

Title of Report:	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) review update
Date of meeting:	1 st July 2025
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Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Professor Rod Thomson, Interim Director of Public Health

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision
Why is the report being brought to the board?	The purpose of this report is to note the findings and recommendations of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) review.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?	Creating a place that supports health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Enable more people to live well for longer <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	Equality and Fairness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input type="checkbox"/>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is asked to note the key findings and recommendations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) review. 		
Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	This report has been considered by the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND JSNA working group JSNA steering group Public Health Senior Management Team including the Director of Public Health Executive Director for Adults Health and Integration <p>In addition to the formal governance routes, this report, prior to final approval, has also been considered by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND Partnership Board Children and Families Senior Leadership Team <p>Since approval, the report has also been shared with all elected members and discussed at a briefing session for members of the Adults and Health Committee and Children and Families Committee.</p>		

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?	Public and professional engagement has been incorporated into the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) review.
If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.	It is envisaged that adopting the JSNA recommendations will help to reduce inequalities and enhance existing work to improve overall health and wellbeing in Cheshire East.

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) review.
- 1.2 Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to produce JSNAs which are an in-depth assessment of the current and future health and social care needs. They are informed from a wide range of sources to produce recommendations for commissioners and partners to use to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents of Cheshire East whilst looking to reduce inequalities.

- 2 The recommendations and key findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) JSNA review can be found in Appendix A (the short summary) and Appendix B (the full report).

Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and consider the key findings and recommendations within the JSNA review presented (Appendix A and B).

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The JSNA recommendations are based on the triangulation and interpretation of data from wide and varied sources through multi-partner collaboration.
- 3.2 Publishing updated JSNAs allow partners and commissioners to use information, evidence and research when designing services in Cheshire East.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 The production of the JSNA supports the four outcomes from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28:
 - Cheshire East is a place that supports good health and wellbeing for everyone.
 - Our children and young people experience good physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

- The mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East is improved.
- That more people live and age well, remaining independent; and that their lives end with peace and dignity in their chosen place.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to produce Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) for their area.
- 5.2 JSNAs are assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community. These are needs that can be met either by the local authority or by the NHS or other partners. JSNAs are informed by a wide range of sources including research, evidence, local insight, and intelligence to help to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. They also consider wider factors that impact on their community's health and wellbeing, produce recommendations, and identify where there is a lack of evidence or research.

The priorities for the 2022/23 JSNA work programme were agreed by the multi-agency, multi-partner JSNA Steering Group. As part of this, a review on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has been undertaken. Completion of this review has been delayed due to competing pressures on multiple members of the SEND JSNA working group.

- 5.3 The SEND JSNA review provides an important, more detailed and comprehensive summary of the experience of SEND across Cheshire East since 2022 onwards, using a wide variety of data sources, helping us to build a shared understanding. It should be used alongside more timely, less comprehensive data sources such as the SEND score card.
- 5.4 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) JSNA has been published on the JSNA website: [Special Educational Needs and Disability JSNA](#).
- 5.5 Key messages and the recommendations of this JSNA chapter can be found in Appendix A, with more detailed findings described in the full report (Appendix B). However, the take home message from the review was that all children and young people have strengths, and all can and do achieve and that this is the case for all our children and young people with SEND. The review outlines the need for a fundamental shift in culture.

5.5.1 Inclusion is everyone's business and SEND affects a significant proportion of the population. There are many dedicated and passionate people working to support our children and young people with SEND across Cheshire East place, including their families and people working in many different organisations. There is also evidence of the positive impacts that they have had. We need to further galvanise this and continue to work more closely together.

- 5.5.2 We need to support our families holistically- for every interaction we need to think: physical, emotional, educational and social wellbeing, and recognise achievements and successes in relation to all of these aspects of life.
- 5.5.3 We need an approach that is person-focused and strength-based rather than problem-focused.
- 5.5.4 We need a whole community approach to SEND and inclusion that empowers our children and young people and families to:
- Connect with support at the earliest opportunity and as part of inclusive wider community life
 - Recognise achievements and success
 - Recognise they are not alone but part of a community of experts by experience, and seek resilience within this, and the wider community.
- 5.5.5 To achieve this across Cheshire East we need to:
- Provide inclusive information, be proactive and intervene early
 - Think holistically: education, health and wellbeing, and care
 - Recognise complex risk factors early, including where there has been childhood trauma
 - Increase resource and capacity to ensure that a child's education needs are met in the best setting so that the child is not disadvantaged.
 - Ensure timely and consistent NHS provision of support and advice in relation to Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and therapies such as speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and sensory processing
 - Communicate clearly, proactively, consistently, transparently, and through a person-centred approach
 - Empower children, young people, families and professionals to look towards, and plan for the future.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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