



Northumberland County Council

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

12TH MAY 2022

Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) – Draft for consultation

Report of: Liz Morgan Interim Executive Director of Public Health and Community Services

Cabinet Member: Cllr Wendy Pattison Adult Wellbeing

Purpose of report

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with the draft Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) prior to it going out to formal consultation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Comment on the draft PNA.
- Approve progression to formal consultation.

Link to Corporate Plan

The PNA links to the following objectives in the Northumberland Corporate Plan:

- Living. Pharmaceutical services provide a range of wellbeing and healthcare services and support to enable improved health and wellbeing.
- Enjoying/Connecting. Pharmacy teams, located in the heart of communities, are assets which contribute to thriving places.
- Thriving. Community pharmacies range from large multiples to small independent businesses and are an accessible healthcare and wellbeing provider for visitors to Northumberland.

Key issues

The Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed the project plan for delivering the PNA at its February meeting. It directed that the draft PNA come back to the May HWB Board meeting before it goes to formal consultation.

The final PNA document must be published by 30th September 2022. Consultation has been planned to take place from May 16th 2022 (or shortly thereafter) until 18th July 2022. This is the statutory 60 days required by the regulations.

Public Health has worked closely with the CCG and other stakeholders through the Steering Group, in the production of this draft document to ensure that health needs and commissioning intentions are aligned.

Usually PNA documents are not contentious, however, the developers of the Health Campus at the Northumberland Specialist Emergency Care hospital may be disappointed that a gap in services has not been identified at the campus site.

Background

The Health and Wellbeing Board is the forum in which all organisations involved in health and social care are expected to develop a shared understanding of local population needs now and in the future. The Board's shared vision should determine locality developments, which can have an impact on health needs of the population, and how they will be met.

A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) describes the health needs of the population and the services delivered by community pharmacies, either which are already in place, or which could be commissioned to meet identified health needs. Currently services are commissioned from community pharmacies by either the public health team of the County Council (NCC), NHS England, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust or the clinical commissioning group (CCG). The PNA maps health needs and services to make sure there are no gaps; in order that the Board can be assured that the County's residents have good access to pharmacy services.

The responsibility for the development and updating of PNAs was transferred to health and wellbeing boards (HWB). Publication of this PNA was delayed by COVID, but revised regulations mean that an updated PNA is published by 30th September 2022 at the latest.

The PNA will be used to:

- ensure that decisions made by NHS England about applications for new pharmacies are based on robust and relevant information;
- help public health and CCG commissioners to commission services from community pharmacists and other providers to meet local need;
- support commissioning of high quality pharmaceutical services;
- ensure that community pharmacy services are commissioned to reflect the health needs and ambitions outlined within the joint strategic needs assessment; and the NHS five year plan
- facilitate opportunities for pharmacists to make a significant contribution to the health of the population of Northumberland.

The main purpose of the PNA will be to assist NHS England make decisions about whether additional pharmacies are needed in Northumberland. Additional pharmacies may be needed if there are significant new housing developments which would overstretch the current infrastructure. However there is a balance between current provision and a free market, as we need to ensure that the pharmacies are commercially viable, and in the locations which are best for all residents of Northumberland. Although there has been significant house building within Northumberland, the document does not identify any one area where current services do not meet local need. There is an acknowledgement that adequate services are dependant on supplementary (or voluntary) hours in excess of those which form the basis of the contract with the NHS).

The PNA is not a stand-alone document. It has been aligned with the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA), the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the NHS long term plan. The PNA will be used as a tool to help deliver the objectives of the Board e.g. delivering care in the most appropriate setting, reducing reliance on hospital care, supporting those with long term conditions, promoting wellbeing and preventing ill-health, and improving access to primary care.

Pharmacy Needs Assessment

Information has been gathered (and mapped) about the opening hours of all community pharmacies in Northumberland, the facilities they have and the services they provide.

The demographics and health needs of the different localities within Northumberland have been considered, along with planned changes in population, which may lead to changes in need for pharmacy services.

Provision of commissioned services has been mapped against health need. The Council currently commissions community pharmacies to provide;

- emergency hormonal contraception (through arrangements with Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust)
- smoking cessation services and nicotine replacement therapy
- supervised consumption of methadone
- needle exchange.

The CCG commissions the following services from community pharmacies

- minor ailments
- safe disposal of sharps
- availability of specialised drugs for palliative care
- seasonal flu vaccination

NHS England commissions the following services from community pharmacies

- Flu immunisation
- Community Pharmacy Consultation service
- New Medicines Service
- Hepatitis C testing
- Hypertension Case finding
- Smoking cessation
- Appliance Use Review and Stoma Customisation

The CCG and the Public Health team have worked closely together to produce the vision for future commissioning intentions from community pharmacists and their teams. The draft PNA is attached at Appendix 1.

Conclusions

There is adequate provision of NHS pharmaceutical services across Northumberland. The network of extended hour pharmacies are essential to meet patients' needs by widening access to pharmaceutical services outside core hours when other pharmacies are closed.

Appendix

1. Draft Northumberland Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022.

Implications

Policy	Agreement of the draft will ensure that the PNA is produced in a timely manner, and consultation follows the prescribed form. The development of a PNA is a statutory requirement
Finance and value for money	There are no direct financial implications for the council.
Legal	The council could face legal challenge if the PNA is not produced by 30 th September 2022
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	There are no specific implications for human resources, but development of the plan could lead to better collaboration and joint working across organisations
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Production of the PNA should ensure that disadvantaged groups have easy access to primary care health services from local pharmacies. It should also identify areas of health need which could be met by pharmacy services. We will review the need for a formal EIA following consultation.
Risk Assessment	The council is obligated to produce the PNA by 30 th September 2022 and then to update it on a regular basis.
Crime & Disorder	Commissioned services for opiate substitution provided by community pharmacies reduce the crime associated with illegal substance misuse
Customer Consideration	The fundamental aim is to ensure that pharmacy services are available to Northumberland residents.
Carbon reduction	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	By commissioning appropriate services through community pharmacies, the PNA will help optimise health gain.
Wards	All

Background papers:

[Pharmaceutical needs assessments: information pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

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