

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	07 November 2024
TITLE:	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) refresh October 2025: Information Paper
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statement from the Bath and North East Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board which describes the provision of pharmaceutical services across Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES), as well as assess whether there are any significant gaps in the provision of local pharmaceutical services. The PNA also considers whether the level of pharmacy provision will be right for local communities over the next three years. Finally, it is intended to assist local decision makers in the commissioning of future local pharmaceutical services in B&NES.
- 1.2 This proposed PNA will be the third revised assessment of local pharmaceutical services since the Health and Social Care Act 2012 amendment, the current one having been published in 2022.
- 1.3 The third revised assessment is due to be published by 1st October 2025.
- 1.4 In recent years there have been changes across the community pharmacy market in Great Britain. Combined with fewer community pharmacies, there are shortages in skilled pharmacy staff.ⁱ Along with dispensing volumes having increased,ⁱⁱ these factors have led to increased workloads. Since 2021 there have also been reports of increasing supply problems affecting medicines.ⁱⁱⁱ

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the proposals for the revision of a full PNA by 1st October 2025.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Planning has started on the production of the PNA, to be published by 1st October 2025.
- 3.2 The process will be led by the Associate Director of Public Health, project managed by a Principal Analyst, and with analysis undertaken by the Business Intelligence (Insight) team.
- 3.3 The PNA Steering Group will oversee and provide necessary direction for the work. Membership of the group includes B&NES Council, BSW ICB, Community Pharmacy Avon and HealthWatch B&NES.
- 3.4 The timetable for key milestones is as follows:

Project Management	November / December 2024
Identification of required data, along with sources	September to November 2024
Data Collection	November 2024 to January 2025
Analysis	December 2024 to March 2025
Write-Up	February to April 2025
Consultation	May to July 2025 <i>(avoiding any local election period)</i>
Post Consultation Analysis and Write-Up	July to August 2025
Sign-Off by HWB	4th September 2025
Publication	before 1st October 2025

- 3.5 The post consultation draft will be presented to the HWB on 4th September 2025, along with recommendations, requesting final sign-off before publication by 1st October 2025.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The responsibility for the development, publishing and updating of PNAs became the responsibility of Health & Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) as a result of Section 206 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which amended Section 128 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- 4.2 This proposed PNA will be the third revised assessment of local pharmaceutical services since the Health and Social Care Act 2012 amendment, the current one having been published in 2022.
- 4.3 The third revised assessment is due to be published by 1st October 2025.
- 4.4 PNA guidance remains unchanged from the version published by DHSC in 2021.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The work will be undertaken within existing resources.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 A key purpose of the PNA is to review access to pharmaceutical services for people across different areas within B&NES. There is also consideration of access for people with a disability such as the provision of wheelchair accessible consulting rooms, provision for those with visual or hearing difficulties, etc.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The PNA looks at the sufficiency of community pharmacy provision in local areas which may contribute to a reduction in the need for longer journeys outside of those areas.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Formal consultation will take place over a period of not less than 60-days during the period May and July 2025, in accordance with the regulations (noting any local election period will need to be avoided)

Contact person	Paul Scott, Public Health & Prevention (01225 394060), and Joe Prince, Business Intelligence.
Background papers	The current B&NES Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment can be found on the Council's Strategic Evidence Base document library https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-2022
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

ⁱ <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/community-pharmacy-workforce-survey>

ⁱⁱ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/45156/documents/223614/default/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9997/>