cervical cancers. With the exception of bowel cancer screening, uptake of breast and cervical screening declined during the pandemic which may have led to subsequent late diagnosis and treatment and potentially poorer outcomes for patients.

For all indicators where benchmarking is available Lewisham's performance is still below the England level. Emphasising, as seen elsewhere, that health inequalities seen before the pandemic have persisted and, in some cases, intensified as uptake has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

This needs assessment provides an overview of cancer screening uptake in Lewisham, with a more in-depth review of breast cancer screening. The report examines local and national trends in uptake for bowel, breast, and cervical cancer screening programmes, analyses variations in breast screening uptake within Lewisham, and identifies key barriers and enablers to screening.

Like immunisations, key barriers to cancer screening uptake identified related to informational, practical, technical and social/cultural barriers. Suggested enablers of cancer screening included access to information and resources, relatable awareness campaigns, working with trusted organisations and people, improved access, training for clinical and non-clinical staff, use of targeted text reminders alongside driven by local data and primary care incentivisation. A list of recommendations is summarised.

The needs assessment has been shared with stakeholders, with the aim to finalise by the end of the year.

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## 7. In-depth Topic Assessment on Autism

Autistic people have poorer physical and mental health outcomes and a lower life expectancy than people who are not autistic. Other health inequalities include higher prevalence of eating disorders and being significantly more likely to die from suicide. In terms of life experience, autistic people see much lower rates of employment and are over-represented in prisons, safeguarding and youth offending service populations.

The aim of this needs assessment is to improve understanding of the physical and mental wellbeing needs of autistic people in Lewisham and consider how services can better support their needs.

Analysis of various datasets has seen increasing numbers of both children and adults receiving autism diagnoses, this picture is seen, nationally and locally. Analysis on waiting times for people to be assessed is also included in this work.

The assessment has also drawn together details of local services that are available to the population. A number of these require a diagnosis, whilst others are needs based. The Public Health Team are currently working to commission, an external, independent provider to conduct focus groups to support the needs assessment before it is finalised.

## 8. In-depth Topic Assessment on Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

A child or young person are considered to have SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

The four broad areas of SEND are:

- Communication and interaction;
- Cognition and learning;
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties;
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

This needs assessment has looked at the following areas:

- to understand the prevalence, trends and characteristics of SEND in Lewisham;
- to map the current service provision;
- to identify gaps in services and areas of unmet need;
- to assist the local area with future planning for their children and young people (CYP) with SEND
- to identify how wider health inequalities may impact on CYP with SEND.

Analysis has recently been updated to include the latest data from both the special educational needs person level survey 2024 (known as SEN2) and details of those with an Educational Health Care Plan.

This report is currently being reviewed by stakeholders, with the aim to finalise by the end of the year.

## 9. Financial Implications

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

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## 10. Legal implications

The requirements to produce a JSNA are set out above.

## 11. Equalities implications

Health inequalities are described through each of the in-depth topic assessments, as well as the overarching Picture of Lewisham document.

## 12. Climate change and environmental implications

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

## 13. Crime and disorder implications

There are no Crime and Disorder implications from this report.

## 14. Health and wellbeing implications

The JSNA highlights there are health inequalities experienced by different populations.

## 15. Background papers

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

## 16. Glossary

Term	Definition
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

## 17. Report author(s) and contact

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