



Northumberland

County Council

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

13TH JANUARY 2022

NORTHUMBERLAND PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

1. This report is intended to update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) of progress and plans for refreshing the statutory Northumberland Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and agreeing the lower geographical level for assessment.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the HWB:
- Support the plan and proposed timelines for the statutory review of the PNA; and
 - Approve the use of previous CCG localities as the geographical basis of the PNA.

Link to Corporate Plan

3. 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

4. Producing and publishing a PNA is a statutory responsibility of the HWB. The Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are statutory partners in this process.

Background

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

5. A Pharmaceutical Needs assessment (PNA) describes the health needs of the population and the services delivered by community pharmacies which are in place or could be commissioned to meet those identified health needs.

6. The main use of the PNA will be for NHS England to decide whether additional pharmacies are needed in Northumberland. Additional pharmacies may be needed if there are significant new housing developments and the current infrastructure will be overstretched. 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 the residents of Northumberland.

7. The HWB has a statutory duty to produce a PNA every three years. The requirement to produce a PNA in 2020 was delayed, due to the pandemic. The HWB is required to produce a PNA by September 2022. The DHSC produced updated guidance for Local Authorities in October 2021, which is much more prescriptive about what PNAs should contain. This is probably to ensure that the documents produced by local authorities are of a higher standard, and to reduce the number of applications going to appeal and litigation.

8. Work started in August 2021, and much of the information in the October guidance has been anticipated by the team working on the PNA, including:

- Establishment of a Steering Group, with the appropriate membership.
- Development of survey for Community Pharmacies.
- Development of a questionnaire for patients and the public.

Geographical areas to be used in PNA

9. The regulations require the HWB to divide the area into localities which reflect the needs of the local population. In the past District Council boundaries and CCG localities have been used to subdivide the County into manageable, locally focused areas. However, Primary Care Networks (successors to CCG localities) are groups of GPs who work collaboratively for patient benefit but do not reflect any pre-existing geographical boundaries.

