

4 March 2015**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****APPROVAL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the development of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA describes available pharmaceutical services and assesses whether they meet the health and wellbeing needs of local residents. The report asks the Health & Wellbeing Board to approve the final PNA for publication on the County Council website.

Information and Advice

2. Pharmaceutical services within Nottinghamshire are provided by:
 - a. 170 community pharmacies
 - b. 1 distance selling (or internet) pharmacy
 - c. 17 dispensing practices
 - d. 8 Dispensing appliance contractors.
3. Pharmaceutical services include contracted '*essential services*' such as providing prescription medicines and safe disposal of medicines. In addition, community pharmacies are important providers of supplementary health services to their communities such as medicines reviews, health promotion and self-care services (such as smoking cessation, emergency hormonal contraception and minor ailments.)
4. The local Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) describes available pharmaceutical services across Nottinghamshire County and ensures that these services meet the needs of the population and that they are in the correct locations to support the residents of Nottinghamshire.
5. The PNA also provides NHS England with robust and relevant information to support decisions around new and altered pharmaceutical services. The Health & Wellbeing Board is included in the consultation for these pharmacy applications.
6. The PNA includes an overview of the pharmacy regulations with regard to pharmaceutical needs assessment and sets out the process followed by the PNA steering group in the development of the PNA.

7. The steering group noted the complexity of the task in drawing together the relevant information on pharmaceutical services. Since the implementation of the Health & Social Care Act, the responsibility for commissioning community pharmacy services has become the responsibility of NHS England, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Authorities. This fragmentation of the system is viewed as a major barrier for commissioning new community pharmacy services. The Health & Wellbeing Board is well placed to provide oversight to support a coordinated approach to commissioning across a multitude of providers, including community pharmacies.

Statement of Pharmaceutical Need

8. The PNA has not identified any significant gaps in pharmaceutical services for the Nottinghamshire County population. Nottinghamshire County is well served by community pharmacies providing a range of services that correspond to local health needs. Access is good and there is a good spread of pharmacies with extended opening hours in the evening and at weekends.
9. A public consultation on services provided by pharmacies did not identify any significant issues with current provision. However, comments received indicated a development need for pharmacies around accommodating deaf clients and being more sensitive to privacy issues when dispensing prescriptions.
10. Over half of respondents to the public survey expressed an interest in additional services that could be provided by pharmacies. These include weight management, NHS Health Checks, cholesterol testing, blood pressure monitoring and pain management. However as the public survey response rate was very low, further research is needed to establish if this reflects the wider views of residents and addresses local need.
11. According to the regulations governing PNAs, the council will need to ensure the PNA is reviewed after 3 years, in 2018. However an earlier review will be carried out if there are significant changes to local need or provision that need to be re-assessed. Supplementary statements will be issued regularly to publish small changes in pharmaceutical services that are not deemed to warrant a full review of the PNA (such as changes in ownership, opening hours or change in number of pharmacies, that do not cause a significant impact on the level of pharmaceutical services or need.)

Future Community Pharmacy Services

12. The formal consultation raised some new ideas for services that pharmacies could offer. Specific reference was made for services to support older people, people living with dementia, tackling loneliness, falls prevention and bone health checks. Furthermore, older people in care homes are at a greater risk of medication errors than most other groups, and additional services could help improve patient safety for these people.
13. The widespread access to community pharmacies across Nottinghamshire County provides an opportunity to make better use of the skills and experience of this workforce to contribute to improvements in health and wellbeing. Commissioners of services may wish to explore new delivery models to utilise this resource. Commissioning of new services would need to be considered subject to further research into need, acceptability, clear evidence of benefit and value for money and improved health outcomes.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory requirement of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the regulations require that the PNA be published by April 2015.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. There are no direct financial implications related to the PNA. Any plans to commission new services will need to explore financial implications and value for money.

Implications in relation to the NHS Constitution

17. The PNA supports the effective commissioning of pharmaceutical services to address local needs that are accessible to everyone who wishes to use them. It therefore supports the delivery of the NHS Constitution.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

18. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out to confirm that all relevant population groups had been considered in the health needs assessment.

Implications for Service Users

19. An estimated 1.6 million people choose to visit a pharmacy each day. Access to an appropriate range of pharmaceutical services across the network of community pharmacies will help support improvements in health and wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for publication on the Nottinghamshire County Council website.

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Constitutional Comments (ADK 18/2/2015)

20. The Health and Wellbeing Board has authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report and is the authority responsible under statute for the PNA publication.

Financial Comments (DG 20/02/2015)

21. See note in Paragraph 16 regarding financial implications.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2010 published at:
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/strategydevelopment/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/>
- Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/349/pdfs/uksi_20130349_en.pdf

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All