Announcing the Primary Care Needs Assessment (PCNA) tool

The Primary Care Needs Assessment (PCNA) tool has been released by the Primary Care Hub within Public Health Wales (PHW). The initial proof-of-concept (April 2019) is for testing purposes only, intended to demonstrate basic functionality and solicit feedback that will inform future development plans.

What is it?

PCNA was developed following engagement events held during 2018 (report here) to support clusters with action planning based on review of data on local needs and evidence-informed improvement options. It recognises that asking clusters (or public health teams) to do this independently has drawbacks, hence offers a national template for prioritised topics and functionality to deliver a more consistent approach. PCNA comprises:

- A downloadable interactive Excel **workbook** containing comparative data presentations (please start by downloading the workbook to begin at Step 1);
- An online set of **webpages** focussed on identifying data-linked improvement actions and decision support (these page links are built into the workbook, revealed when you toggle an indicator for review);
- An online **step-by-step guide** (view here; describes key features and offers guidance on using the tool);
- An online **indicator map and technical guide** (coverage, original data sources and interpretation notes; coming soon here).

Where can I find it?

Everything you need to use PCNA is available on our Primary Care One Wales website here:

http://www.primarycareone.wales.nhs.uk/pcna/

We advise viewing PCNA webpages with a recent version of Chrome (viewing in other/ older browsers may result in cosmetic defects; functionality will be reduced if JavaScript is disabled.) As a proof-of-concept release, the PNCA tool is available in English only; future releases with be in both English and Welsh.

What will it do for me?

For clusters (and those working with clusters), key PCNA benefits include:

- **Core data to support assessing population health**—currently found across a complicated array of different products from different intelligence providers— brought together into one tool to describe health needs at various local levels;
- **A concise summary of relevant strategic context** by topic, which supports planning alignment and includes concise refreshers on some key population health concepts.

- **Evidence-informed, practical improvement options** by topic, any of which could help develop a cluster strategic plan (a new requirement set out in the Primary Care Model for Wales delivery milestones for 2019/20; WG Mar 2019);
- **Prompts to capture key elements of transparent and inclusive decision making**, including recognition of the citizen voice, local assets and partnership opportunities, additional data requirements and initial thoughts on other planning considerations to inform wider discussion.

For local public health teams, key PCNA benefits include:

- Released time to support clusters with interpretation and public health advice, instead of each team having to pull together the data and evidence independently;
- Access to, and influence over, a clear synopsis of the national strategic steer, relevant data and evidence to support population health improvement and the reduction of inequalities tailored to be actionable at the cluster level.

For central public health teams, key PCNA benefits include:

- Improved integration and coordination between whole population and targeted local approaches, encouraging the wider health and care system to "pull in the same direction" around shared priorities that have complementary/ synergistic actions.
- An online communications conduit to clusters with easy version control by content curators, facilitating error correction, notification of new national service developments and revision in response to a dynamic evidence base.

Is it finished?
No, there are a number of enhancements that may be explored. These include:

- Identifying topic leads to double-check indicator review page content for accuracy and relevance. They will coordinate input from others to build consensus around shared public advice to clusters and seek to identify examples of successful action implementation across Wales in support of sharing good practice.
- Making the tool more integrated and its production more sustainable, through collaboration with the PHW Knowledge Directorate and other intelligence providers.
- Expansion of quilt tabling to include more statistical comparisons.
- Provision of data describing risk factor and long-term condition management, subject to PHW having improved access to primary care data.
- Integration with other cluster-oriented planning tools or requirements.
- New topic areas (e.g. well-being) and functionality, as prioritised via user feedback.

How can I give feedback?
We would be grateful for any feedback you have to share with us on this tool. Does it work for you? What could work better? We promise to consider any feedback carefully and are committed to reshaping the tool in the light of your feedback, as part of our efforts to make ongoing improvements. You can send us feedback via PrimaryCare.One@wales.nhs.uk or by using the online feedback form here.