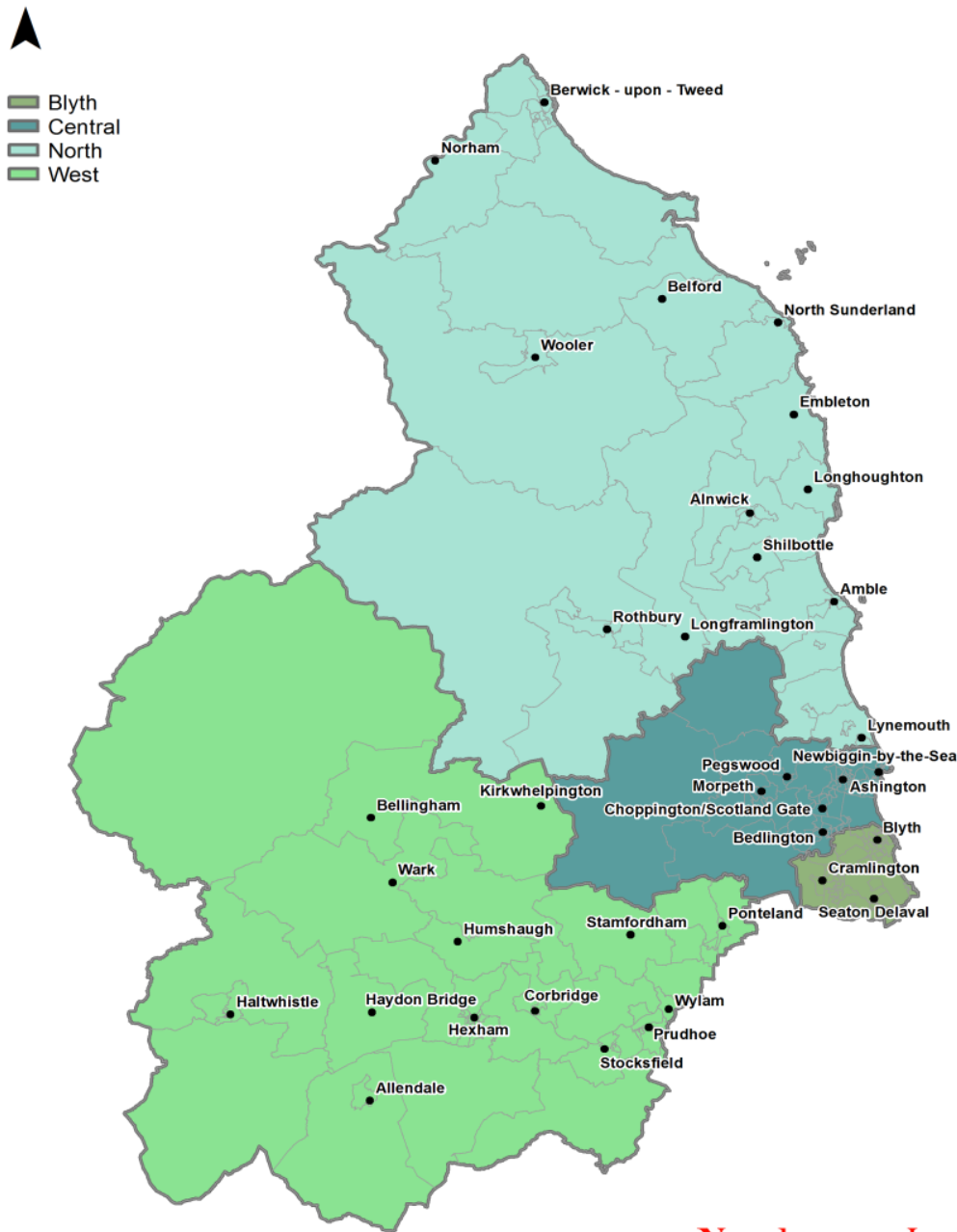
10. The county is too big to use as the locality of choice, as people in different parts of the county have very different health needs. Wards are too small as populations are not large enough on their own to support pharmacies. The best option would seem to be to use the previous localities used by the CCG, which split the county into 4 areas, North, West, Central and Blyth. This would allow us to identify hubs (market towns) where surgeries and pharmacies are currently located and ensure there are enough pharmacies to provide pharmacy services to the hubs and surrounding outlying areas. See Map 1 which identifies where there were surgeries in 2017. Housing development data can be adapted to fit with this model. An added advantage of using this approach is that the data would be comparable to the previous PNA and changes in demographic and health need could be compared.

11. Once the basis for localities has been decided, the justification for this must be included in the PNA, as this is a requirement of the 2013 regulations.

Timeline for production of PNA

12. The team responsible for producing the PNA started preliminary work in August 2021 and set up the Steering group by early September. However, delays in getting the community pharmacy survey out and the increased COVID pressures, has delayed production of the first draft of the document. The first draft of the document should therefore now come to the April 2022 HWBB, prior to going out for consultation in 60 days over April/May/June 2022. The final sign off for the completed document including any changes as a result of the consultation will need to be at the September 2022 HWBB.

Map 1. Northumberland CCG localities mapped over Northumberland LSOAs (2017)



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

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Implications

Policy	Already a statutory requirement
Finance and value for money	Resources identified within the Public Health Team
Legal	This is a statutory output of the Health and Wellbeing Board
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	Resources identified within the Public Health Team. There is an opportunity cost to other NCC departments contributing to the production of the PNA such as planning.
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	The PNA is fundamental in helping NCC address inequalities – health, social and economic
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	Recommendations may be made re crime and disorder
Customer Consideration	The PNA needs to be accessible to all Northumberland residents and to potential providers of healthcare services
Carbon reduction	The equitable and accessible provision of community based pharmacy services could contribute to carbon reduction by reducing the travelling distance required by residents.
Health and Wellbeing	The PNA is the main driver for ensuring capacity to deliver health and wellbeing plans, policies and priorities through community pharmacies
Wards	The PNA will seek to ensure that residents in all wards have reasonable access to pharmaceutical services

Background papers:

[Pharmaceutical needs assessments: Information pack for local authority health and \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Report sign off.

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

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