

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	4 September 2025
TITLE:	B&NES Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is to provide an assessment of the need for pharmaceutical services in its area for a period of up to three years.
- 1.2 It is publicly available on the Council's website and it is used by NHS England when making judgements on applications to make changes to local community pharmacy provision, including the provision of new or additional pharmaceutical services or relocation of existing services. The Health and Wellbeing Board is not responsible for making decisions to open, consolidate or close pharmacy services.
- 1.3 Health and Wellbeing Board's (HWB) have a legislative duty to develop and update Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs), as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The HWB was required to publish its first PNA by 1 April 2015 and then publish updated PNAs on a three yearly basis. The current B&NES PNA 2022 has been refreshed and is now presented for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the findings of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, in particular the key finding at the end of the Executive Summary.
- 2.2 Approve the report for publication.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The B&NES Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 is attached with this cover report.
- 3.2 The access to local community pharmacy, opening hours, and the services available to the population of B&NES are considered in this PNA.
- 3.3 Based on the information available at the time of developing this PNA no gaps in the need for the necessary services in specified future circumstances have been identified in any of the localities.
- 3.4 It is noted, however, that while no gaps have been identified based on formally contracted services, ongoing temporary closures in B&NES may influence future service provision if sustained or widespread. These closures are not classified as formal changes and therefore are not included in this assessment. Should any of these closures become permanent, there is potential for a gap in service provision to arise, which would require further evaluation and response.
- 3.5 It is acknowledged that since the last PNA in 2022, some community pharmacies in B&NES have closed, consolidated or reduced their opening hours. This includes within recent months. These changes will be noticeable, especially for residents in the areas affected. However, the purpose of the PNA is to assess provision across overall localities, and to ensure that gaps are not identified inappropriately or in locations where the market cannot sustain another provider.
- 3.6 Finally, there may be issues with access to pharmaceutical services for some B&NES residents, but which fall outside of the scope of the PNA which is limited to identification of gaps in location, opening hours and service availability as defined by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). These include availability of medicines, staffing levels and waiting times. Concerns relating to these issues should be referred to the Commissioner of Community Pharmacy Services at the NHS South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Health and Wellbeing Board's (HWB) have a legislative duty to develop and update Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs), as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. In summary the HWB must:
 - produce its first PNA which complies with the regulatory requirements;
 - publish its first PNA by 1 April 2015;
 - publish subsequent PNAs on a three yearly basis;
- 4.2 The 2022 PNA was originally due to be renewed in April 2021. However, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced that due to ongoing COVID-19 pressures across all sectors, the requirement to publish renewed PNA was suspended until October 2022. The 2025 report contained with this paper is the updated version of that 2022 report.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The direct resource implications of this work have been through the time and capacity involved from the PNA steering group members.

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 Equality issues in current service provision and inequalities in population health are set out in the report. A formal Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as there is no recommended change in service provision.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The pharmaceutical needs assessment is a key document for those wishing to open new pharmacy or dispensing appliance contractor premises and is used by NHS England to determine such applications. There are no changes recommended to current service provision and so is considered to have a neutral impact on the current climate position.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The PNA report was open for public consultation during May and June of 2025.

10.2 The final PNA report has been considered by the relevant council officers.

Contact person	Paul Scott, Associate Director of Public Health, B&NES Council
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	