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**From:** Diane Morton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

**To:** Kent Health and Wellbeing Board, 25 September 2025

**Subject:** Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025-2028

**Classification: Unrestricted**

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### **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). As part of its responsibility, the Health and Wellbeing Board is also required to reassess and revise the PNA within three years of its previous publication.

The PNA provides an overview of the pharmaceutical services of Kent and detailed statements for each of the local authority areas. It looks to identify gaps, if any, in pharmaceutical service provision now and in the future. Population changes anticipated within the lifetime of this document are taken into consideration, such as the predicted population growth and health needs.

Given the current predicted population, housing projections and distribution of service providers across the county, the 2025-2028 PNA concludes that NHS pharmaceutical service are well distributed across Kent, serving all the main population centers. There is adequate access to a range of NHS services commissioned from pharmaceutical service providers; no gaps in the provision of necessary pharmaceutical services have been identified either now or in the next three years.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to **APPROVE** the final 2025-2028 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and **NOTE** that the previously approved PNA process has occurred.

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## **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 (the regulations) set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs.
- 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 is required to publish, revise and renew its PNA at least every three years (for Kent, the last PNA was published in September 2022).
- 1.4 In the interim, supplementary statements may be published to describe changes to the availability of pharmaceutical services when relevant to the granting of applications or preventing significant detriment to the provision of pharmaceutical services. Once published, supplementary statements form part of the PNA.
- 1.5 The main aim of the Kent PNA is to describe the pharmaceutical services in Kent and systematically identify any gaps/unmet needs, consult with stakeholders and make recommendations for service improvement.
- 1.6 The PNA is a key document used by the National Health Service (NHS) 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 2025-2028**

- 2.1 The final draft of the PNA has been developed with support from a specialist provider (commissioned via a competitive tender process) and oversight from the Kent PNA Steering Group.
- 2.2 Section 1 is the introduction and sets out the purpose and scope of the PNA. It defines the Necessary and Relevant Pharmaceutical Services for the purpose of this document. This includes services commissioned by NHS England from pharmacies, dispensing appliance contractors and dispensing General Practices. Section 1 also outlines the process and key developmental stages of the PNA, as well as the explanation of the localities used for the purpose of the PNA.
- 2.3 Section 2 highlights local and national plans/strategies for health, care and wellbeing, before detailing the population, demographic and specific health needs of Kent; all of which provide context for the Kent PNA. Detailed population characteristics and health needs are expanded on in Appendix H.
- 2.4 Section 3 focuses on the current provision of pharmaceutical services across Kent. Maps and travel analyses are used to help illustrate their distribution and accessibility; Appendix G provides the full travel analysis. Services listed in Section 4 are provided for information only as they fall outside the scope of the

PNA but have been included as they impact the need for pharmaceutical services.

- 2.5 Results from the public engagement which ran between November – December 2024 are described in section 5, which explored how, why and when local residents use pharmaceutical services using a questionnaire; Appendix D provides a summary and the qualitative analysis.
- 2.6 Taking into consideration the health needs for each district and pharmaceutical service provision, Section 6 provides the pharmaceutical needs assessment for each local authority area.
- 2.7 Section 7 concludes with the statement of need of pharmaceutical services across the county and opportunities for consideration to improve pharmaceutical services.
- 2.8 Each appendix gives (additional) detail about the following:
  - Appendix A: List of pharmaceutical service provider premises in Kent and services provided
  - Appendix B: The PNA project plan
  - Appendix C: Steering Group Terms of Reference
  - Appendix D: Summary and qualitative analysis of the Public Engagement
  - Appendix E and F: Pharmaceutical service provider Engagement Summary
  - Appendix G: Full travel analysis
  - Appendix H: Population demographics and health of the population
  - Appendix I: Consultation Report
- 2.9 The draft PNA was signed off for the statutory 60-day consultation under delegated authority by the Director of Public Health, in line with established governance arrangements. The consultation concluded in August 2025, and the report is found in Appendix I.
- 2.10 As stipulated by the regulations, a supplementary statement and map update have been produced alongside the PNA report to reflect changes to the pharmaceutical list and keep up to date the map identifying premises in Kent providing pharmaceutical services.
- 2.11 The final draft of the PNA now requires formal approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to publication.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 A specialist provider has been commissioned at a cost of £33,500 to support delivery of the PNA following a competitive tender process in 2024.
- 3.2 A British Sign Language translation service was procured from the Adult Social Care & Health Sensory Services team at a cost of £698 to support the PNA Consultation.

## 4. Legal implications

- 4.1 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Health and Wellbeing Board have a statutory responsibility to produce and publish the next PNA within three years of its last publication (September 2022).

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has the following conclusions based on information available at the time of writing. For the 12 districts in Kent:
- a) There is no gap in the provision of Necessary Services during normal working hours across Kent to meet the needs of the population.
  - b) There are no gaps in the provision of Necessary Services outside normal working hours across Kent to meet the needs of the population.
  - c) No gaps have been identified in the need for Necessary Services in specified future circumstances across Kent.
  - d) There are no gaps in the provision of Advanced Services at present or in the future (next three years) that would secure improvements or better access to services in Kent.
  - e) No gaps have been identified that if provided either now or in the future (next three years) would secure improvements or better access to Enhanced Services across Kent.
  - f) Based on current information, no gaps have been identified in respect of securing improvements or better access to essential or other relevant services, either now or in specific future circumstances across Kent to meet the needs of the population. However, community pharmacies should be encouraged to sign up to Advanced Services to improve access where possible.

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## 6. Recommendation(s):

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to **APPROVE** the final 2025-2028 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and **NOTE** that the previously approved PNA process has occurred.

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## 7. Background Documents

The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/349/regulation/3/made>

Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028 (including appendices A-F)

Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028 Appendix G

Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028 Appendix H

# Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028 Appendix I

Kent Supplementary Statement September 2025

Kent Map update

Equality Impact Assessment

## 8. Contact details

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