

Agenda Item 17.

TITLE	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – how need is assessed
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 5 July 2023
WARD	None Specific
KEY OFFICER	Karen Buckley, Consultant in Public Health

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

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.

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.

Pharmacy services contribute to:

- 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To summarise the process of a pharmaceutical needs assessment and how need is assessed.

Background

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)

The PNA development process included:

- a review of the current and future demographics and health needs of Wokingham population determined on a locality basis
- a survey of Wokingham patients and the public on their use and expectations of pharmacy services
- a survey of Wokingham pharmacy contractors to determine their capacity to fulfil any identified current or future needs
- an assessment of the commissioned essential, advanced, and enhanced pharmacy services provided in Wokingham
- a 60-day PNA consultation that ran from the 10th June 2022 to 9th August 2022

There are three key considerations.

- Accessibility - has been determined by using a 1-mile radius from the centre of the postcode of each pharmacy. This is approximately a 20-minute walk from the outer perimeter of the buffer zone created. In addition, for rural populations, 20 minutes travel time by car is considered accessible. At the time of the PNA there were 21 community pharmacies located within Wokingham. There were a further 22 community pharmacies located within a mile of Wokingham's border.
- Provision – of essential services, enhanced services (e.g. new medicine service, community pharmacy seasonal influenza vaccination, community pharmacist consultation service, hypertension case-finding service) and NHS services (needle exchange and supervised consumption, sexual health services, tailored dispensing services)
- Opening hours – core Monday to Friday hours (8am to 6pm), as well as evening and weekends.

Overall, the PNA concluded that there is good pharmacy coverage to provide essential services across the borough both inside working hours (8am to 6pm) and outside normal working hours. It was concluded that there is currently sufficient provision for the advanced services and NHS services to meet the likely needs of residents in Wokingham.

Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to establish and agree a local process for ongoing review and supplementary statements. This local process is aligned with national guidance on decision-making and relates to whether an application is/is not relevant to the granting of market entry applications.

Notifications of change can be received at any time and is dependent on the type of application e.g. 45 days for consolidations of pharmacies, 3 weeks for pharmacy closures. Representation and subsequent actions required are based on expert public health analysis of impact to current PNA provision. Evidence and data are used to determine action i.e. no action, whether a new PNA is undertaken or if a supplementary statement is required to be published.

Partner Implications
Reduction in dispensing location in Wokingham.
Increase demand in services for remaining community pharmacy providers.
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.

Public Sector Equality Duty
Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required. – equalities are a core consideration of the PNA process.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
Wokingham PNA 2022-2025.pdf (modern.gov.co.uk)
Pharmaceutical needs assessments: Information pack for local authority health and (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Contact Karen Buckley	Service Public Health
Telephone No	Email karen.buckley@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank