

CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Reports Cover Sheet

Title of Report:	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 Update
Date of meeting:	16 September 2025
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Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Dr Rod Thomson, Interim DPH

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Why is the report being brought to the board?	The purpose of this paper is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) with a final version of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022-2025 for approval prior to publication by 1 October 2025		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?	Creating a place that supports health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Enable more people to live well for longer <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	Equality and Fairness <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is asked to approve the final version of the PNA for publication on the Cheshire East Council website by 1 October 2025.		
Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	The report has been taken to the Cheshire East Council Adults, Health and Integration Directorate Management Leadership Team, prior to the submission to the HWB.		

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?	Yes – The draft PNA underwent formal public consultation between 1st April 2025 and 10th June 2025. Following this, findings were considered and actioned to ensure further detailed explanation as to the rationale for the conclusions drawn within the PNA.
If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.	The PNA provides a comprehensive overview of current and future pharmaceutical need, and pharmaceutical provision across Cheshire East that can be referred to by a wide range of stakeholders, including the NHS. PNAs are used by the NHS to make decisions on which NHS funded services need to be provided by local community pharmacies. These services are part of local health care and public health and affect NHS budgets. PNAs are also relevant when deciding if new pharmacies are needed, in response to applications by businesses, including independent owners and large pharmacy companies.

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) with a final version of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022-2025 for approval prior to publication by 1 October 2025.
- 1.2 The final version of the PNA includes findings from public consultation and a summary of responses and/or amendments made to the report following this.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board approves the final version of the PNA for publication on the Cheshire East Council website for 2025-2028.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 From 1st April 2013, every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in England has had a statutory responsibility (Section 128A of NHS Act 2006, as amended by Health Act 2009 and Health and Social Care Act 2012) to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area, referred to as a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA). Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an up-to-date statement of pharmaceutical needs every 3 years.
- 3.2 PNAs are used by the NHS to make decisions on which NHS funded services need to be provided by local community pharmacies. These services are part of local health care and public health and affect NHS budgets.
- 3.3 Health and Wellbeing Boards need to publish revised PNAs for their area every three years. The last PNA was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 27 September 2022. The latest PNA must be published by 1 October 2025.
- 3.4 The final version of the PNA (2025-2028) incorporates feedback from the consultation and amendments made after considering an analysis of the responses received

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

4.1 The production of the PNA supports all four outcomes from the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023-2028: Community pharmacies have a vital role in achieve these outcomes. Outcome 1 - Cheshire East is a place that supports good health and wellbeing for everyone, Outcome 2 - Our children and young people experience good physical and emotional health and wellbeing, Outcome 3 - The mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East is improved and Outcome 4 - That more people live and age well, remaining independent; and that their lives end with peace and dignity in their chosen. It is a statutory requirement.

5 Background and Options

5.1 Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an up-to-date statement of pharmaceutical needs. A revised PNA must be published by the 1 October 2025. The previous PNA was published in September 2022: Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board, Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/health_and_wellbeing_board/health_and_wellbeing_board.aspx

5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board approved delegation of the day-to-day authority for the development of the revised PNA to the Director of Public Health on 2 July 2024 at minute number 10.

5.3 The PNA covers community pharmacy opening times, services delivered from community pharmacies, and accessibility.

5.4 The production of the PNA was overseen by the Cheshire East PNA Steering Group, which included representation from:

- Cheshire East Council Public Health
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Healthwatch
- The Chair of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and of the Local Pharmaceutical Network
- Local Medical Committee representatives

5.5 The production of the draft PNA involved:

- Analysis of data relating to pharmaceutical need and demand from wide and varied sources
- Regular consultation with members of the Cheshire East PNA Steering Group

- A public survey, and incorporation Healthwatch conversations regarding pharmacies
- A dispensing doctors survey
- A community pharmacy contractors survey.

