

report



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN’S TRUST BOARD MEETING

20 September 2010

agenda item number 6

REPORT FROM

Geoff Hamilton, Children’s Trust Intelligence Manager,
Nottinghamshire County Council

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Purpose of item

1. To request approval by the Children’s Trust Board of the new children and young people’s chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment¹ (JSNA).

Information

2. In 2008, a JSNA was produced by Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw PCT, in line with requirements described in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007). It described the health and well-being needs of the local population and the strategic direction of service delivery to meet those needs.

3. The children and young people’s chapter of the JSNA has recently been refreshed to provide an evidence base for the next Children & Young People’s Plan (2011-14). It can also be used in strategic and business planning across partnership organisations and serve as an effective tool in (de)commissioning processes. It has been written in line with Every Child Matters outcomes to ensure full coverage of the key issues relating to children and young people, and contains as much locality information and intelligence on vulnerable groups as it was possible to obtain. Thanks are due to a large number of colleagues across the Children’s Trust for their input into this refresh of the JSNA.

4. The JSNA is a very large and detailed reference document containing a vast amount of information, intended to inform service design and delivery through the perspective of need. A summary version has also been produced, which highlights key messages such as:

- 28,000 children in Nottinghamshire live in households where nobody works
- Only one in five local 11 year olds are always supervised when using the internet and over one in four Nottinghamshire girls say they have been cyber-bullied
- Since the internet took off in 2003, there have been 157 referrals locally for child grooming, and indecent child images have more than doubled
- Only one in four adults in the county agree that parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children

¹ This can be accessed at: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/jointstrategicneedsassessment.htm

- A third of the county's young people say they have never been given advice on managing money
- One in four pregnant women in the north of the county are smoking at the time of delivery of their baby
- There were 29 16/17 year olds accepted as homeless in 2008/09 in Nottinghamshire and 206 received an accommodation service from Supporting People – statistics which represent the 'tip of the iceberg'
- One in 20 young people do not feel physically or emotionally safe at secondary school.

5. In addition to subjects which are rich in data, such as educational and health outcomes, the refreshed JSNA endeavours to uncover information about other themes such as sexual exploitation, homelessness and domestic violence. Growing issues like e-safety, transitions and young carers are also examined to provide as broad an analysis of need in the county as possible. The ICM survey² of 11-18 year olds, conducted specifically for the refresh, has provided much new evidence.

6. A substantial amount of existing data and analysis has been collected, but there is still much that could be done to further enhance our understanding of the needs of Nottinghamshire children and young people, both in terms of establishing or refining systems and improving data sharing between agencies. For example, we do not know the exact number of disabled children in the county, the geographical spread of young carers, the full picture of children with parents in prison or the real extent of youth homelessness.

Suggested way forward

7. In order for the JSNA to remain 'live' and of use, it is important that the document is updated and developed at least annually, and circulated widely across partnership organisations. It can then continue to provide an up-to-date evidence base to support decisions about (de)commissioning and prioritisation of resources for service delivery.

8. Borough/district profiles will also be circulated in due course for use by local strategic partnerships, and potentially also specialised reports on outcomes for vulnerable groups, such as looked after children and teenage parents.

9. In addition to work around improving systems, bespoke research projects could further develop our knowledge base. There is minimal intelligence, for example, on issues such as the reported increase in teenage violence against parents and siblings, 'sexting'³ and vulnerability to grooming through social networking sites, the support needs of fathers and the detailed demographics of missing children. These issues and others are included in each section of the JSNA under 'future data challenges', pointing to further work which could be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

10. It is recommended that the Board approves the refreshed JSNA for publication across the partnership.

GEOFF HAMILTON

Children's Trust Intelligence Manager

² www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/consultation/notts_cc_young_people_s_survey_final.pdf

³ Uploading revealing images of self or partner onto the internet