

From: **Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health**

To: **Kent Health and Wellbeing Board 16 September 2022**

Subject: **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022-2025**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: N/A

Summary:

Since 1 April 2013, every Health and Wellbeing Board has had a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs of pharmaceutical services for the population in its area. This is referred to as the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA provides an overview of the pharmaceutical services of Kent and detailed statements for each of the local authority areas. The pharmaceutical needs assessment also looks at changes which are anticipated within the lifetime of the document.

These include the predicted population growth and health needs. It identifies any gaps in pharmaceutical needs now and in the future. Access to pharmaceutical services for the residents of Kent is good and the main conclusion of the pharmaceutical needs assessment is that there are currently no gaps in provision of pharmaceutical services.

Given the current predicted population, housing projections and distribution of service providers across the county, the document concludes that the current provision will be sufficient to meet the future needs of the residents during the three-year lifetime of the pharmaceutical needs assessment, with the exception of specific areas in three localities: Folkestone & Hythe, Ashford and Maidstone

Recommendation(s):

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to **APPROVE** the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and **NOTE** that the previously approved PNA process has occurred.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment from Primary Care Trusts to Health and Wellbeing Boards on the 1 April 2013.
- 1.2 The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the legislative basis for developing and updating

PNA's can be found at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/349/regulation/3/made>

- 1.3 Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in England has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the need for pharmaceutical services in its area, otherwise referred to as a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). Each HWB was required to publish its own revised PNA for its area by 1st April 2015 and to renew it every three years. Kent published revised versions in 2015 and 2018. Due to the pandemic, publication of the next revision was delayed nationally until 1 October 2022
- 1.4 The main aim of the Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is to describe the pharmaceutical services in Kent and systematically identify any gaps/unmet needs, consulting with stakeholders and making recommendations on assessed gaps and future developments.
- 1.5 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is a key document used by NHS England and the local area Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee (PSRC) to make decisions on new applications for pharmacies and change of services or relocations by current pharmacies. It is also used by commissioners reviewing the health needs for services within their particular area, to identify if any of their services can be commissioned through pharmacies.

2. The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

- 2.1 The Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment consists of 20 chapters.
- 2.2 Chapter 1 sets out the regulatory framework for the provision of pharmaceutical services which, for the purpose of this document, include those services commissioned by NHS England from pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors and the dispensing service provided by some GP practices to eligible patients. It also contains the views of residents in the county on their use of pharmacies and information provided by contractors which could not be nationally sourced.
- 2.3 Chapters 2 and 3 give an overview of Kent's demographics and the health needs of Kent. Chapter 4 identifies specific groups of people who have protected characteristics or particular health needs that would benefit from pharmaceutical services.
- 2.4 Chapter 5 focusses on the provision of pharmaceutical services in Kent and those providers who are located outside of the county but who provide services to residents of the county. Services which affect the need for pharmaceutical services either by increasing or reducing demand are identified in chapter 6. Such services include the hospital pharmacies, the GP out of hours service and the public health services commissioned from pharmacies by Kent County Council via providers. Having considered the general health needs of the population, chapter 7 focusses on those that can be met by pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors.

- 2.5 Chapters 8 to 19 provide a detailed pharmaceutical needs assessment of each local authority area.
- 2.6 Chapter 20 is the conclusion of the report and identifies the gaps in pharmaceutical services provision.
- 2.7 The statutory required public consultation of the PNA document occurred for 60 days, 21 June to 21 August 2022. A report of the consultation is found in appendix 1. It details the responses received and the subsequent 6 minor changes made to the PNA document.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has the following conclusions based on the information available at the time of developing the PNA, for the 12 localities of Kent.

3.2 Present:

- There are no current gaps in the provision of **essential services during or outside normal working** hours that have been identified in any of the twelve localities.
- That there is sufficient capacity to meet the demand for **advanced services**.
- There are no current gaps in the provision of the **New Medicine Service, Community Consultation service and flu vaccination advanced services** that have been identified.

3.3 Future:

- There are future gaps in provision of **necessary and essential pharmaceutical services** in specific areas of three localities that have been identified, namely **Folkestone & Hythe, Ashford, and Maidstone localities**.
- There are future gaps in provision of **advanced pharmaceutical services** in specific areas of three localities that have been identified, namely **Folkestone & Hythe, Ashford, and Maidstone and for greater coverage of newer advanced services in Kent's rural areas**.
- There are no gaps in respect of securing improvements, or better access, to **enhanced service** in specified future circumstances that have been identified in any of the twelve localities.

4. Recommendation

Recommendation(s):

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to **APPROVE** the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and **NOTE** that the previously approved PNA process has occurred.

5. Background Documents

The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs and can be found at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/349/regulation/3/made>

Appendix 1 – Consultation Report

Appendix 2 – Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

6. Contact details

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