5.6 Within the draft PNA, provisional findings indicated that current pharmaceutical provision across Cheshire East borough was assessed as adequate in terms of location, opening hours and pharmaceutical services offered to the population.

5.7 The draft PNA underwent public consultation from 1st April 2025 to 10th June 2025. This involved invitations for all key stakeholders to feedback. Key stakeholders were identified by the Cheshire East PNA Steering Group through examination of the national guidance and of the local Equality Impact Assessment. The consultation was publicised via: a media release through local and regional media channels; and on the Council's website, Facebook and Twitter channels.

5.8 A total of 18 completed responses were received. The number of responses was considerably lower than for the last PNA in 2022. There are several reasons for this: -

- Increased promotion of the public survey this time. This meant that issues from residents and users were raised and responded to earlier in the PNA process.
- In the 2022-2025 PNA consultation most responses were from residents of a particular area. This disproportionate representation from this area was skewing the analysis of both the closed questions and the concerns raised in the open questions (free text responses).
- The last PNA was undertaken in 2021-2022 during the Covid-19 pandemic. Community pharmacy services were a vital part of the healthcare system during Covid and the vaccination delivery programme. This did mean that waits for prescriptions were longer, and queues could appear long due to social distancing measures.

5.9 The consultation report is included as Appendix 1, and also at Appendix G within the final full PNA document (Appendix 2). In addition, the short Plain English Summary of the PNA has been updated to provide further clarity following consultation (Appendix 3).

5.10 The draft PNA 2025-2028 concluded that pharmaceutical provision within Cheshire East is currently satisfactory. 82% of respondents agreed with this statement (14 out of 17 respondents to this question, 6 of whom strongly agreed (question 10 in the Table A). Importantly, no respondents disagreed with this statement. Furthermore, no respondents strongly disagreed with any of the statements included within the consultation questionnaire.

5.11 A total of 11 respondents gave additional detail in the nine open questions: All open responses were analysed to identify themes:

- most respondents gave multiple comments spanning several themes across the open questions.
- There were 16 individual concerns raised by 9 of the respondents, across 5 identified themes.
- All respondents who gave a negative response in one or more of the closed questions gave some feedback in the open questions
 - 9 (60%) of these were from residents of Cheshire East
 - A further 4 concerns were from 2 people whose responses were on behalf of an organisation but also live within Cheshire East
 - A further 3 concerns were from 2 people living outside of Cheshire East

- 5.12 All concerns raised through the consultation have been summarised in Table B of the consultation report (Appendix 1). This table also summarises actions taken to address this feedback. All concerns raised have been duly considered and where necessary, appropriate actions taken and documented in a formal action log.
- 5.13 Updated population projections were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the 24th of June 2025, after the 2025-2028 PNA public consultation. This new data has been incorporated and considered in the final draft. This updated section has also been included as a separate appendix to this paper (Appendix 5).
- 5.14 The Steering Group have examined this revised population information, together with all the consultation responses received. After careful consideration and seeking appropriate advice if required, they have concluded that the original statement remains valid, that **there is adequate provision when location, number and distribution of pharmacies providing essential and advance services during standard core hours to meet the needs of the Cheshire East population over the time frame of this latest PNA.** Nevertheless, over the lifetime of this PNA, the public health intelligence team will actively consider pharmacy issues and need on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. They will regularly consider the need for additional (supplementary) statements to update on any substantial changes that emerge.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/349/contents/made>
- 6.2 The 2023 amendments to the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013: [NHS England » Guidance on the NHS \(pharmaceutical and local pharmaceutical services\) \(amendment\) regulations 2023](#)

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Appendix 1 PNA 2025-2028 Appendix G Final

Appendix 2 PNA 2025-2028 EIA, which will be published at the same time as the 2025-2028 PNA

Appendix 3 PNA 2025-2028 Exe Summary Final

Appendix 4 PNA 2025-2028 Plain English Summary Final

Appendix 5 PNA 2025-2028 Section 4.2.4 Resident Population Forecast