

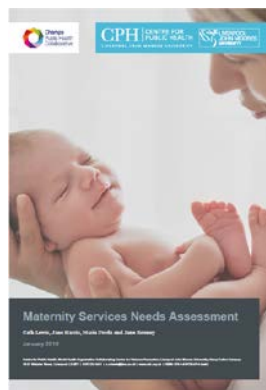
**Cheshire and Merseyside Intelligence and Evidence Service:
A Review of Impact
2015/16**

The Public Health Institute (PHI) at Liverpool John Moores University carried out an impact review of outputs produced as part of the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service, delivered on behalf of the Champs Collaborative during 2015/16. The review was conducted in order to understand the impact of the reports and to inform delivery of future publications.

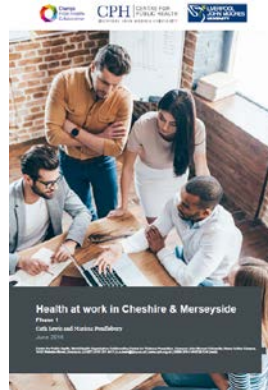
A total of seven reports were included within this impact review:



Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing: Review of Intelligence and Evidence (2015)



Maternity Services Needs Assessment (2016)



Health at Work in Cheshire and Merseyside (2016)



Health at Work – Liverpool City Region (2016)



The Case for Change: Evidence based interventions for public health and the health and social care system across Liverpool City Region (2016)



Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profile: Cheshire and Warrington (2017)



Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profile: Liverpool City Region (2017)

Impact was defined as the extent to which reports were used to inform priority setting, service development and service delivery. Evidence used to understand impact was gathered through an online survey, which was distributed via the Champs Collaborative to all members, and telephone interviews with a number of relevant stakeholders. It was anticipated that the telephone interviews would serve to elicit more in-depth information to accompany the survey findings. All Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health (DsPH) were invited to take part in the telephone interviews, as well as project leads and other key stakeholders.

Evidencing Impact

All stakeholders who provided feedback had found the reports useful and informative, describing how the reports had helped them in their respective roles. Examples were given of where reports had been used to provide a reference document, an evidence base, or to help set priorities. Stakeholders also said they would recommend the reports to colleagues; those who received reports had circulated them to a wide range of other professionals, both internally and externally, included to Directors of Children’s Services, and those working within Clinical Care Groups.

“It supports me in the work that I offer to children and young people, it helps create an evidence base as to why I carry out the particular interventions that I do” (Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profile)

“[The report] has already been used to set priorities for action within my local and Champs wide work” (Case for Change – Children and Young People)

“This shows the extent of the issues and the failure of current practice(s) to address them” (Case for Change – Children and Young People)

“It is useful to see the health needs across the region in one document” (Case for Change: Liverpool City Region)

A number of specific examples were provided where reports had been used to inform a specific activity, or inform the development of services:

The reports had been used to inform a Champs Collaborative ‘child health prioritisation’ event, held in April 2017, where delegates decided which child health issues should be a priority. The report was also passed on to the ‘Improving Me’ manager to feed into the Cheshire and Merseyside Women’s and Children’s Services Vanguard¹; the Vanguard is part of a national NHS England initiative, and aims to develop a network for women’s and children’s services across Cheshire and Merseyside to improve quality and increase value for money. The maternity needs assessment had also been used to feed into the Vanguard.

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/new-care-models/vanguards/care-models/acute-care-collaboration/cmwcs/>

The Case for Change report had been used to feed into the Sustainability Transformation Plan, and a number of the reports had been used to feed into the work of the Public Health Transformation Board. The Case for Change reports were described as a position statement; designed to feed into other processes. This report had played a part in the ‘devolution conversation’. The report had also been used to inform the process of ‘how we work together’, and which evidence base to use. Reports had been used in order to inform forward planning.

The Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing report had been described as possibly played a part in supporting the development of a successful funding bid. Here, the report ‘brought a focus’ which was then used in the funding application process.

The Maternity Services Needs Assessment was felt to highlight inequalities in services across Cheshire and Merseyside, and the reports were seen to have a role in influencing equity of services. For example, where services were exemplary in certain areas, the reports helped to demonstrate the need to implement similarly good practice in other areas. Reports were also seen to help to make a case for services to be standardised or to be of a uniformly high standard, although recognising that services may still need to be localised in order to meet differing needs of different areas. Reports were felt to be important in helping to identify health and wellbeing priorities in areas of deprivation.

The Usefulness of Outputs

The reports were described as a valuable resource, especially at a time of limited resources. The reports were generally viewed as being of robust and high quality, and as being well received by the DsPH. Stakeholders were asked their views about the quality of the report content and the information included. Overall, stakeholders felt the reports included good quality and relevant evidence.

“Diverse and include wide ranging examples”
(Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Profile)

“Not sure it could [be improved]. Very good report” (Case for Change: Liverpool City Region)

Infographics were viewed as being very useful; this was something that respondents described they would definitely like to see more of. The ‘Tube Stop’ was felt to be a particularly good example of this, as used in the Health and Wellbeing Profiles for Children and Young People.

