

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TITLE: Substance Misuse JSNA – light touch review

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Description of Changes
14/04/2023	Version 1.0	Rhonwen Ashcroft	
22/05/2023	Version 1.1	Rhonwen Ashcroft	Updated to address comments from SR
22/09/2023	Version 1.2	Rhonwen Ashcroft	Altered to ensure everything in past tense.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL –EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service /

Department	Public Health
Service	Public Health
Lead officer responsible for assessment	Rhonwen Ashcroft
Other members of team undertaking assessment	Susie Roberts/Andrew Moss with input from the Cheshire East JSNA Steering Group.
Version	1.2
Date	22/09/2023
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Project
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)	New

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Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation) Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service	The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is not a new policy or strategy. The JSNA works are completed based on the priorities and timeframes agreed by the JSNA Steering Group. The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to produce the JSNA to identify health and social care needs. The JSNA is also used to understand how well the identified needs are being met in Cheshire East and will aim to highlight any possible improvements that need to be made. The JSNA is used as a decision-making tool for stakeholders and commissioners such as the Integrated Care System and Cheshire East Council. Overall, the JSNA aims to provide an overview of the following: • Key messages and background information about the topic of assessment. • Breakdown of geographical location, gender, age and other protected characteristics if the data allows. • Service delivery across Cheshire East related to the given topic. • What we know and what we don't know about the topic of interest. • Areas for improvements. The JSNA is a continuous process involving a combination of regularly updated overview products and focussed reviews. The reviews consider variation in need according to protected characteristics wherever possible and feasible and where there are gaps, these will be highlighted within the conclusions and recommendations for future work. Substance misuse was identified as a priority for a light touch review as part of the 2022/23 work programme.
Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)	Our Main Stakeholders included: • Change Grow Live (CGL) – as the commissioned provider for substance misuse services • Public Health Commissioning • Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership • Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board • Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) • Voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations • Local Healthwatch Organisation

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	• All Cheshire East Residents • Cheshire East Communities Team • Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board • NHS Trust or NHS Foundation Trust • Cheshire East Environment and Planning • Cheshire East Social Action Partnership • Cheshire East Housing • Cheshire East Adult Social Care • General Practitioners • Cheshire East Citizens Advice Bureau • HM Prisons and Probation Service • Cheshire Constabulary • Cheshire Fire Service • Local service users We have an eight-weekly meeting with the JSNA Steering group, which includes colleagues from different groups and partnerships such as Healthwatch, the NHS Trusts and the Integrated Care System. The Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership is made up of representatives from many of the JSNA key stakeholder groups and includes service user representation. A draft version of the light touch review was shared with the group and they were invited to comment. Fuller service user engagement was undertaken as a separate piece of work during 2023.
Consultation/ involvement carried out.	YES
What consultation method(s) did you use?	Evidence and data used to develop the substance misuse chapter of the JSNA was sourced from national and local research and information sources. Data from these providers has been incorporated into the JSNA and has been used to focus attention on specific local issues.

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	We have undertaken regular consultation with the JSNA Steering Group. These meetings began in April 2022, with the meetings providing an opportunity to engage with a multi-agency, multi-partner group. Where appropriate to do so, according to the expressed purpose of the consultation, findings from other consultations already undertaken outside of the JSNA reviews, will also be considered. At the centre of the statistics is the lived experience of those affected by substance misuse. As this is a light touch review, we did not intend to do any consultation work. The sole purpose of this JSNA, is to update the information that already exists in the 2018 Drugs and Alcohol JSNA. https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/jsna/drugs-and-alcohol-jsna-feb-2018-final.pdf
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Stage 2 Initial Screening

Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)	The JSNA ultimately aims to inform strategy to improve health and wellbeing across Cheshire East and reduce inequalities for all ages by developing recommendations for local authorities and the NHS on how they work with local communities. Substance misuse is defined by the JSNA light touch review as the misuse of alcohol and drugs. Misuse of drugs encompasses legal and illegal drugs, including performance enhancing drugs, opiates, non-opiates and prescription drugs when taken in a way not recommended by a GP or the manufacturer. Substance misuse does not exist in a vacuum. People affected by substance misuse and related issues, such as crime, often live in the most deprived areas of Cheshire East and are disproportionately affected by socio-economic determinants of health including, poor housing, unemployment, and poverty. Certain groups are more susceptible to substance misuse and its associated issues - as well as deprivation as discussed above, children and young people (particularly those aged 16-24), middle aged adults, males and those with certain disabilities, particularly psychological and behavioural disorders, are more at risk.
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	Poor mental health often co-exists with problematic substance use, as do health harming behaviours, such as smoking.
Who is intended to benefit and how	The JSNA intends to benefit all Cheshire East residents, as the assessments are in place to identify the health and care needs across Cheshire East. The JSNA will make recommendations for local authorities and the NHS on how they work with local communities who are experiencing substance misuse or suffering from its associated effects.

