

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

CASE STUDY

East Sussex Downs and Weald, and Hastings and Rother PCTs and East Sussex County Council

The Problem

Producing a joint strategic needs assessment within a twelve week timeframe is hard work for any PCT. Faced with this task, East Sussex Downs and Weald and Hastings and Rother PCTs and East Sussex County Council realised that they needed outside help and in July 2007 went out to competitive quotation for the work.

Cynthia Lyons, Deputy Director of Public Health, says: "The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment underpins the three-year PCT Strategic Commissioning Plans and the Local Area Agreement and will play an important role in helping to reduce inequalities at a local level. It's a crucial tool that will inform the development of other local plans and strategies."

Meeting the Deadline

From the time CHKS was awarded the contract to delivery the timeframe had shortened to just six weeks. The PCT needed a lot of data collated and analysed quickly. **"We had a clear idea of what we needed to produce and CHKS helped the vision become a reality in a very short space of time,"** says Lyons.

A Collaborative Approach

Standardised reporting format was discussed and agreed at an early stage. Common data templates were issued and responsibilities for collation and processing identified. This meant CHKS was able to produce a number of detailed reports. These included indicators for individual GP practices, practice-based commissioning consortia, electoral wards, local authority districts and County Council level.

Mapping of health data to local government areas (and vice versa) was achieved via algorithms based on electoral ward of residence assigned to patients registered with local GPs.

The Result

As a result, the partnership between CHKS and the PCTs and East Sussex County Council yielded an evidence-based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment well ahead of other PCTs. "It has given us a good foundation on which to build plans for the future. It was hard work but well worth it," says Lyons.

For further information, please contact your CHKS consultant, call us on 01789 761600, e-mail information@chks.co.uk or visit www.chks.co.uk.

