

Note to: Exec Member

Written by: Shan Wilkinson

Date: July 2022 – reviewed September 2022

Ref No:

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update

1 Purpose

This note is to update Exec Member of the plans for the refresh of Bolton's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

2 Background

The production of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory responsibility of a Health and Wellbeing Board (in Bolton the Active Connected Prosperous Board fulfils this role). A PNA must take account of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) but is a separate statutory requirement. NHS England are the primary users of the PNA. The production of a PNA is the main part of the Health and Wellbeing board's role in relation to pharmaceutical services, however there are associated ongoing responsibilities.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are notified of changes to pharmaceutical services by NHS England. These provide an opportunity to review the overall provision of services. If there have been substantial changes which may affect NHS England's decision-making process then a new PNA may need to be prepared ahead of schedule. In many cases however, the impact will not be this significant and a 'supplementary statement' can be issued, setting out details of the change and that the likely impact is minimal. An example of a minimal change might be a relocation or merger of a pharmacy where the site to remain open is in very close proximity to the closing site, offering substantially the same opening hours and services. Supplementary statements are published on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing board alongside the PNA on <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment>

The Health and Wellbeing board is also offered the opportunity to respond to pharmacy notifications of proposed changes. There is no obligation to comment and there is no set information they are looking for. What they would be most interested in is the local perspective that the decision makers (at Greater Manchester, where our local NHS England decisions are made) might not be aware of such as plans going on in the background or other things that might impact on it, or other aspects of the proposal that are

particularly positive or negative. While any comments made will be taken into account, the decision remains with NHS England.

NHS England uses the PNA to assess applications for pharmacies which wish to open or relocate to meet a need, improvement, or better access to pharmaceutical services as identified in the PNA:

- Where a new pharmacy wishes to open, NHS England assess the application against the recommendations of the PNA (the 'market entry test'); NHS England is not obliged to grant all applications dependent on the wishes of the Health and Wellbeing Board, because NHS England would be responsible for funding the pharmacy.
- Where a pharmacy wishes to close the premises, they are required to notify NHS England.
- Where a pharmacy wishes to relocate, they may apply to do so as a 'routine application' to meet a need, improvement, or better access identified within the PNA, and which would result in a significant change to pharmaceutical services provision in the relevant Health and Wellbeing Board area. Alternatively they may do so under an 'excepted application' in this case the relocation must meet the tests that demonstrate it does not result in a significant change to pharmaceutical services provision; relocations that do not cause significant change are not judged against the PNA.
- Where two pharmacies at two different sites wish to consolidate into one site, NHS England will approve the consolidation only if it does not create a gap in the provision of pharmaceutical services.

The content of PNAs is set out in Schedule 1 to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The PNA must contain:

- A statement of the pharmaceutical services provided that are necessary to meet needs in the area;
- A statement of the pharmaceutical services that have been identified by the HWB that are needed in the area, and are not provided (gaps in provision);
- A statement of the other services which are provided, which are not needed, but which have secured improvements or better access to pharmaceutical services in the area;
- A statement of the services that the HWB has identified as not being provided, but which would, if they were to be provided, secure improvements or better access to pharmaceutical services in the area;
- A statement of other NHS services provided by a local authority, the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England), a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) or an NHS Trust, which affect the needs for pharmaceutical services;
- An explanation of how the assessment has been carried out (including how the consultation was carried out); and
- A map of providers of pharmaceutical services.

As defined, pharmaceutical services in relation to PNAs include:

- Essential services: Services that every community pharmacy must provide and is set out in their terms of service – the dispensing of medicines, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and support of self-care;
- Advanced services: Services provided subject to accreditation – such as Medicine Use Reviews (MUR), New Medicine Service (NMS), Appliance Use Reviews (AUR), Stoma Appliance Customisation (SAC).

- Locally commissioned services: These services can be contracted via a number of different routes and by different commissioners, including local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (now transferred to Integrated Care Boards) and NHS England's area teams.

3 Key Information

The PNA was out for statutory consultation 1st July – 31st August 2022, following which amendments were made.

The refreshed PNA was endorsed by Bolton's Active Connected Prosperous Board (which performs the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board) on 27th September 2022, ready for publication by 1st October 2022. A refreshed PNA must be published by 1st October 2022.

The PNA is published on the Bolton JSNA website <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment>