

**Health & Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on 29 April 2014

Electoral Division affected: All
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**Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment: the responsibilities of Health & Wellbeing Board**

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**Executive Summary**

The report highlights the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to producing and publishing a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) by end of March 2015 the latest.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to

1. Consider how relationships between community pharmacies and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee can be strengthened through the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. Consider the report for future arrangements for Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and responsibilities for the Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. Request an update in 6 months' time in relation to the development of a comprehensive Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

**Background and Advice**

**Overview of Community Pharmacies**

- Community pharmacies are a major provider of health and wellbeing services within England and 96% of the population, even those living in the most deprived areas, can access a pharmacy within 20 minutes on foot or on public transport.
- They dispense medicines with advice and support for patients with long term conditions, support self-care and appropriate use of purchased medicines and, in many cases, provide health promotion and brief interventions to their customers and patients.

- They make a significant contribution to their local communities, for example by making collections/deliveries for the housebound. Many community pharmacies also provide a range of public health information and advice, e.g. NHS stop smoking services.
- They play a major role in developing a sustainable local community, by delivering services that support people to live independently as well as providing a focus for community health and wellbeing such as directing people to their local carers support group or NHS services.
- There were 269 pharmacies in Lancashire County Council geography in 2010/11, 90 of those were in East Lancashire, 104 in Central Lancashire and 75 in North Lancashire former PCT area.

### **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the pharmaceutical health needs of the local population and aims to establish the current provision of pharmaceutical services, identify any inequalities in provision and consider the future provision of pharmaceutical services to meet the identified needs.

From 1st April 2013, statutory responsibility for publishing and updating a statement of the need for pharmaceutical services was transferred to Health and Wellbeing Boards. This statement of need is referred to as a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and Health and Wellbeing Boards must ensure that they have considered the wider role of community pharmacy in supporting people's health and wellbeing.

The NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, require each Health and Wellbeing Board to:

- Make a revised assessment as soon as is reasonably practicable after identifying changes to the need for pharmaceutical services which are of a significant extent.
- Publish its first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

NHS England Lancashire has written to the Chair of each Health and Wellbeing Board in Lancashire highlighting the Board's responsibility for the production of the PNA. The letter highlights a pan Lancashire approach to developing the PNA, via a small working group, and seeks support from the Health and Wellbeing Board in addition to an identified sponsor for this work stream.

Although the deadline is not imminent, there is an immediate responsibility to review the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments inherited from the three former Primary Care Trusts to identify whether these are fit for purpose. These PNAs were produced in 2010 and 2011 and overall pharmaceutical services were found adequate, though some gaps in services in East and Central Lancashire were identified and major development opportunities highlighted that could improve the health of the population. As part of the needs assessment process there is considerable opportunity to explore the potential of the healthy living pharmacy programme.

Delivering the pan-Lancashire PNA is a major undertaking with an estimated timescale of 12 months which includes a statutory 60 day stakeholder consultation with a required list of organisations that must be consulted, e.g. NHS England; Local Pharmaceutical Committee; HealthWatch; Patient and Public Groups.

The PNA will help inform Local Authority public health commissioning decisions and by being linked to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can inform priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce demand for acute health and social services. The PNA should also be used by NHS England when determining whether to open new pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractor premises. Such decisions are appealable and decisions made on appeal can be challenged through the courts. The risk of challenge is significant.

Systems need to be developed to allow the Health and Wellbeing Board to:

- Identify any changes in need for pharmaceutical services within their area.
- Assess whether the changes are significant.
- Decide whether producing a new PNA is a disproportionate response, or decide upon a proportionate response to the need to update and publish the PNA.

The process for developing a PNA involves the Health and Wellbeing Board supported by Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England Lancashire, Public Health England Cumbria and Lancashire Centre.

### **Issues for consideration**

The Board must understand its responsibilities for the PNA, and be assured that there will be a robust engagement process and may want to consider how it will oversee the process and development of the PNA.

### **Consultations**

In relation to the PNA a steering group has been established consisting of representatives from the following areas:

- Public Health from Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council
- Local Professional Network (Pharmacy)
- NHS England Lancashire

Wider consultation is part of the needs assessment process and will be delivered in due course.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

- Producing, updating and publishing PNA is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- Results of the PNA will be used for decisions over licencing new pharmacies and proposed changes in existing pharmacy licences e.g. for relocations

### **Risk management**

Producing, updating and publishing the PNA is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Not following the proposal may open the Council to litigation from prospective pharmacies and from those that plan to change their services.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment of Central, North and East Lancashire (separate documents)	15/04/2014	Dr P Lobmayer MD, MSc Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, 01772 539831

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6101&pageid=39610&e=e>

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate  
N/A