

Informing neighbourhood strategy and funding using locality Health Needs Assessments

Introduction

Locality Health Needs Assessments (HNA's) offer:

- the opportunity to comprehensively deepen the understanding of an area in terms of the building blocks of good health
- epidemiology within a small geographical area

This understanding contributes to community level strategic planning and brings and amplifies the voice of the community.

Method

Data is available at various levels. Locality HNA's bring together Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level data on life expectancy, mortality for common causes and prevalent health conditions. Data is segmented by sex and age (all age and U75), providing targeting information at community level.

A community voice is sought using participatory and inclusive methods. Such methods account for low literacy levels in some communities and English not being the first language. The community researchers attend groups and places where local people are found i.e. local events and galas, community groups and street corners.

Data and intelligence pertaining to the wider influences of health highlight which essential building blocks of health are limited within the area. These include employment deprivation, income deprivation, child poverty indicators, and housing indicators. These add to the understanding of an area and allow for an analysis of the causes of health inequality.

MSOA data allows a deeper scrutiny of health data which provides a 'picture' of a place, whilst maintaining robust intelligence. This intelligence can be extrapolated to similar areas with confidence that health conditions and outcomes are aligned.

The product: A document containing who lives in the area, epidemiology, social determinants of health, special focus on maternity and children and adults. Stakeholders and community voice. This is synthesised to produce health priorities and the dominant causes of the health priorities.

Dissemination

A Health Needs Assessment communication plan was developed, with presentations delivered to NHS, Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) and University colleagues and others teams within Leeds City Council, including City Development, Regeneration and locality teams).

Impact

- Using intelligence to support strategic decision-making at neighbourhood level.
- Supporting partners in VCS with evidence of health inequalities.
- Community based partners have used the evidence contained within HNA's in various successful funding bids.
- Strategic partners have used the HNA to provide the evidence-base for city development regeneration projects and future commissioning arrangements.
- Models with priorities of focus for further discussion with partners.

Priorities model

Areas of focus for Cross Flats Park and Garnets

Address the influences on health to create the biggest impact

Unemployment, Skills and Training

Income Maximisation

Housing and fuel poverty

Place based health

Create interventions to help mitigate the impact of poverty and place

Childrens health:

- Poverty
- Food beliefs
- Opportunity & Aspiration

Male health:

- Respiratory/COPD
- Coronary heart disease
- Diabetes

Female health:

- Diabetes
- Hypertension

Food beliefs, access and budget

Smoking cessation support

Alcohol harms and take-aways