

TITLE	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – Wokingham Decision-Making Process
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board on 9 th February 2023
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR/ KEY OFFICER	Matt Pope, Director of Adult Services Karen Buckley, Consultant in Public Health, Wokingham Borough Council

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/priorities most progressed through the report	<p>Pharmaceutical services play an important role in the health and wellbeing of communities and contribute to a number of priorities across the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Wokingham's Strategy into Action.</p> <p>They are an accessible health care setting and support the provision of a wide range of services, including optimising use of medicines, stop smoking services, sexual health service, alcohol interventions and flu immunisation.</p>
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/priorities	<p>Pharmacy services contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the difference in health between different groups of people. • Supports individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives. • Helps children and families in early years.

Reason for consideration by Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board	<p>1.1 To provide the Board with an overview of the statutory responsibilities assigned in relation to the development of and ongoing update of pharmaceutical needs assessments (PNA).</p> <p>1.2 To obtain Boards decision on preferred local process for review of pharmacy change applications.</p> <p>1.3 To note and approve the Berkshire West Shared Public Health Team to publish supplementary statements (as required).</p>
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	Not applicable
State the financial implications of the decision	None

RECOMMENDATION
That the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board:

- To obtain Boards decision on local process for review of applications (see Decision Required section)
- Approve the Berkshire West Shared Public Health to publish any supplementary statements (as required) onto the Berkshire Observatory – Wokingham site alongside the PNA.

SUMMARY

The *Health and Social Care Act* (2012) gave the responsibility to Health and Wellbeing Boards for developing and updating Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs). The NHS Act (2006), amended by the Health and Social Care Act (2012), sets out the requirement for health and wellbeing boards to develop and update PNAs Relevant legislation under the Act is section [128A Pharmaceutical needs assessment](#).

PNAs are used and referred to in applications by those wishing to open new pharmacies, dispensing appliance contractor premises. It is used by NHS England and NHS Improvement to determine applications and, NHS Resolutions refer to them on appeal.

Wokingham's most recent PNA was undertaken throughout 2021/22 and was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board on the [1st September 2022](#) and published [here](#) on the 1st October 2022. The PNA will be reviewed by 2025.

There is [national guidance](#) which outlines HWB responsibilities and includes details on how to keep a PNA updated during its 'lifetime' and describes circumstances that may arise which could result in the Board either being required to produce a new pharmaceutical needs assessment sooner than the usual three yearly cycle, or when a supplementary statement may be published.

Analysis of Issues, including any financial implications

Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to establish and agree a local process for ongoing review and supplementary statements. This local process should support and link to the national guidance on decision-making (see Appendix 2 of national guidance) and relates to whether an application is/ is not relevant to the granting of market entry applications.

The Board is asked to note that notifications of change can be received at any time. The timeframe of any representation allowed is dependent on the type of application e.g. 45 days for consolidations of pharmacies, 3 weeks for pharmacy closures. A local process must take timelines into consideration in order to submit representation by deadlines (where applicable). Representation and subsequent actions required should be based on analysis of impact to current PNA provision.

Berkshire West Shared Public Health Team and Wokingham's Public Health Team have the necessary resource and expertise to undertake the analysis of the impact of applications and any changes to provision. Evidence and data would be used to

determine action i.e. no action, whether a new PNA is undertaken or if a supplementary statement is required to be published.

DECISIONS REQUIRED:

1. The Board must decide – on application, whether:
 - a) All Wellbeing Board members are notified via email for information or
 - b) OR if only Chair/Vice Chair and Public Health Team are notified.
2. Where no HWB is planned, the Board must decide – based on the data analysis in accordance with the PNA/national criteria, whether:
 - a) To hold an extraordinary HWB with a minimum quorum to make a decision
 - b) Delegate decision to Chair (or vice Chair in their absence) and Public Health Consultant (or senior Public Health officer in their absence)
 - c) Review circulated by email to all HWB members for a decision

Based on the data analysis in accordance with the PNA and national criteria the decision to be made is whether a review of the PNA is required or a supplementary statement.

The outcome is to be presented at next scheduled meeting for information at next public Wellbeing Board and Berkshire West Public Health Shared Team will publish supplementary statements (as required) or review PNA as required.

Partner Implications

Health and Wellbeing Boards (and Local Authorities) may face judicial review where there is failure to develop and publish a PNA that complies with minimum requirements for documents, due process in development and publication dates.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-25 Report.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Wokingham PNA 2022-2025](#)

[Information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards](#)

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