

HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA): Consultation Report and approval of final document

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

Cabinet Member: Cllr Wendy Pattison – Adult Health and Wellbeing

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to receive an update on the consultation and to ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the final Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) which has been updated as a result of comments received during the consultation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the updated Northumberland Pharmacy Needs Assessment.

Link to Corporate Plan Priorities

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 Council has a statutory duty to publish the PNA by 30th September 2022. The draft PNA was considered at the May 2022 HWB Board meeting before it went out to formal consultation
- Consultation took place between 13th May and 18th July 2022. This was slightly longer than the statutory 60 days but did take into account the extended public holiday at the beginning of June.
- Twelve written responses were received regarding the draft PNA: responses were received from two pharmacy contractors, a dispensing doctor, the Local

Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), Northumberland CCG, NHS England, Northumbria Healthcare Trust, and two from councillors. It was difficult to determine who the other respondents were as they did not give information in the online response.

- More than 650 responses were obtained by Healthwatch, who undertook a public engagement exercise about pharmacy services across Northumberland, with a focus on those areas which have seen a reduction in the number of pharmacies since the last PNA was produced
- Any factual inaccuracies have been corrected in the final PNA document. Consideration has been given to all other issues raised.

Background

A paper was brought to the May 2022 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This gave the full background detail about the PNA including the process for collecting the information; how the PNA would be used; and the services currently commissioned from community pharmacies.

Consultation

The following groups were consulted as instructed by the regulations:

- the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC);
- the Local Medical Committee (LMC);
- all those currently on the pharmaceutical list and all dispensing doctors in the County;
- Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (and its successor organisation the Integrated Care Board);
- Healthwatch Northumberland;
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and CNTW Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust;
- NHS England;
- the H&WBs in North Tyneside, Newcastle, Durham and Cumbria.

In addition the following groups were also consulted:

- all GP practices
- Parish Councils

Twelve written responses were received before the consultation deadline. There were responses from NHS England, Northumberland CCG, Northumbria Healthcare Trust, two councillors, North of Tyne LPC and Wellway Pharmacy Ltd.

All respondents thought that the document explained the purpose of the Pharmacy Needs Assessment and that it described accurately the pharmacy services available across Northumberland.

Four respondents did not think that the PNA adequately reflected local pharmaceutical needs. One respondent felt that surgeries who dispense for patients beyond a one mile radius are not financially compensated for providing these services. Remuneration issues are beyond the scope of the PNA.

One respondent thought that local provision was lacking in the vicinity of the proposed development of a Health and Wellbeing Centre near the NSECH site in Cramlington, and possible new housing developments. Concern was expressed that this could stifle potential models to redirect primary care patients away from the main hospital site. The increased opening hours of general practice at this site was not factored in. Another respondent felt that there were already adequate services in the Cramlington area.

A local councillor felt that the document did not consider future forecasted needs of an increasingly aging population, especially in rural communities with reduced or non-existent public transport options. Limited IT skills and poor broadband connectivity also disadvantage aging rural communities.

One respondent felt that the document needed more emphasis on the provision of clinical services by pharmacists. Pharmacy services not included in the draft document included

- Walk in emergency supply;
- The expanded *Think Pharmacy First* service available to a wider population;
- Nitrofurantoin service for urinary tract infections via a patient group direction;
- 24 hour collection point at Wellway pharmacy in Morpeth.

These services now feature in the final document.

The response from Wellway Pharmacy highlighted a novel 24 hour pick up service, where dispensed medicines are left in a locked storage containers, and the key code is texted to the recipient. This service proved very valuable during COVID as it allowed patients to collect their medicines from outside the shop and improved social distancing

All factual inaccuracies were corrected, and any other concerns were considered.

The main issues raised in the public consultation were:

- Lunchtime access to medicines when pharmacist is on lunch break
- Longer opening hours wanted
- Long waits/long queues/lack of privacy
- 48 hour wait to get prescription from doctor to pharmacy

The full consultation report and the Healthwatch report are contained in Appendix 5 of the final version of the PNA which is attached at Appendix 1.

Conclusions reached in final PNA

Northumberland County Council concludes that there is adequate provision of NHS pharmaceutical services across Northumberland. The Council considers that the network of extended hour pharmacies is essential to meet patients' needs by widening access to pharmaceutical services outside core hours when other pharmacies are closed. Any loss of 100 hour pharmacies or reduction in supplementary hours may lead to gaps in pharmacy services. The new enhanced service requiring doctors to provide appointments up to 8.00pm weekdays and between 9am and 5pm on Saturdays may lead to gaps in service. Commissioners, the LPC and LMC will need to work closely with GP surgeries and pharmacies to ensure that patients have access to medicines with this change to working practice.

Implications

Policy	Agreement of the final PNA will ensure that the PNA is produced in a timely manner.
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 1 st October 2022. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are not functions reserved to Full Council
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Production of the PNA should ensure that disadvantaged groups have easy access to primary care health services from local pharmacies. It also identifies areas of health need which could be met by pharmacy services. Nothing from the consultation suggested the need for a formal EIA.
Risk Assessment	The council is obligated to update the PNA by 1 st October 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.
Health and wellbeing	By commissioning appropriate services through community pharmacies, the PNA will help optimise health gain.
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers:

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments; Information Pack for local authority Health and Wellbeing Boards. Department of Health May 2013

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
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