

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday 14th May 2026

Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2026

Report by Director of Public Health and Communities

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to

1. Provide feedback on the proposed design of the 2026 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
2. Advise on the content of the 2026 JSNA, approach, and to highlight any additional topics and themes of research and intelligence interest that they would like to see included.
3. Via relevant officers in their organisations, contribute information and intelligence to the JSNA to further its development and participate in making information more accessible to everyone.

Executive Summary

4. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory annual report provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board and [published in full](#) on the [Oxfordshire Data Hub](#). It provides an evidence-base for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is an opportunity for an annual discussion about the key issues and trends from a review of a very wide range of health-related information about Oxfordshire. It should be used as a tool by all partners of the health and wellbeing board to ensure that services provided by their organisations are suitably tailored to the local needs in Oxfordshire identified by the JSNA. Neighbourhood health plans are expected to have due regard to the JSNA.
5. Producing the JSNA is a collaborative project with contributions from many analysts and sector specialists from Oxfordshire's Local Authorities, NHS, Thames Valley Police, Healthwatch Oxfordshire and Voluntary Sector organisations.
6. The JSNA is a contemporary assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of the population. However, information about services needed to address population needs is beyond the scope of the JSNA. In some cases, the data may not be recent enough to reflect changes in services.
7. Following last year's update, the JSNA is now presented across both interactive dashboards and written reports.

Help and Resources

8. Since the release of the JSNA, training sessions have been provided to services within Oxfordshire County Council. This has enabled officers to understand the new format of the JSNA and how to navigate the dashboards.
9. To meet the needs of users who are not Oxfordshire County Council employees, the council has created a range of documents and a [small collection of videos](#) that outline how best to use the JSNA to locate data and research.

User Feedback

10. Ahead of the commencement of work on the 2026 update, the council asked users to provide feedback of their use of the JSNA in its new form. 27 responses were submitted. The majority of these were council employees, with local authority officers and employees of voluntary and community organisations also represented.

Navigation and data sourcing

11. Overall, users feel positive about the JSNA. Most respondents feel confident navigating the JSNA (17), report that the data is easy to find (15), and prefer the new blended format (12).

Accessibility

12. Most respondents (22) report that the JSNA is accessible to them. 11 respondents claimed that the new dashboards are easier to use than PDF documents alone. 3 respondents recorded a negative sentiment for the ease of using the JSNA in its updated format. The council continues to work to ensure that the JSNA is compliant with accessibility legislation and guidance.

Training

13. Users had mixed feelings on whether training was sufficient to meet their needs. 11 respondents had no opinion on the training, with 7 reporting a negative sentiment. Following the release of the 2026 JSNA, a new training offer will be devised to better ensure that users feel confident when accessing the JSNA.

2026 JSNA

Update to the JSNA

14. The JSNA will continue to be presented via interactive Power BI dashboards alongside analysis and narrative reports for each chapter and its associated themes. The latter will be available in downloadable PDFs. This way, the council hope to leverage the benefits of digital tools while retaining the rich narrative that explains the findings of the JSNA.

Data and research due to be included in the 2026 JSNA

15. The council will seek input from the JSNA steering group to decide on the content of the 2026 edition. As a starting point, we will review the data and research that was included in the 2025 edition, a total of 435 indicators.
16. Additional requests that have been made since the publication of the 2025 JSNA include:
 - a. **Inclusion health groups.** This would constitute a complete update of the data and research that was included in the 2024 edition, and a more complete summary of the data and research therein.
 - b. Further data and research related to **homes and health**, using Hertfordshire's ['Health and Safe Places'](#) model as a starting point.
 - c. **Gambling harms.**
17. Additional requests will be prioritised based on their public health need, strategic alignment and developer capacity.

Marmot Place

18. Given Oxfordshire's status as a Marmot Place the JSNA has an important role in furthering an understanding of the health inequalities in Oxfordshire. The steering group will consider Marmot principles to highlight these inequalities in the development of the JSNA.

Future work

19. Throughout the coming months, the council will continue to work on the 2026 JSNA. It will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board for final approval ahead of its publication later in the year.
20. A steering group with representatives from partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board and other relevant stakeholders will be formed to provide guidance and feedback on the new digital format of the JSNA. This will ensure that it involves and reflects the needs of residents, patients and partners across Oxfordshire. Steering group members continue to be sought and the first meeting is planned for May 2026.
21. The council is open to modifying the structure and/or content of the JSNA to better meet the needs of colleagues and partners. For example, last year a new chapter titled 'Children and Young People' was introduced.
22. User testing of the digital JSNA 2026 will be undertaken upon completion of each chapter in the summer of 2026.
23. A communications plan for publication and dissemination of the key findings from the JSNA will be developed to support awareness and use of the JSNA across the council and partners

Financial Implications

24. There are no financial implications relating to this report as the work on publishing an annual JSNA and producing population forecasts is already accounted for within business-as-usual service planning.

Comments checked by:

Stephen Rowles, Strategic Finance Business Partner,
Stephen.rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

25. Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards have equal and joint responsibility to prepare JSNAs through the Health and Wellbeing Board. The purpose is to provide assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community.

26. To aid transparency and accountability, there is a requirement to publish the JSNA, showing what evidence has been considered and what priorities have been agreed and why, which will assist in demonstrating progress against objectives and focus on improving outcomes for everyone.

27. Local areas are however free to undertake the JSNA in the way that best suits the local community – there is no specific template or format that must be used and no mandatory data set to be included.

Comments checked by:

Janice White, Principal Solicitor - ASC, SEND and Education

NAME

Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director of Public Health and Communities

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: [Craig Miles-Clarke, Senior Research Officer](mailto:craig.miles-clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk)
craig.miles-clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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