

Report on York Student Health Needs Assessment

Summary

1. This report asks the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) to approve the publication and dissemination of the Student Health Needs Assessment (SHNA). The SHNA is presented in two forms: a short summary report at **Annex A**, intended as the main public-facing document and the longer full report at **Annex B** (online only) intended as a reference document.
2. This report also asks HWBB to support the main recommendation from the SHNA; namely the formation of a multi-agency partnership to continue to develop the student health agenda based on the SHNA findings.

Background

3. The SHNA was carried out between September 2016 and June 2017 by City of York Council's (CYC) public health team as part of the York Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), on behalf of the HWBB. The SHNA forms part of the approved JSNA work programme.
4. The SHNA was commissioned following recognition that students form a significant proportion (around 15%) of the York population and have a specific set of health needs, with a particular recent focus on mental health concerns of York students.
5. The SHNA focuses on students studying at Higher York institutions (University of York, York St John University, York College and Askham Bryan College). It provides a summary of the health needs of these students as evidenced by local data, student consultation and stakeholder feedback. The SHNA also provides an overview of

existing services, current and forthcoming projects and recommendations for improving student health and wellbeing.

Main/Key Issues to be Considered

6. The SHNA highlighted several areas of unmet need regarding student health. These have particularly focused on mental health support, although other issues such as high prevalence of domestic abuse among students, poor access to dental services and limited knowledge regarding smoking cessation have also been identified.
7. The main areas for improvement have been set out as 'challenges to the city', as these are concerns that spread beyond any individual agency. The five key challenges are: mental health, communication, access to services, providing an integrated approach to wellbeing, and local leadership & partnership working.
8. The SHNA has demonstrated that although there are many examples of good practice around student health in the city with continual improvements occurring (some in response to the SHNA work), there is a need for a co-ordinated effort to help support and propagate this work, as well as address the challenges highlighted by the SHNA.
9. This report recommends the formation of a multi-agency partnership to drive the student health agenda in York, with Higher York already agreeing to take the leadership role. Rather than setting up a wholly new body it is suggested that the existing York Student Mental Health Network (YSMHN) be re-purposed to address student health and wellbeing more broadly. This group already contains most of the key student health agencies in York.

Consultation

10. The SHNA involved considerable consultation with the Higher York student population, plus relevant stakeholders in and around the city.
11. Student engagement was carried out through an online survey (1827 responses), focus groups and community café events at each institution between November 2016 and January 2017.
12. Stakeholders contacted included health service providers (e.g. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), York Teaching

Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), emergency services (police, fire & rescue, Yorkshire Ambulance Service), staff from City of York Council (CYC) and the Higher York institutions and voluntary sector representatives (e.g. Samaritans, Street Angels, Mind York Head York and Survive). Stakeholder engagement involved an online survey, one-to-one discussions and regular contact with the York Student Mental Health Network (YSMHN). Staff focus groups were also carried out with members of support staff at the two universities.

13. The steering group for the SHNA also involved relevant stakeholders, including representatives from all four institutions, Vale of York CCG, the student unions and CYC public health and business intelligence teams.

Options

14. There are no specific options for the HWBB but they are asked to support the publication and dissemination of the SHNA report and the formation of a multi-agency partnership responsible for leading improvements to student health.
15. Health and Wellbeing are also asked if they wish to receive an annual update from the multi-agency partnership and if so whether they wish this to form part of the agenda for the next starting and growing well themed meeting in 2018.

Analysis

16. The SHNA report is presented as a short (summary) and long (full) version. By publishing in this manner the SHNA should be a) accessible to a wide audience, including students themselves (summary report) whilst b) retaining the ability to act as an evidence-based guide to support future work around student health (full report).

Strategic/Operational Plans

17. As discussed above, the SHNA forms part of the York Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the production of which is a statutory responsibility for the HWBB.

Implications

18. There are no risks identified for any of the following categories: financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime/disorder, information technology, property or other.

Risk Management

19. There are no risks identified regarding the recommendations below.

Recommendations

20. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider:
- i. Approving the SHNA report for publication and dissemination
 - ii. Supporting the formation of a multi-agency partnership to lead the ongoing work around improving health and wellbeing for York students
 - iii. Agree to receive an annual report from the multi-agency partnership at the next starting and growing well themed meeting

Reason: To keep Health and Wellbeing Board up to date in relation to the work around student health needs

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Report
Approved



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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report
Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – York Student Health Needs Assessment Summary Report

Annex B – York Student Health Needs Assessment Report (Full)

(Available Online Only)

Glossary

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

CYC – City of York Council

HWBB – Health & Wellbeing Board

JSNA – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

SHNA – Student Health Needs Assessment

TEWV – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust

YSMHN – York Student Mental Health Network

A glossary for the full SHNA report can also be found in Annex B.