Developing a systematic approach to asset based health and social needs assessment

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Background
Traditionally health and social needs assessments have been developed from a deficit approach, focusing on community problems and needs. There is growing interest in working in new ways, using community assets to inform commissioning and service delivery. The Institute for Health and Human Development was commissioned by a London borough to support their transition to an asset based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), JSNA is a statutory requirement for local health and social needs assessment in England.

Method
A conceptual framework for asset based health and social needs assessment was developed as the basis for work undertaken to support the transition. The work included:

- supporting communications and engagement of stakeholders.
- scoping and assessing local assets that could be built on and scaled up.
- identifying unused and underused assets.

Results
The framework proved a useful tool to facilitate transition to asset based JSNA. The work provides a practical case study of how transition to asset based health needs assessment can be operationalised. The framework and approach have potential for application in other public health contexts.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the presentation to have learned about:

- the development of a conceptual framework to support transition to asset based health needs assessment.
- the experience of using the framework to support transition to asset based JSNA at local authority level.
- how the framework can be used to assess existing local activity that could be scaled up in moving to an asset based health needs assessment; including consideration of a number of case studies.
- how the framework has been further developed on the basis of the experience.
- opportunities to use the framework in other public health contexts.

Key messages
- There is a need for a more systematic approach to asset based working.
- The conceptual framework developed through this project is a useful tool in supporting policy change to more asset based working.