

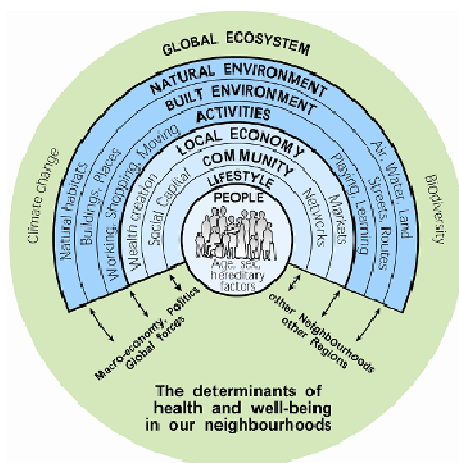
## Needs Assessment: Giving you a template to help improve practice

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## The Wider Determinants of Health & Wellbeing



## Need, Demand & Supply

The idea of need refers to:

- the kinds of problem which people experience
- requirements for a particular kind of response
- a relationship between problems & the responses available.

**Need - the ability to benefit**

**Demand** - Who is making use of the services including over/under use?

**Supply** - What are the current pathways/service providers, what is the current way of working?

## What is a Needs Assessment?

- Health needs assessment is a systematic method for reviewing the health issues facing a population, leading to agreed priorities and resource allocation that will improve health and reduce inequalities.

*Health Needs Assessment a Practical Guide. NICE.*

## The 3 approaches to NA

- **Epidemiological Approach** **Data**
  - Prevalence - How many people with X?
  - Incidence Data - How many new people with X?
  
- **Comparative Approach** **What are others doing?**
  - Benchmarking
  
- **Corporate Approach** **Views, Opinions, Perspectives**
  - Professionals/Service Users/Stakeholders

## What types of NA are there?

	Comprehensive	Standard	Express
Time	6 Months	1-3 Months	<1 Month
Resources	Full project board & dedicated multi-agency project team	Small multi-agency steering group	Small in-house project team
Content	Full detailed assessment of need across all subsets of the target population	In-depth assessment of the primary need of the target population	Desktop data analysis and research. Summary of key findings
Consultation	Large scale consultation event with a broad range of stakeholders and the general public	Series of in-depth 1-1 consultation interviews with affected parties	Basic consultation meeting with key affected partners
Review of Existing Information	Extensive literature search considering findings of similar HIAs from elsewhere. Involves collection of primary data	Detailed literature review of quantitative and qualitative evidence, and considers the findings of similar HIAs from elsewhere	Short literature review of quantitative and qualitative evidence

## Strategic v Specific NAs

### Strategic Needs Assessment

- Identifies the most important needs within a population
- Used to set strategic priorities (e.g. health inequalities strategy, commissioning intentions)
- Fully integrated health & social care intelligence
- e.g. Mental health is more of a priority than Stroke

### Specific Needs Assessment

- Identifies the specific needs within a priority area
- Used to inform specific decisions (e.g. commissioning, service development, interventions)
- e.g. What mental health services do we need?

## What should a good NA contain?

- Clear demonstration of type/scale/severity of need
- Identifies geographic and population-based health inequalities
- Makes recommendations as to how services could be improved to better meet the identified need.

## Whose role is it?

### We all have a role!

- Policy makers - to set priorities and develop effective strategies
- Commissioners - so we can buy the right services
- Service providers - so we can develop services and business cases
- Voluntary & Community Sector - as evidence for bids and business cases
- Analysts and researchers - to provide technical support

## How can we help? A NA Template

**Executive Summary**  
**Recommendations**

**Context**

**National Perspective**

**What's happening in Warwickshire?**

**Need**

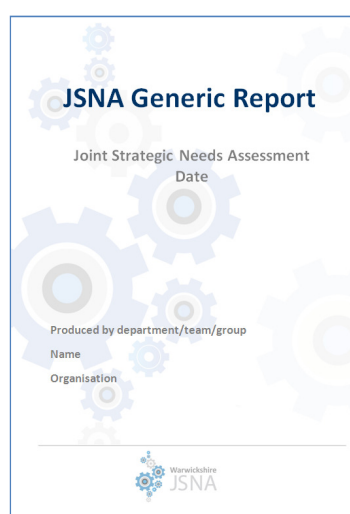
**Supply**

**Demand**

**Consultation & Engagement**

**Recommendations**

**Next Steps**



## Task

- To produce an initial, rough framework of a NA for a topic of your choice.
- Think about...
  - What population?
  - What you are trying to achieve?
  - Who needs to be involved?

## Context

- Set the scene about why this particular topic is being included
- Has it been in the national spotlight?
- Is it a topic with increasing prevalence or costs?
- Has it previously been a gap in knowledge and it needs addressing now?

What would you include?

## National Perspective

- National prevalence, research and other contextual information included in relation to the topic.
- If 'poverty' was a topic, this would be where data on deprivation levels, incomes, benefits, etc. at a national level would be included.

What national information could you include?

## What is happening in Warwickshire?

Key section - will include local data on the following:

- Prevalence - How many people with X?
- Incidence - How many new people with X?
- Mortality - How many people die from X (if applicable)?

Requires information to be included on:

- Need
- Supply
- Demand

## Need

Are some groups over or under represented? e.g.

- Age/Sex/Ethnicity/Religion/Sexuality/Disability/Socioeconomic status

Where are the people with the issue located?

Changes over time?

Do some of the wider socio-determinants of health potentially impact on existing/future need?

Are you able to highlight any differences in need?

## Supply

Describe the services that are available to your target population.

Can you highlight trends in service use?

By comparing the overall need with the level of service provision currently in place – highlight potential gaps in provision.



## **Demand**

What data do you have?

e.g. referrals, footfall, appointments, active clients/patients etc.

Consideration of the effect of population change, disease incidence and prevalence should be included here.

## **Consultation & Engagement**

Make use of primary qualitative data.

- Need to include stakeholder input (including providers, commissioners and users of the service).
- E.g. interviews, case studies, focus group results, survey responses.

What information do you already have?

What activity do you need to plan?

## Recommendations

May include:

- Improving data availability
- Development of clearer pathways
- Recommendations for commissioning activity related to issues of need and gaps in service provision
- Highlight any over-provision of services which may be relevant to service reviews, to inform de-commissioning
- Further analysis required as part of an area not included in this Needs Assessment
- To identify additional services/promotional opportunities to support people

## Next Steps

- Is it of use to others?
- If so, submit to [jsna@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jsna@warwickshire.gov.uk)



## Support available

- Warwickshire JSNA website  
[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jsna)
- Warwickshire JSNA team  
Email: [jsna@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jsna@warwickshire.gov.uk)
- PH Intelligence Team  
Email: [publichealthintelligence@warwickshire.nhs.uk](mailto:publichealthintelligence@warwickshire.nhs.uk)
- Warwickshire Observatory  
[www.warksobservatory.wordpress.com](http://www.warksobservatory.wordpress.com)  
[www.warwickshireobservatory.org.uk/](http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org.uk/)
- Local Information System (LIS)

