

Health and Wellbeing Board

18 March 2026

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Forward Plan For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team:

S Crowe, Director of Public Health & Prevention

Report author and job title: Natasha Morris, Team Leader - Intelligence

Email: natasha.morris@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Sections 116 and 116A), as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Health and Care Act 2022.

Report status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory requirement designed to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population. It supports the Health and Wellbeing Board in understanding emerging trends and should be used to support the development of its strategy.
- 1.2 Dorset's JSNA process consists of an annual narrative update that brings together insight from multiple sources, including national and local datasets, the State of Dorset report, Healthwatch reports, and the Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service. Alongside the annual update, topic based JSNAs are produced covering areas such as children and young people, community mental wellbeing, ADHD and autism and end-of-life care.
- 1.3 In November 2025 the Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed recent insights and explored future priorities. Discussions highlighted some common themes: healthy life expectancy, work and health, neighbourhood-based health, prevention and early intervention, behavioural insights and integrated ways of

working. The content of these themes were analysed and areas of focus for the JSNA forward plan identified.

1.4 Alongside this the annual narrative update was drafted and shared with the board for review.

1.5 The proposed forward plan for JSNA topics (typically 2 a year) includes:

- 2026/27: Healthy life expectancy, work and health and the annual narrative update
- 2027/28: Prevention across the life course, community voices and insight, and the annual narrative update
- Longer-term: Integration and service transformation and community wellbeing – these areas require further scoping with the board as system work develops.

1.6 The Public Health Intelligence team will work collaboratively with Dorset Council's Strategy, Performance and Sustainability team and the Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service to review data and project work that can support insight generation for the board.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 To approve the forward work plan for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and approve the annual narrative update

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

3.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and 2022, Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to prepare a JSNA as part of assessing the health and social care needs of the local population.

4. The report

1.1 Having a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process is a requirement of all Health and Wellbeing Boards in legislation. The purpose of a JSNA is to identify current and future health and wellbeing needs of our local population and support the development of the health and wellbeing strategy.

1.2 Our local process involves an annual narrative update – which uses data and insight from a range of sources including key data indicators (LGA Inform, Fingertips) the State of Dorset report, Healthwatch reports and the Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service.

1.3 In addition to the annual narrative, topic-based reports are developed. Previous examples include Children and Young People, Community mental wellbeing,

ADHD and Autism and End of Life care. The Public Health Intelligence team have capacity to co-ordinate an average of 2 topic based JSNA's a year.

- 1.4 At a JSNA development session in November 2025, Health and Wellbeing Board members reviewed the JSNA process and data insights from previous and current data releases. The board then discussed the type of information and topics that would be helpful in the future.
- 1.5 Discussions across the breakout tables highlighted some common themes and areas of interest.
 - Healthy life expectancy
 - Work and health outcomes
 - Neighbourhood based health
 - Prevention and early intervention
 - Behavioural insights and communicating about health
 - Integration and models of working together
- 1.6 Analysis of discussions within these theme areas identified some potential work areas to consider for the JSNA forward plan.

Population health and life course:

Investigate the drivers of Dorset's 20year gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy and analyse long-term trends across population cohorts to inform future planning.

Wider determinants of health:

Examine how employment, national benefit changes, and rural/coastal contexts shape health outcomes, particularly for young people, care leavers, and those with disabilities.

Community wellbeing and resilience:

Strengthen understanding of community-level health determinants (e.g. civic, service and environmental aspects). Explore neighbourhood level opportunities for more upstream prevention.

Community voices and local insight:

Understand generational attitudes to health, barriers that are experienced at different ages and share insight from different neighbourhoods.

Prevention and behaviour change:

Potential areas included exploring approaches to behaviour change communication, promote life course prevention (including NHS Health Checks), expand understanding of physical activity trends and interventions.

Integration and service transformation:

Assess market shifts affecting service delivery, draw on effective integration models from other regions, and learn from what's going well.

- 1.7 Reviewing areas that can be covered in a JSNA the following forward plan is suggested:

Timeline	Topics	Notes
26/27	1. Work and Health 2. Healthy Life Expectancy 3. Annual Narrative update	
27/28	4. Prevention across the life course 5. Community voices and local insight 6. Annual Narrative update	
Longer term	7. Integration and service transformation 8. Community wellbeing	These topics are currently broad and will require further scoping with the board as strategy and programmes develop, therefore are longer term topics

- 1.1 The board can review the forward plan for any future amendments or to meet any developing priorities such as national policy launches. For example, with the recent Schools White Paper and SEND reform consultation publications the board may want to consider if Children and Young People / SEND should be an area of focus for prioritisation. The requirements for this topic would need to be scoped in collaboration with children's services and performance/intelligence teams.
- 1.2 The Public Health intelligence team will work in collaboration with Dorset Council's Strategy, Performance and Sustainability team and Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service to identify projects and data that can contribute to insights for the board.

2. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 Not applicable

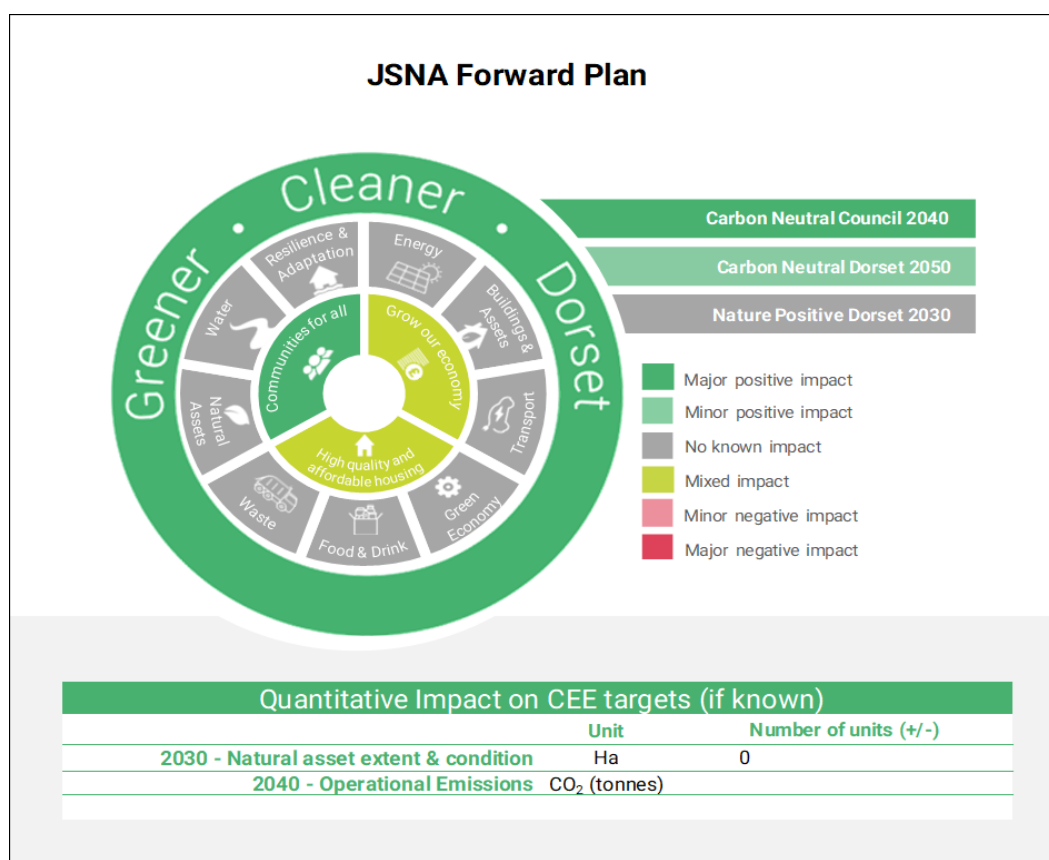
3. Legal considerations

- 3.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and 2022, Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to prepare a JSNA as part of assessing the health and social care needs of the local population.

7. Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications. Resource to co-ordinate the JSNA is provided as part of the Public Health team. The team will work more closely with other teams to reduce duplication and incorporate insights being developed across the organisation and NHS system.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications



8.1

9. Well-being and health implications

- 9.1 A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provides an evidence base for the health and wellbeing needs of our local population. This information supports identification of need and priorities that ultimately impact population health outcomes and addressing health inequalities.

10. Other implications

- 10.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment forms part of the Public Health duty to provide advice and guidance to the NHS. JSNA outputs are published on the Dorset Council website meaning they are available to other organisations, including the Voluntary and Community Sector for use as evidence or supporting business cases.

11. Risk implications

- 11.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

12. Equalities

- 12.1 Understanding inequalities forms an important component of JSNA outputs and the forward workplan. The JSNA will help inform the Health and Wellbeing Board on inequalities that exist, whether they are improving or not and may contribute to thinking about how to close any gaps between different groups.

13. Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - JSNA Annual Narrative Update

13. Background papers

- 13.1 JSNA website - [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Dorset Council](#)

14 Report sign-off

- 14.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)