

Health and Wellbeing Board Briefing Note

Completion of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory duty for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to undertake at least every 3 years. The purpose of this briefing note is to provide a further update to the HWB at its meeting on 11 July 2022 regarding progress to date and the timescales for finalising the PNA.

Subject: North East Lincolnshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

1. Background

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is a report on the present and future needs for pharmaceutical services in North East Lincolnshire. The PNA is used to identify gaps in current services or improvements that could be made in future pharmaceutical provision. To prepare the report, data is gathered from a range of sources including pharmacy contractors, dispensing GPs, pharmacy users, residents, and from a range of sources including commissioners and planners. The report includes a range of maps and local intelligence produced from data collected as part of the PNA process.

The Health and Social Care Act (2012) transferred responsibility for developing and updating PNAs to Health and Wellbeing Boards. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs.

The HWB is required to complete a PNA at least every 3 years. In June 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government suspended the statutory duty for HWBs to produce a revised PNA by 1 April 2021. [Updated guidance](#) issued in November 2021 now requires the next PNA to be published by 1 October 2022. This will be the third PNA published by the HWB, with previous PNAs published in 2015 and 2018.

2. Statutory Requirements

The PNA is a factual document detailing provision of pharmaceutical services at a snapshot in time. It is not a commissioning document but may be used in conjunction with other relevant documents, such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, to determine provision and need for future health services within North East Lincolnshire.

A 60-day consultation with specified stakeholders is a mandatory component of PNA preparation. The consultation follows a period of data gathering on health needs, service provision, and the views of residents, on existing levels of pharmacy provision. The consultation enables stakeholders to comment on the findings of the draft PNA. It is anticipated the consultation questions will broadly cover the following:

- Do you feel that the draft PNA accurately shows what current pharmaceutical provision is in place within North East Lincolnshire?
- Do you feel the draft PNA reflects the needs of the North East Lincolnshire population?
- Has the pharmaceutical needs assessment provided information to inform market entry decisions i.e. decisions on applications for new pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractor premises
- Do you feel there are any gaps or additional information that should be included?

- Do you agree with the overall findings of the draft PNA?

The regulations list a range of stakeholders who must be consulted:

- the local pharmaceutical committee,
- the local medical committee,
- pharmacy and dispensing appliance contractors included in the pharmaceutical list for the area of the HWB,
- dispensing doctors included in the dispensing doctor list for the area of the HWB (if any),
- any pharmacy contractor that holds a local pharmaceutical services contract with premises in the HWB area,
- Healthwatch, and any other patient, consumer, or community group in the area which the HWB believes has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services,
- any NHS trust or NHS foundation trust in the HWB area,
- NHS England and NHS Improvement, and
- any neighbouring HWBs.

In addition, the HWB is free to consult with any other organisation and/or members of the public if it so wishes, but it is not obliged to do so.

3. Process and Timescales

A PNA Steering Group accountable to the Director of Public Health has been convened which includes representation from North East Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, North East Lincolnshire Care Plus Group, Health Watch North East Lincolnshire, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, the NHS England and NHS Improvement, and Primary Care Commissioning. Work originally started in 2020 before being paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A patient survey and a pharmacy contractor survey have already been completed with the findings informing the draft PNA.

The draft PNA document is due to be completed by 11 July 2022 to enable the 60-day consultation process to take place between 12 July and 11 September 2022. The HWB will continue to be kept informed with progress but is asked to delegate responsibility for approving the draft PNA ready for consultation to the Director or Deputy Director of Public Health. The draft PNA and consultation questions will be available online, and all stakeholders that must be consulted, will be invited to participate.

The results of the consultation will be considered by the PNA Steering Group at its meeting in mid-September and a final PNA document produced. This document needs to be signed off by the HWB prior to publication by 1 October 2022, or the HWB may wish to delegate to a nominated officer such as the Director of Public Health. Due to the tight timescales, it will not be possible to present the final version to the HWB at its 5 September meeting. Therefore, if the HWB wishes to sign off the final version this will need to be conducted by email.

4. Next Steps

- The PNA steering group to finalise work on the draft PNA by 11 July 2022.
- The draft PNA is due to be out for the 60-day consultation between 12 July and 11 September 2022.
- The HWB to receive another briefing update at its meeting on 5 September 2022, which will include any responses received via consultation at that point.

- The HWB will be required to sign off the final PNA, by email, ahead of it being published on 1 October 2022, or delegate this to a nominated officer.

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