

Adults, Wellbeing & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

19th January 2018



Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2018-21

Report of Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health County Durham, Adults & Health Services

Purpose of the report

1. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is responsible for the production of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) every 3 years. The current HWB-led PNA 2015-18 can be found at www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/17588/Pharmaceutical-Needs-Assessment.
2. The next PNA is due for publication by the HWB on 1st April 2018 and is currently undergoing a statutory 60 day public consultation at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation. This began on 28th November 2017 and closes on 26th January 2018. Following this consultation the HWB will approve a final version of the PNA in March 2018 before publication by 1st April 2018 at www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/17588/Pharmaceutical-Needs-Assessment.

Background

3. A PNA considers the health needs of the population and the provision of pharmaceutical services (i.e. community pharmacies and dispensing GP practices), and therefore whether there are any potential gaps in pharmaceutical service delivery. It is used by NHS England in its consideration of applications to join the pharmaceutical list (i.e. applications to open new pharmacies / GP practice dispensaries in County Durham), and by commissioners of pharmaceutical services (e.g. pharmacy services commissioned by the Public Health Department and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)). The PNA for County Durham links to the health needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). An updated PNA must be produced by the HWB every 3 years.
4. The Public Health Department leads on the development of the PNA on behalf of the HWB. A small steering group was established in May 2017 in order to oversee the development of the PNA 2018-21. Membership consists of:
 - Public Health - Public Health Pharmacist, Consultant in Public Health
 - Transformation and Partnerships - Public Health Intelligence Specialist, Partnership Manager
 - Spatial Policy Team – Senior Policy Officer
 - The Local Pharmaceutical Committee
 - A CCG Medicines Optimisation Lead

- Healthwatch
5. The public consultation at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation asks questions that are based on the work of a previous Healthwatch online survey of pharmaceutical services (see Appendix 2).
 6. The key conclusion of the draft PNA 2018-21 is that there are sufficient pharmaceutical services across County Durham. This can be demonstrated with the following points:
 - (a) There is a good distribution of pharmaceutical services in areas of high population density, and in areas with more significant health needs (i.e. areas with a high population density of older people, and in areas of deprivation).
 - (b) A reasonable distribution of pharmacies exists with extended and weekend opening hours in all localities. However, this may need to be reviewed as the development of urgent care services proceeds.
 - (c) The estimated builds of future housing developments by 2021 will not require new pharmaceutical services.
 - (d) County Durham has 24 pharmacies per 100,000 population. This is higher than the England average of 21 per 100,000.
 7. This key PNA conclusion should be kept under review by the HWB particularly as urgent care services develop, and as part of the HWB ongoing responsibility to continue to assess the impact of any future changes to pharmaceutical services. If a change to a pharmaceutical service is judged by the HWB to be significant (i.e. judged to have an impact on future pharmaceutical service provision) then the HWB publishes a supplementary statement against the PNA to this effect. This could then open up the market to potential new providers of pharmaceutical services. Appendix 3 illustrates the recent work of the HWB against the current PNA 2015-18.
 8. The other key conclusion of the draft PNA 2018-21 is that there is still scope to further develop locally commissioned services from the existing pharmacies in order to further support priorities in the JHWS. These services should particularly focus on:
 - (a) The growing older population, the health and social care integration agenda, and incorporating pharmacy services into Teams Around Patients (TAPs).
 - (b) The further expansion of community pharmacy based public health services (e.g. Stop Smoking Services) now that every pharmacy is working towards becoming a Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) as part of the national pharmacy contract introduced in December 2016.
 - (c) Continuing to ensure that pharmacy supports key priorities in the Sustainable and Transformation Plans (STPs) around prevention and self-care.

Recommendations

9. Adults, Wellbeing & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the draft PNA 2018-21 before the statutory 60 day consultation ends on 26th January 2018.

Background papers

The draft PNA 2018-21.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – No significant implications within the current public health financial arrangements for public health pharmacy services

Staffing – No implications with the current public health staffing structure

Risk – No significant implications since the HWB will be fully supported to consider the implications of any future changes to pharmaceutical services

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – No implications

Accommodation – No implications

Crime and Disorder – No implications

Human Rights – No implications

Consultation – Statutory 60 day consultation December 2017 – January 2018

Procurement – No significant implications within the current procurement arrangements for public health pharmacy services

Disability Issues – No implications

Legal Implications – Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the HWB is responsible for the production of a PNA every 3 years

Appendix 2: Public consultation questions

The statutory 60 day consultation at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation provides a generic email for responses and a small number of consultation questions which are:

1. Do you feel that pharmacies or GP practice dispensaries are easily accessible in your area?
2. Are there any other services that should be available from a pharmacy or GP practice dispensary?
3. Is there any way that pharmacy or GP practice dispensary services could be improved?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the overall conclusion that there are sufficient pharmacy and GP practice dispensary services across County Durham?
5. Please tell us any other comments you may have about the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2018/21.

These questions are based on a previous Healthwatch online survey which was carried out in the summer of 2017 with a view to gaining an initial insight into how a small sample of the public (total of 164 responses) are accessing pharmaceutical services and their overall views of the services they receive.

The results of this survey are described in the draft PNA 2018-21, and include that 93% of people who responded to the survey can easily access pharmaceutical services.

Appendix 3: Closure of the Weardale Practice dispensary in October 2017

On 27th November, the HWB discussed the closure of the Weardale Practice dispensary and whether this closure could leave a significant gap in essential pharmaceutical services.

The key points that were discussed at the HWB included that:

- The GP practice did not give patients the usual 3 month notice for the closure, however it did act quickly to prevent dispensing patients being put at risk of potential medication errors due to a lack of suitably trained dispensary staff.
- The GP practice dispensary was only dispensing approximately 14% of all the prescriptions issued by the practice, and was only open a half day Monday – Friday.
- The two nearest pharmacies in Stanhope and Wolsingham are already dispensing over 80% of the prescriptions issued by the practice and both indicated that they can manage an increase in workload.
- The GP practice can electronically transmit prescriptions to a pharmacy of a patient's choice negating the need for the patient to collect a repeat prescription from the practice.
- Stanhope Pharmacy is implementing changes to its goodwill delivery service to accommodate vulnerable patients.
- Emergency medicines will continue to be provided directly from the doctor's bag.
- The GP practice has offered to attend a further Overview & Scrutiny Committee in order to provide an update.

The decision of the HWB was that this dispensary closure does not leave a significant gap in essential pharmaceutical services in the area.

Please note that in this case, the HWB then issued a voluntary supplementary statement against the current PNA 2015-18 clearly stating the above facts. This statement can be found at

www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/17588/Pharmaceutical-Needs-Assessment.