

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 *What is Joint Strategic Needs Assessment?*

Commissioning Health and Wellbeing (Department of Health March 2007, final guidance 13 December 2007) set out a requirement for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as a means for PCTs and local authorities to describe the future health, care and well-being needs of local populations and the strategic direction of service delivery to meet those needs. JSNAs are to look ahead 3-5 years and provide an opportunity to look ahead and support and direct the change required in local systems in order to:

- Re-shape services with local communities
- Reduce inequalities
- Increase social inclusion
- Maximise outcomes per pound spent

A good JSNA will:

- Define achievable improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes for the local community
- Send signals to existing and potential providers of services about potential service change
- Support the delivery of better health and well-being outcomes for the local community
- Inform the next stages of the commissioning cycle
- Aid better decision making
- Underpin the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the choice of local outcomes and targets as well as the PCTs prospectus.

[Commissioning Health and Wellbeing](#) identifies a minimum data set in relation to a range of inputs: demography, social and environmental context, current known health status of populations, current met needs of the population, patient voice, public demands, analysis of inequalities in terms of outcomes and service access, programme budgets and outcomes.

Secondary analysis is expected to include: current inequalities by outcome and service access (geographical, ethnicity, gender, geography); projection of service use in 3-5 years time based on historical trends and current activity; projection of outcomes in 3-5 years time based on historical trends and current activity; value for money and return on investment. A number of tools have been developed nationally to assist with the predictive and analytical aspects of the assessment, and some are detailed in [Tools for Predicting Need and Developing Services](#)

## **1.2 Conducting Gateshead's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Gateshead has been conducted through an iterative process involving key stakeholder groups throughout its development. While the JSNA was intended to be completed every 3 years, this current version is a further development of the initial 2008 version and 2009 update and there is to be a full review later in 2010, in tandem with the Local Area Agreement/Operational Planning Cycles.

The data gathering and analysis work reflected in the 2008 paper was carried out by a technical sub group led by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Director of Public Health (discussed by the Health and Social Care Development Group in November 2007, and subsequently with other stakeholders including Children and Young People, Housing, Planning, Health and Social Care Partnership and Health and Social Care Development Group ([2008 JSNA Consultation and Development Process](#))). This 2010 version has been expanded to include a wider range of information and also presents an update of some of the activities that have taken place since the first document was produced, and the group broadened (see [JSNA Steering Group Terms of Reference](#)).

The JSNA proposes some next steps to ensure it fulfils its purpose of informing effective Commissioning.

The JSNA must be read alongside the Gateshead [Director of Public Health Report 2009](#), the [Children and Young People's Plan 2007](#), the [Children and Young People's Needs Assessment 2010](#) and the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Inequalities](#) .