

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2025)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report provides an overview of the background and purpose of the Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 together with a series of options regarding the proposed methodology to be utilised in order to ensure that the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is as comprehensive as possible in meeting the needs of the residents of Lancashire.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse the proposed change in part of the methodology utilised in the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025.

Detail

The three Health and Wellbeing Boards across pan-Lancashire have a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area. This is referred to as a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and describes the needs of the citizens of the pan-Lancashire area for pharmacy services and includes information on:

- pharmacies across pan-Lancashire and the services they currently provide
- maps of providers of pharmaceutical services across the pan-Lancashire area
- pharmaceutical contractors in neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Board areas
- potential gaps in provision and likely future needs for the population of pan Lancashire
- opportunities for existing pharmacies to providing local public health services and join the healthy living pharmacy scheme



Decisions on whether to open new pharmacies are made by our local NHS Integrated Care Board Primary Care Team. When making the decision they are required to refer to the local Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). As these decisions may be appealed or challenged via the courts, it is therefore important that Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs), both in their content and in the process of their construction, comply with the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 and that mechanisms are established to keep the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) up to date.

In accordance with these regulations, the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) must be updated every three years and exploratory discussions are now taking place regarding the 2025 version in advance of publication later next year. As part of these discussions a review has been undertaken to consider whether the current methodology to assess provision in Lancashire remains up to date with latest guidance and good practice and supports an equitable approach to determining provision sufficiency.

In doing so, the overall methodology is considered to be broadly consistent with best practice. Given that not all residents necessarily have access to car ownership, a more nuanced approach is proposed regarding how geographical access is best assessed through the use of travel time standards, to ensure that the needs of our residents are more appropriately met. Table One describes the changes in the proposed revised methodology.

Table One: Historical and proposed revised methodology for the Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

	Historical Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022 Methodology	Proposed Revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 Methodology
Broad assessment of population demographics	Broad assessment of pharmacy provision relative to population density, demographics and deprivation via a visual map looking for any high-density and deprived areas at district level.	As opposite.
Assessment of geographical access as measured by a set travel time standard	Currently using 20-minute drive time standard across all areas.	Revised approach of a hybrid 20-minute drive time for highly rural areas coupled with a 20-minute walk OR 20-minute public transport for built-up areas.
Availability of services	An assessment of whether pharmacy services are accessible in terms of their opening times and services are	As opposite.



	available for a set minimum number of hours per week.	
Rate of provision of community pharmacy per 100,000 population	Undertaken at district level benchmarked with English average.	As opposite.
Assessment of gap	Based on the above measures based on the assumption that each and every community pharmacy provides a minimum 'core' level of service.	As opposite.

Implications

Risk Management:

In proposing this revised approach, it is important to highlight that if this is adopted, then the public transport journey times may need to be reassessed on an annual basis to reflect any potential changes in public transport arrangements across the three-year Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) cycle. In addition, if the new assessment of geographic accessibility, including for closures and consolidations, identifies areas outside of the new proposed travel time standards, further judgements will be required to determine if there is a gap in provision. Given the new travel time methodology may require these judgements to be made more often than was the case previously, overall, there may be a slightly increased possibility of gaps in provision being identified. In such circumstances, the Health and Wellbeing Board can make recommendations to the commissioners of pharmaceutical services in the Integrated Care Board, advocating for the needs of the residents of Lancashire. The Board has delegated this duty to the Director of Public Health.

Mindful of the importance of engaging with our NHS Integrated Care Board colleagues who are the primary commissioners of Pharmaceutical Services across Lancashire, a detailed consultation document has been shared with senior Integrated Care Board system leaders who have indicated that they are broadly supportive of the approach outlined in this paper. These collaborative consultation discussions have also developed our joint thinking around how alignment is best achieved with other related processes, such as responses to pharmacy consolidation applications, to help ensure the needs of our local residents continue to be optimally met, including through the use of criteria to strengthen the approach to the protection of existing provision.

List of Background Papers

Pharmaceutical needs assessments - Information pack for local authority Health and Wellbeing Boards (Published October 2021)

[Pharmaceutical needs assessments: information pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack)



Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

