

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 September 2021

Wards: ALL

Subject: Merton Story/Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Lead officer: Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Lead member: Cllr Rebecca Lanning, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Contact officers: Dr Yannish Naik, Consultant in Public Health

Recommendations:

1. To consider and, subject to final comment, agree The Merton Story 2021
 2. To support the dissemination of The Merton Story 2021 and associated JSNA products.
 3. To consider how the Merton Story can best inform partners' wider work going forward.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory assessment of population health needs for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Merton Story is the JSNA summary, refreshed and published on an annual basis.
- 1.2. This paper presents the draft version of the Merton Story 2021 and a two-page infographic summary of key messages (see appendices). The Merton Story 2021 focusses on the impact of COVID-19 particularly on health inequalities across the borough.
- 1.3. Due to the pandemic, local data availability has been somewhat limited, restricting the analysis possible for some topics in this years' Merton Story.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is an assessment of population health and wellbeing needs. It is not limited to an annual publication, but rather intended to be an ongoing process of refining and refreshing our understanding of the local health profile. This usual process was interrupted by the pandemic; therefore, the JSNA was simplified and cut short this year.
- 2.2. Production of the JSNA is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is led by the Public Health team, with contributions from other council departments, the CCG and other partners.

- 2.3. In Merton, the main annual publication of the JSNA has been renamed 'The Merton Story' as a more accessible term. However, the JSNA also includes a number of other user-friendly products, including Ward Health Profiles, Bulletins and in-depth Health Needs Assessments.
- 2.4. Members will recall that in August a draft copy of the Merton Story was circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.5. The Merton Story 2021 is composed of:
 - (i) The main document, in thematic sections, each headed by a number of key messages.
 - (ii) A two page infographic at-a-glance summary.
- 2.6. This structure is designed to meet the needs of a range of users, who vary in terms of the breadth and detail they require. The key messages are intended to summarise the most important points for decision makers and service leaders. The paragraphs that follow the key messages provide the detailed evidence upon which these are based.
- 2.7. The Merton Story 2021 has been structured differently to previous years. There are six main chapters, starting with a chapter on population demographics, which has been reduced compared to previous versions. The second chapter summarises the direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is followed by chapters entitled 'start well', 'live well' and 'age well', taking a life course approach to population health and wellbeing and mirroring the well- recognised headings of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Local Health and Care Plan. The final chapter covers 'healthy place', reflecting the fact that population health is determined, to a large extent, by the physical and social environment in which residents are born, live and work.
- 2.8. The theme running throughout the chapters is a focus on the impact of COVID-19 (both direct and indirect) and on inequalities in Merton.
- 2.9. The Merton Story is limited to describing the risk and resilience factors that influence health and wellbeing, and the distribution of diseases and deaths, using mainly quantitative population data, supplemented where available by qualitative insights.
- 2.10. While it is not the role of the Merton Story to cover performance of individual health and care services or to provide explicit recommendations, the document is intended to be a practical tool, which informs the actions of the Council and wider partners.
- 2.11. This year due to the pandemic local data availability was limited as well as public health analytical capacity, restricting the scope of analyses.
- 2.12. Members are asked to consider and agree this final draft of The Merton Story 2021, and to help to support the dissemination of this work, so that it can inform wider work across all partners and their contacts.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The JSNA is a statutory requirement of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. In the early stages of developing the Merton Story 2021, a meeting of key stakeholders and users of the JSNA was held to discuss which aspects of the previous version of the Merton Story could be omitted, and which areas should be expanded or added.
- 4.2. Draft key messages for each chapter have been developed through consultation with relevant stakeholders, within and beyond the Council. A full draft was shared with Health and Wellbeing Board members in August for comment.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. It is planned that, following agreement at the Health and Wellbeing Board, that the Merton Story 2021 be published. A dissemination plan will be developed and agreed with the Director of Public Health.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. No direct financial or resource implications. The Merton Story presents a summary narrative of population needs, to inform health and wellbeing partnership working, strategies and commissioning agendas.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. As noted above, production of a JSNA is part of statutory guidance for all Health and Wellbeing Boards.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Describing inequalities in health and social outcomes is a key theme in The Merton Story. Outcomes are compared between different areas of Merton, in particular between East and West, as well as between different population groups across Merton.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. No direct implications.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. N/A

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- The Merton Story 2021 main report – final draft
- The Merton Story 2021 – two page infographic summary

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