

Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	14 June 2022
Report Title:	Briefing note on the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment- Update
Report of:	Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health
Report Reference No:	To be provided by Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNA) production.
- 1.2. The production of the PNA supports three Outcomes from the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-21: Create a place that supports health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East; improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East; and enable more people to live well for longer.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an up-to-date statement of pharmaceutical needs every 3 years.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Within the draft PNA, provisional findings indicate that current pharmaceutical provision in the towns and villages of Cheshire East borough is assessed as adequate in terms of location, opening hours and pharmaceutical services offered to the population (See appendix for Executive Summary).

2.4 The draft PNA has been published for a formal period of consultation ran from 1 April 2022 to 10 June 2022. Scrutiny Committee members were invited to consult at the start of the consultation period.

2.5 As at the 31 May 2022, 90 complete responses and 331 partial responses have been received. A comprehensive analysis of these responses will be undertaken and amendments to the PNA made accordingly. Findings will also be summarised in a specific consultation report. The PNA will be submitted for final approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September prior to publication on 1 October 2022.

3. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is to note the progress in the production of the PNA and that the consultation findings may result in an amendment to the draft PNA once they have been evaluated.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1.** Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in England has had a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area and the production of the PNA is in line with this duty
- 4.2.** The PNA process links to ensuring that Cheshire East Council: works together with residents and partners to support people and communities to be strong and resilient; and reduces health inequalities across the borough.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1.** As the production of the PNA is a statutory requirement, the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board must publish a finalised PNA by 1 October 2022. There is no other option.

6. Background

- 6.1.** Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish an up-to-date statement of pharmaceutical needs every 3 years.
- 6.2.** 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.
- 6.3.** PNAs are also relevant when deciding if new pharmacies are needed, in response to applications by businesses, including independent owners and large pharmacy companies. Applications are keenly contested by applicants

and existing NHS contractors and can be open to legal challenge if not handled properly.

6.4. The PNA covers community pharmacy opening times, services delivered from community pharmacies, and accessibility in relation to disability, language needs, ethnicity, sexuality, and rurality. The production of the PNA has 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, which brings together representatives from key organisations across Cheshire East
- A public survey, and incorporation of 2 questions regarding pharmacies as part of broader Healthwatch conversations
- A dispensing doctors survey
- A community pharmacy contractors survey

6.5. A revised PNA must be published on the 1 October 2022. This represents an extended deadline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The day-to-day responsibility for the development was delegated to the Director of Public Health (on 23 November 2021 at minute number 31). The Health and Wellbeing Board will be presented with the final draft in September 2022 for sign-off. A contingency arrangement of a virtual sign-off has been agreed in case the September meeting is cancelled, or timing is not sufficient to meet publishing deadline of the 1 October 2022.

6.6. Within the draft PNA, provisional findings indicate that current pharmaceutical provision in the towns and villages of Cheshire East borough is assessed as adequate in terms of location, opening hours and pharmaceutical services offered to the population.
NB Appendix A provides more detail on the findings related to the above.

6.7. Through examination of the available information, the draft PNA has not identified current or anticipated future need for new NHS pharmaceutical service providers in Cheshire East.

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1. Formal consultation on the draft PNA ran for the statutory period from 1 April 2022 to 10 June 2022. Key stakeholders as identified in the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations were consulted and invited to share their thoughts and comments on the draft PNA. Stakeholders were invited to consider whether the purpose of the PNA is clearly stated, whether it reflects the current provision of services within their area, whether it reflects the needs of the local population, and have they

identified any information gaps which could affect the statutory statements or conclusions in the document.

7.2. By the 31 May 2022 90 complete responses and 331 partial responses had been received.

7.3. A comprehensive analysis of these responses will be undertaken and amendments to the PNA made accordingly. Findings will also be summarised in a specific consultation report. The PNA will be submitted for final approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September prior to publication on 1 October 2022.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

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).

8.2. Finance

This report is undertaken by the Public Health team within Cheshire East Council on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. There are no financial implications to the Council aside from the time and resources it has taken to produce the report and conduct the consultation. These resources form part of the existing Public Health ring-fenced budget and therefore no changes are required to the Council's existing Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

8.3. Policy

None identified. This is a statutory report to be published to inform NHS England of the local picture. NHS England is the decision-making body about the commissioning of new pharmacy premises.

8.4. Equality

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed. It highlighted the need to proactively promote the PNA with certain population groups more, due to the low number of responses to the public survey. This has been addressed as part of the formal consultation process. Its recommendations/decisions here (Appendix B).

8.5. Human Resources

None identified

8.6. Risk Management

None identified. This is a statutory report to be published to inform NHS England of the local picture. NHS England is the decision-making body about the commissioning of new pharmacy premises.

8.7. Rural Communities

Both rural and town areas of the Council’s footprint are considered as part in this report.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

There are no direct implications for children and young people.

8.9. Public Health

This work and its recommendations aim to guide improvement of public health in relation to pharmaceutical services through intelligence-informed approaches.

8.10. Climate Change

The PNA includes consideration of ways in which local pharmacies promote wellbeing and healthy lifestyles and illness prevention.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix A Executive Summary draft PNA Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	