

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD
17 MARCH 2022**

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REVIEW

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) of progress and plans for refreshing the statutory Darlington Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). A new PNA must be produced by 30th September 2022.

Summary

2. Producing and publishing a PNA is a statutory responsibility of the HWBB. The Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are statutory partners in this process.
3. The Director of Public Health commenced the review process in autumn 2021, with key tasks, such as scoping and data collection, set out in the guidance already completed.
4. The PNA expires this year and requires to be reviewed, updated and published by 30th September 2022. This includes a statutory 60 day consultation period before final sign off.
5. The schedule of the HWBB meetings for 2022 is not conducive to meeting the statutory deadlines set by NHS England for completion of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:-
 - (a) Support the plan and proposed timelines for the statutory review of the PNA;
 - (b) Approve delegated authority for a sub group to sign off the completed document.
 - (c) Review the draft of the PNA at the next Health and Wellbeing Board before it goes out to public consultation.

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The production and publication of the PNA is a statutory duty of the HWBB under The NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012
 - (b) The PNA expires in 2022 and a new one requires sign off no later than 30th September 2022.
 - (c) The timetable for HWB meetings does not fit with the deadlines set by NHS England .

- (d) The regulations allow for delegated authority from the HWBB to a nominated individual to sign off the PNA.

Penny Spring
Director of Public Health

Background Papers

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

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing	The PNA is a statutory duty of the HWBB and will ensure that essential community pharmacy provision is sufficient for the needs of the people in Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
Council Plan	This supplements the Council Plan in supporting the growth of the borough
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers or amend

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. 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. The PNA will map the health needs and the services to make sure there are no gaps, in order that Darlington Borough Council can be assured that its residents have good access to pharmacy services.
9. Services from community pharmacies are commissioned by local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, NHS Trusts, NHS England and other bodies.
10. The main use of the PNA will be for NHS England to decide whether additional pharmacies are needed in Darlington. 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 Darlington.
11. The HWBB has a statutory duty through the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to produce a PNA every three years. The requirement to produce a PNA in 2020 was delayed, due to the pandemic.
12. The HWBB is now required to produce a PNA by September 2022. The DHSC produced updated guidance for Local Authorities in October 2021, which is prescriptive about what PNAs should contain. This is to ensure that the documents produced by local authorities are consistent to a standard and content to help reduce the number of applications for new community pharmacies across England, going to appeal and litigation with NHS England.

13. Work started in autumn 2021, and much of the information in the October guidance has been followed by the team working on the PNA, including:
 - (a) establishment of a Steering Group, led by Public Health
 - (b) development of survey for Community Pharmacies
 - (c) development of questionnaire for patients and the public
14. The timeline for the for production of the PNA is attached in Appendix 1
15. The deadlines for the completion of the PNA imposed by NHS England do not fit with the schedule of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
16. To meet these deadlines, it will be necessary to delegate responsibility for final sign off to a subgroup. This should consist of the Chair of the HWB and The Director of Public Health.
17. The draft of the PNA will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board before it goes out to public consultation.
18. A report on the formal consultation along with any relevant comments, will be included in the final published document.