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Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?	Yes, we wanted to identify the health and social care needs and whether these are being met or whether further provision is needed to make improvements. Further to this, the JSNA has shown different insights and outcomes in relation to different groups across Cheshire East. This has resulted in recommendations that are tailored to these findings. Analysis showed that the impacts of substance misuse are greater for those who share one or more protected characteristics; further engagement and consultation will need to be undertaken to explore these hypotheses in relation to Cheshire East. We will continue to use quantitative and qualitative insight and intelligence to create a better understanding and help inform the JSNA.
Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?	No
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)	The JSNA aims to identify the health and social care needs of the local population across Cheshire East in the most comprehensive and equitable way possible. As such, it hopes to build relationships and understanding between communities and stakeholders. The EIA has helped to highlight where we have been able to understand variation in the experience of substance misuse and its impacts by protected characteristics, as well as where we still have gaps in our understanding that are important for strategic and commissioning audiences to note and that could be addressed in future work. We will continue to use quantitative and qualitative insight and intelligence to create a better understanding and help inform the JSNA.
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?	Inequalities in health and wellbeing exist across Cheshire East. Work to address these inequalities will follow a universally proportionate approach and other Marmot principles. Findings from the JSNA should facilitate and guide this. The data that is used to understand the needs is broken down by protected characteristics where possible (such as age and gender) to understand the health and social care needs within the different groups across Cheshire East. This will help commissioners target their services where the need is greatest.

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Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics?	The 2023 JSNA was a light touch review and therefore did not include any public consultation or engagement. The 2023 JSNA was evidenced by the findings from the data analysis which was subjected to data availability, sharing and relevance to the JSNA sections as agreed by the steering group for assessment. Most data relating to protected characteristics was only available at a national level.
Age	Unknown
Disability	Unknown
Gender reassignment	Unknown
Race	Unknown
Pregnancy & maternity	Unknown
Marriage & civil partnership	Unknown
Religion & belief	Unknown
Sex	Unknown
Sexual orientation	Unknown

Stage 3 Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)
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Age	Young people, young families, and middle-aged adults are disproportionately affected by substance misuse problems. This is evident from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data, hospital admissions data, and local and national survey data. The 16-24 age group is particularly associated with drug offences, substance misuse and alcohol problems.	Medium
Marriage and Civil Partnership	There is no current evidence to suggest that there will be a negative impact on Marriage and Civil Partnership.	N/A
Religion	There is no current evidence to suggest that there will be a negative impact on people with different faiths.	N/A
Disability	Vulnerable children and adults, including those with learning disability or neurodiversity, are at risk of criminal exploitation through county lines. A high proportion of those who enter substance misuse services are also seeking help with their mental health. Nationally, people engaged in substance misuse services report a higher rate of disability than the general population (28.8% compared with 17.7%)¹. Behaviour and emotional problems was the most reported disability (15.5%). Drug-related deaths are increasing nationally, due to an aging cohort of drug users, increasing poly drug use, higher rates of homelessness and incarceration among drug users, and increasing rates of socio-economic deprivation². Although, drug-related deaths in Cheshire East are significantly lower than the England average, the trend is still upwards. These deaths tend to occur at younger ages and result in a higher number of years of life lost. Alcohol-specific and alcohol-related hospital admissions in Cheshire East are significantly higher than the England average, as are hospital admissions for substance misuse among young people. We also need to make sure all support is accessible to people with disabilities and continue to have dialogue with our residents with disabilities who are struggling with substance misuse issues. 1. Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021-2022 Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021 to 2022: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk); 2021 Census. Disability in England and Wales, 2021 - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) 2. Holland, A. <i>et al</i> (2022), Analysis of the UK government's 10 year drugs strategy – a resource for practitioners and policy makers, Journal of Public Health, pp. 1-10, Analysis of the UK	Medium

Commented [AR1]: I've taken this out because the CDP haven't produced any new analysis as such.

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	Government's 10-Year Drugs Strategy—a resource for practitioners and policymakers (silverchair.com) [accessed 19 January 2023]	
Pregnancy and Maternity	The review has not considered pregnancy and maternity in relation to substance misuse. Given the stigma attached to alcohol and drug use during pregnancy, as well as the fear of having children taken into care, it is likely that people are not coming forward for support. In future it may be beneficial to carry out some engagement work to gather insights into the impacts on those residents who share this characteristic and their experience of substance misuse and its impacts.	Unknown
Sex	Locally and nationally, more males than females are engaged with substance misuse services, and this is particularly the case for drug services^{1,2,3}. It is predominantly males under the age of 40 who are involved in Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs), which have a strong link to drugs, and County Lines gangs⁴. 1. Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021-2022 Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021 to 2022: report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 2. OHID/NDTMS Adult Drug Commissioning Support Pack, 2022-23, Cheshire East 3. OHID/NDTMS Adult Alcohol Commissioning Support Pack, 2022-23, Cheshire East 4. Cheshire Constabulary, Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile 2021/11, Cheshire East	Medium
Gender Reassignment	Whilst gender reassignment does not appear to have a direct link to the experience of substance misuse within the borough, there is evidence that substance misuse often co-exists with poor mental health and issues around gender and transition could exacerbate these challenges. In the future it may be beneficial to carry out engagement work to understand specific insights into the impacts of those residents who share this protected characteristics and their experience of substance misuse.	N/A
Race	There was no evidence to suggest that there would be a negative impact on Race. However, we do know that the majority of people in treatment in Cheshire East were white British, white Irish or other white¹. Nationally, people in treatment for non-opiates were slightly less likely to be white British (78%)².	Medium

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	However, not all people with substance misuse issues are in treatment, and this is particularly true for alcohol^{1,2}. 1. OHID/NDTMS Adult Drug Commissioning Support Pack, 2022-23, Cheshire East 2. OHID/NDTMS Adult Alcohol Commissioning Support Pack, 2022-23, Cheshire East	
Sexual Orientation	This review has not highlighted particular issues regarding sexual orientation in relation to substance misuse. However, further work could be considered in relation to this issue in future should evidence emerge that this represents a particular challenge locally.	N/A

Stage 4 Mitigation

Protected characteristics	Mitigating action <i>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</i>	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Age	Experience of substance misuse across different age groups was highlighted in the review. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating	Ongoing

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		engagement on this issue should they arise.	Drugs Partnership.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	It was noted in the review that no specific evidence of the experience of marriage in relation to substance misuse was found. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	Ongoing
Religion	It was noted in the JSNA review that no specific evidence of the experience of religion in relation to substance misuse was found. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	Ongoing
Disability	It was noted in the review that a high proportion of people with substance misuse issues also experience problems with their mental health. Those entering drug services nationally are more likely to report a disability, particularly a mental or behavioural problem.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence	Ongoing

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	As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	It was noted in the review that no specific evidence of the experience of pregnancy in relation to substance misuse was found. However, those experiencing substance misuse whilst pregnant may be reluctant to come forward for support. A focus on pregnancy and maternity was suggested as a possible future development. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	Ongoing
Sex	The review found that more males than females are engaged in treatment services both locally and nationally and this is particularly the case for drugs. Males were also more likely than females to be involved in drug-related crime. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	Ongoing

Gender Reassignment	It was noted in the review that no specific evidence of the experience of gender reassignment in relation to substance misuse was found. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.	JSNA Steering group, Public health Intelligence Team, Cheshire East Combating Drugs Partnership.	Ongoing
Race	Most people entering treatment in Cheshire East are white British, white Irish or 'other white'. The difference in experience by ethnicity was noted in the review. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.		
Sexual Orientation	It was noted in the review that no specific evidence of the experience of sexual orientation in relation to substance misuse was found. As this JSNA was a light touch review, no engagement was carried out however, this could be further explored through any future engagement work that takes place.	We will continue to monitor developments in this area and take advantage of opportunities for further consultation and engagement on this issue should they arise.		N/A

5. Review and Conclusion

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Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed.

From analysis, we know that certain cohorts nationally are more commonly experiencing substance misuse and its impacts, for example, young people aged 16-24, middle aged adults, males, people of white British ethnicity and communities more affected by socio-economic deprivation. In Cheshire East, it is clear that substance misuse disproportionately affects males, young people, people living in areas of deprivation and those of white ethnicity.

There is no evidence of negative impact in terms of gender reassignment, and marriage/civil partnership. However, through other council programmes of engagement with these groups, any insight or rising need in relation to substance misuse should be communicated to the health and wellbeing board appropriately. It is likely that substance misuse issues in pregnancy and the post-natal period are under reported due to the stigma of drug and alcohol use during pregnancy and this topic would merit further investigation.

Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date

Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions	N/A
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Ongoing reviews will take place as the JSNA is developed.
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	N/A

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Lead officer sign off	Rhonwen Ashcroft	Date	05/10/2023
Head of service sign off	Susan Roberts	Date	5/10/2023

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