Qualitative work was deemed to be very important, with stakeholders describing how the rich data had a big impact. Case studies were deemed to be very valuable in demonstrating the impact that particular services or interventions have on people’s lives. Here, examples were given of people who had shared their experiences of gaining access to employment or improving an aspect of their health.

Stakeholders felt that the inclusion of financial implications or benefits within reports was often very helpful. One example of this was the economic data that was provided by Local Authorities for inclusion in the worklessness report.

Stakeholders described using the reports to inform recommendations, to obtain relevant statistics, or to find local contacts regarding specific initiatives. The reports were viewed as 'reference documents', with some describing their continual use of a report.

The projects within the Intelligence and Evidence Service workstream are prioritised and selected by the Champs Collaborative and in liaison with a wide range of stakeholders. This was reflected as being an appropriate approach in terms of ensuring all projects are relevant. Stakeholders described that projects were very relevant and that they included current and appropriate evidence.

Comparisons between local and national profiles are included within reports, where relevant, and these were also seen to be particularly useful when informing priorities and understanding local issues.

Raising the Profile of Public Health and the Champs Collaborative

Several stakeholders described how they felt the reports had raised the profile of public health across organisations. The Case for Change report included sections (such as a focus on worklessness) that were relevant to Chief Executives and other leaders; these people found that the reports were useful and viewed this as evidence of the Champs Collaborative 'stepping up' to their agenda. This was felt to improve partnership working and raise the profile of the Champs Collaborative. People described how the evidence and intelligence had given professionals in other parts of local authorities the opportunity to see how the Champs Collaborative could be of benefit to them.

Other examples were given where people had used the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Profile as a tool to engage with a range of sectors including children, health, and public health. Another example was provided of where the recommendations from the Maternity Services Health Needs Assessment had been used to inform a wider audience.

Affecting Change

Some stakeholders felt that all recommendations made in reports had been fully or partially implemented; for example, the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Profile was viewed as having a role to play in bringing focus to an area. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of monitoring the extent to which recommendations are implemented, and the change that occurs as a result of this; it was recognised that it may be too early to fully gauge the impact of the reports, which were all published within the last 18 months of the current report being developed.

Recommendations were presented differently across the reports, with some including a 'Top Tips' section. Stakeholders acknowledged the importance of ensuring recommendations are specific, with details of who should be responsible for implementing these, in order to ensure they are put into practice.

Moving Forwards

Whilst many stakeholders felt that the reports were easy to understand, it is important to acknowledge that the work of the Champs Collaborative extends beyond the local authorities into a wide range of organisations. The range of audiences to whom reports would be appropriate could include technical audiences, commissioning managers and wider groups. As a result, it is imperative that reports continue to be accessible to a wide audience; language needs to be in 'plain English' and needs to avoid jargon and technical words.

The anticipated outcomes of every PHI Intelligence and Evidence project are made clear at the start of every project, and this should continue to be built in at the project planning phase. Stakeholders should be asked to consider the additional outputs that they require, such as child-friendly versions, for example.

Each project undertaken as part of the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service includes a steering group, identified by the Champs Collaborative. The steering groups comprise key stakeholders who are identified as having a key role in the identification or priorities, evidence and recommendations for particular projects. Stakeholders recognised the importance of engagement within and beyond the steering group. Future projects will continue to facilitate active engagement, particularly when determining intelligence and evidence priorities and in developing feasible and appropriate recommendations.

Much of the work undertaken as part of the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service covers topics which form key elements of the PHI strategy; as a result, projects include experts who provide research and topic support in an advisory capacity. This was viewed as a strength by stakeholders and will continue to be included as part of future project delivery.

The length of reports is important; many stakeholders felt the reports should be short and contain a concise summary. It was suggested that links could be included for readers to follow-up on more in-depth information on a particular issue, should they wish.

All reports produced by the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service are disseminated via Champs and published on the PHI website. All reports are also published within the intelligence reports section of the Champs Collaborative website. It is imperative that the reports reach the right people who can act on the recommendations. Although this is actively pursued, this could be further explored to ensure this happens in practice.

Most stakeholders had shared reports within their organisations and many had shared these externally. Key partners here included local Transformation Boards, Partnership Boards, Employment and Skills Boards and organisations such as the police. Moving forwards, we will continue to work with the Champs Collaborative to ensure that every project considers plans for effective communication and dissemination at the outset and that this is followed to explore impact.

Evidencing Long-Term Impact

Stakeholders raised the importance of evaluating the impact of the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service reports, in order to follow up on recommendations and assess how fully they have been implemented. Many recognised the importance of putting plans into place to understand whether change had actually occurred; however, many acknowledged that some change may not be evident until a number of months or years after recommendations have been implemented. Future PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service reports will consider measuring change from the outset and will include plans to measure and understand the impact of this in the longer-term.

Summary

In summary, the PHI Intelligence and Evidence Service reports were viewed as being informative and useful. A number of examples were provided of where reports had been used to inform a wide variety of commissioning documents, service reports, presentations and events. All reports were deemed to contain high quality and relevant evidence. People who received the reports had circulated these on to a wide range of colleagues which had improved the dissemination of evidence and raised the profile of the Champs Collaborative.

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