

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD SUMMARY Wednesday 8 March 2023 (2pm)

Please see Nottinghamshire County Council's website for the [papers](#), [membership](#), [work programme](#) and [strategy](#) of the Health & Wellbeing Board. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapters are available on [Nottinghamshire Insight](#).

The meeting on Wednesday 8 March can be viewed [here](#).
If you have any queries about this summary, please contact [Briony Jones](#).

Chair's Report

The Nottinghamshire Covid
Impact Assessment:
Behavioural Risk Factors

Joint Strategic Needs
Assessment – Special
Educational Needs and
Disability

CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor John Doddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, presented a report on the current local and national health and wellbeing issues and their implications for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The following points were discussed:

- a) An evaluation of the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on sales-based alcohol consumption in Scotland is underway. The MUP came into effect in 2018 and, within the first three years, it has been effective in reducing alcohol consumption in Scotland, while alcohol sales have increased in England and Wales.
- b) 8 March 2023 is National No Smoking Day, which is an annual health awareness event intended to help smokers who want to quit smoking. A great deal of work is underway to achieve a 'smoke free' Nottinghamshire by 2035 (where less than 5% of the population are smokers) and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Strategic Smoking and Tobacco Alliance will be publishing its vision and delivery plan in March 2023. Levels of smoking are falling, with 13.3% of people in the county as a whole being smokers. However, there can be significant variation in levels of smoking by district, with only 5.9% of people in Rushcliffe being smokers, bringing it close to the 2035 target.
- d) Direct engagement is underway with young people to seek to discourage them from taking up recreational vaping when they have never been smokers. Overall, 47% of underage purchasing of vaping products is from shops, so funding from the Public Health is being used to support the County Council's Trading Standards team in carrying out focused enforcement in this area. The purchase and use of illegal tobacco products remains a concern, so engagement is also underway with the Police on combatting the supply of illegal tobacco by organised crime.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COVID IMPACT ASSESSMENT – BEHAVIOURAL RISK FACTORS

Dr Safia Ahmed, Public Health Registrar at Nottinghamshire County Council, and Sue Foley, Public Health Consultant at Nottinghamshire County Council, presented a report on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the population of Nottinghamshire in the

context of behavioural risk factors. Behavioural factors have a significant impact on non-communicable diseases, which account for 88% of overall disease in the UK. To seek to address this, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has a focus on alcohol, tobacco and maintaining a healthy weight, as the current behavioural factors that have the greatest impact on health across the population. The following points were discussed:

b) Alcohol consumption increased during the pandemic in certain groups and there has been an increased demand for alcohol support services. The impact of alcohol consumption has been polarised, as those who were lighter drinkers before the pandemic often drank less during it, while those who were heavier drinkers before the pandemic often drank more during it. As higher levels of alcohol consumption can be more prevalent in communities impacted by higher levels of deprivation, health inequalities have increased as a result of the pandemic. Alcohol consumption has also risen in some high income groups, while there are increasing trends of unsafe drinking habits amongst young people.

c) There is a particular concern that, although the data suggests that there has been an increase in alcohol consumption amongst women relative to men as a result of the pandemic, this has not resulted in an increase in women accessing support services, so there could be significant number of women who have not yet come forward with alcohol-related service needs.

d) The pandemic has had a mixed impact on smoking as, although it provided a motivation that helped some people to quit, it is likely that the pre-existing health inequalities attributed to smoking have worsened. It is important that the flexible and remote means of access to services developed during the pandemic are retained, and that engagement with the most vulnerable people is used to ensure that they are aware of the substantial risks of smoking and where help is available.

e) The pandemic is also likely to have had an impact on behaviour in relation to vaping, but the associated data is not yet sufficiently detailed to establish the emerging trends with full clarity. Annual surveys are being carried out to collect information on the prevalence of vaping, including on recreational vaping by young people who have not smoked before, in order to grow a clear picture and identify the service requirements at the local level.

f) Following the pandemic, physical activity has decreased in certain groups, particularly for those with a disability and within communities experiencing greater levels of deprivation. Physical inactivity also increased amongst people who moved to working from home on a more regular basis. As a result, there is a need to improve local environments as much as possible, to encourage physical activity wherever people live and work.

g) The pre-existing inequalities in relation to sexual health present before the pandemic have continued to persist. The rate of testing for sexually transmitted infections has declined in some groups, so it is important that the flexible and remote means of access to services developed during the pandemic are retained, and that testing is increased within at-risk groups. There was a loss of outreach care during the pandemic, so it is important that this engagement is re-established – particularly in the context of the most difficult to reach groups.

h) Gambling can have a significant impact on both individuals and their wider families. There was a shift towards online forms of gambling during the pandemic and certain health inequalities have accelerated as a result. Men have experienced the greatest health impacts in relation to gambling, while people also affected by mental health or substance misuse issues are at particular risk. The East Midlands NHS Gambling Harms Service has been commissioned and is due to start in April 2023 to provide help to people with gambling addiction, and Public Health officers will engage with the District and Borough Councils in the near future to start to understand the particular local needs.

JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT: SEND

Katharine Browne, Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager at Nottinghamshire County Council, and Chris Jones, Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategic Lead at Nottinghamshire County Council, presented a report on a new chapter within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in relation to children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The following points were discussed:

The Government published its SEND Review in March 2022, which identified requirements to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND needs, including improving ease of access to and navigation of the SEND system, and delivering better value for money for children, young people and their families. The Government has now published an associated implementation plan. An inspection of the County Council's arrangements for children and young people with SEND needs was carried out jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to the new inspection framework in January, with the final report to be published shortly.

The new chapter represents the first to address SEND directly within the JSNA, it is vital that SEND is a high priority across all levels of the system, so the chapter has been produced as part of a partnership approach, with the membership of the steering group managing its development evolving as the work progressed. The chapter has sought to provide a comprehensive overview of SEND to ensure that information is provided to support partners in progressing work to enable an improved quality of life for children and young people with SEND needs. The recommendations in the JSNA will be implemented and monitored through the SEND Accountability Board.

The number of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Nottinghamshire is significantly lower than the national average, but it is projected that there will be growing service requirements (including mental health needs) that must be planned for effectively. There will be a focus on supporting neurodiverse children, particularly those with autism. Overall, more males have SEND needs than females in Nottinghamshire, and children growing up in higher levels of deprivation are more likely to have SEND needs. Young people with SEND needs are also overrepresented in the Youth Justice System, so it is vital that there is effective working in place between all partners to understand what can be done differently to better support the young people within this context.

An important aim of the new JSNA chapter is to help identify unmet SEND needs as part of informing the development of the effective joint commissioning of services between local authorities, the NHS and schools, including more co-production in deploying specialised SEND provision. There is a requirement for further improvements to be made in the quality of preparation for adulthood for children and young people with SEND through the development of an all-age approach, to help develop independence and ensure full access to opportunities. It is also important to work to reduce delays in accessing support in a timely way, including reducing the time taken for EHCP Assessments to be carried out. Most children with special educational needs have these met within mainstream education and receive additional support there.

Although it is difficult for national funding to keep up with the local need, Nottinghamshire County Council has managed its high needs fund within budget to support children with special educational needs both in mainstream schools and the county's eleven special needs schools, ten of which are rated as either 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.