

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update and Timeline

Report of the Director of Public Health and Communities

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

It is recommended that the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board notes and approves the proposed development timeline for the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025-28 for Devon.

2) Background / Introduction

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is an assessment of the current and future pharmaceutical needs of the local population. The PNA differs from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as it looks at how pharmaceutical needs can be met by pharmaceutical services commissioned by NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The PNA is utilised by the NHS Devon ICB Primary Care Commissioning Team to inform:

- decisions regarding which funded services need to be provided by community pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors in Devon
- whether new pharmacies or services are needed
- decision-making about the relocation of existing pharmaceutical premises in response to applications by providers of pharmaceutical services
- the commissioning of locally Enhanced services from pharmacies

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Health and Wellbeing Board have a legal duty to ensure the production of the PNA. The Health and Wellbeing Board are required to publish a revised assessment within three years of the previous publication. The last publication was 1st October 2022.

In Devon, the PNA is developed in partnership with a Devon-wide PNA steering group on behalf of the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board. This steering group includes representation from Devon, Plymouth and Torbay local authorities, NHS Devon ICB Primary Care Commissioning Team, the Local Medical Committee, and Community Pharmacy Devon.

3) Timeline for completion of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

The following timeline is proposed for the completion of the 2025-2028 PNA for Devon, to reflect government guidance, consultation requirements, and publication deadlines:

- Production of Draft Devon PNA 2025-28 led by Devon County Council Public Health Intelligence Team by early May 2025
- Draft PNA for consultation to be published in early May 2025, marking the beginning of the 60-day consultation period, which will end in early July 2025
- Review of consultation responses and consideration of any resultant implications and updates to PNA during July and August 2025
- Production and sign-off of final PNA in late August or September 2025, including opportunity for board members to review and comment.

Updates on progress on the PNA will be provided at the July 2025 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting and the final version presented and shared at the October 2025 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

4) Options / Alternatives

Nil

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

Nil

6) Strategic Plan

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment as a statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board aligns with the Devon County Council Plan 2021 – 2025: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan/> priority of 'Improving Health and Wellbeing'

7) Financial Considerations

Nil

8) Legal Considerations

Nil

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

Nil

10) Equality Considerations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for promoting health equality, and the Pharmaceutical will support the Board in these aims.

11) Risk Management Considerations

Nil

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

Nil

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