

Cheshire East Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-25

Executive Summary

(with reference to the full PNA draft)

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) are carried out to assess the current and future needs for pharmaceutical services in the local population. They ensure that community pharmacy services are provided in the right place and meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory responsibility to conduct a PNA at least every three years. This PNA follows the 2018 version of the PNA. NHS England is required to use the finalised PNA to consider applications to open a new pharmacy, move an existing pharmacy or to commission additional services from a pharmacy. The national deadline for its production was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PNA covers opening times ([Chapter 12](#)), services delivered ([Chapter 7](#)), and accessibility in relation to disability, language needs, ethnicity, sexuality, and rurality ([Chapter 16](#)). 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 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 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. ([Appendix A and Appendix E](#))
- A dispensing doctors survey. ([Chapter 10 and Appendix F](#))
- A community pharmacy contractors survey. ([Appendix B](#))

Conclusion

Based on this PNA, currently 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.

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

1.1 Current need

- There is currently an adequate level of community pharmacy provision in every major town in the Borough. The maps show that this provision is mostly located either in the town centres or close to GP surgeries. There are bordering pharmacies accessible for

residents and the number of pharmacies in Cheshire East is near to the national average. [\(Chapter 21\)](#)

- The public survey shows that 77% of participants are satisfied with the pharmacy services received. The majority of participants were also satisfied with pharmacy opening hours (75% satisfied) and that it was very easy to get to their usual pharmacy (65%). Where residents left comments, common themes included: being unsatisfied with the prescription/dispensing service (7%); long waits (6%); being unsatisfied with opening hours (5%), being unhappy with service from staff (3%). [\(Appendix A\)](#)
- The current dispensing workload as demonstrated by the number of items dispensed per pharmacy is not significantly different to the England average. [\(Chapter 11\)](#)
- There are six practice premises in Cheshire East at which dispensing doctor services are available to eligible patients. Some of these practices cover very rural areas. Patients who receive dispensing doctor services are able to be supplied with medicines, but they may not be able to benefit from the wider range of essential and advanced services that community pharmacies are able to provide, or the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and public health commissioned services. [\(Chapter 10\)](#)
- According to the Tartan rug, the town of Crewe experiences the greatest extent of deprivation in the Borough, and it also has the highest levels of premature mortality. There is a lower level of community pharmacy provision in the Crewe care community area and particularly in the north of the town, although the number of pharmacies per 100,000 population is still reasonable in terms of the national range [\(Chapter 11\)](#). Consideration has been given within this and the previous PNA in relation to the planned housing developments in the area [\(Chapter 15\)](#). However, we are assured that this area is adequately provided for by the pharmacies in central Crewe and the local independent provider in North East Crewe. The public survey respondents who reside in Crewe raised no concerns regarding access to pharmacies in terms of location.
- The pandemic has shown that community pharmacy has been resilient and adaptable. Being located in the heart of communities, many with high levels of deprivation, the pharmacies have been essential and valuable to residents, supporting them in their own communities. [\(Chapter 19\)](#)
- There is good coverage of pharmacy provision opening hours, with extended opening hours from 6.30am and throughout the day up to midnight. Care community areas with no evening or weekend provision are able to access the 100 hour pharmacies in neighbouring care communities and pharmacies outside of Cheshire East. [\(Chapter 12\)](#)

1.2 Future need

- The prescribing of medicines is predicted to grow by 7.7% by 2024 and a further 6.3% increase by 2029. This is a total increase in medicines use of 14.4% over the ten year period. Increases of this magnitude are likely in all areas of the country. Existing pharmacies may have to increase their capacity and review their working practices to meet this need. [\(Chapter 15\)](#)
- When using the Office of National Statistics population projections, pharmaceutical need is predicted to increase to a greater extent in the Knutsford care community and the Bollington, Disley and Poynton care community. The current dispensing workload is higher in the Bollington, Disley and Poynton care community (7,432) than the

England average (6,565) which is consistent with having fewer pharmacies per 100,000 population¹. However, this high volume of dispensing may be attributed by cross-border activity as the Bollington, Disley and Poynton care community borders with neighbouring local authorities. There are pharmacies in neighbouring authorities available for residents to access pharmaceutical services from. This might involve a change in the skill mix and capacity within each pharmacy to cope with the predicted additional demand. *(Chapter 11)*

- Most of the increase in prescribing need will occur among older people. This PNA has highlighted several issues relevant to older people, including poor physical access to some community pharmacies, and insufficient accessibility aids in some pharmacies. *(Chapter 16)*
- We have taken consideration of the main strategic sites of planned housing developments in relation to current pharmaceutical provision, and Cheshire East is generally well provided for. One area of concern is the planned South Cheshire Growth Village at Basford, Crewe. Consideration of the proposed site suggests that the health needs of the population will be adequately met by Rope Green Medical Centre and the associated Well Pharmacy as well as pharmacies in central Crewe. However, this will need to be monitored as the development progresses. *(Chapter 15)*

1.3 Recommendations

- Patients who receive dispensing doctor services are able to be supplied with medicines, but they may not be able to benefit from the wider range of essential and advanced services that community pharmacies are able to provide, or the Clinical Commissioning Group and public health commissioned services. Existing pharmacies may have to increase their capacity and review their working practices to meet this need.
- Most of the increase in prescribing need will occur among older people. This PNA has highlighted several issues relevant to older people, including poor physical access to some community pharmacies, and insufficient accessibility aids in some pharmacies. It is recommended that NHS England, Cheshire East Council and NHS Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group review accessibility of pharmacy sites, service quality and uptake, including consideration of cultural and equalities needs.
- When using the Office of National Statistics population projections, pharmaceutical need is predicted to increase to a greater extent in the Knutsford and Bollington, Disley and Poynton care communities. The current dispensing workload is higher in the Bollington, Disley and Poynton care community (7,432) than the England average (6,565) which is consistent with having fewer pharmacies per 100,000 population². This might involve a change in the skill mix and capacity within each pharmacy to cope with the predicted additional demand.
- A potential future gap of pharmaceutical provision in Basford, Crewe was identified due to a large planned housing development. It is recommended that this is monitored

¹ NHSBSA General Pharmaceutical Services - England 2015/16-2020/21, Summary Tables, NHSBSA Copyright 2022. This information is licenced under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

² NHSBSA General Pharmaceutical Services - England 2015/16-2020/21, Summary Tables, NHSBSA Copyright 2022. This information is licenced under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

for pharmaceutical provision as the housing development progresses over the lifecycle of this PNA.

- Pharmacies have a continued important case-finding role in relation to high blood pressure.
- Pharmacies continue to have a role in support patients to recover quickly from minor ailments.