

Report on NHS Bedfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Central Bedfordshire Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 18 October 2010

The report informs the committee of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment which has been developed in Bedfordshire and of the opportunity to participate in the consultation process. Members are being briefed on the PNA and the consultation process to give them the opportunity to respond either individually or as a group

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the members of this committee receive information on the process followed in the development of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).

That the members of this committee receive information on the consultation process for the Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and are given the opportunity to respond should they choose to, by the format provided.

Introduction

1. The PCT has a statutory duty to publish its first pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) by 1 February 2011.
2. The Health Act 2009 amended the National Health Service Act 2006 to include provisions for regulations to set out the minimum standards for PNAs. The regulations were consulted on in late 2009/early 2010, laid in Parliament on 26 March 2010 and came into force on 24 May 2010.

Background

3. The White Paper *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths – delivering the future* was published by the Department of Health in April 2008. It highlighted the variation in the structure and data requirements of PCT PNAs and confirmed that they required further review and strengthening to ensure they are an effective and robust commissioning tool which supports PCT decisions.

Requirements for the development of the PNA

4. The regulations set out the minimum requirements for the first PNA and these include such things as data on the health needs of the PCT's population, current provision of pharmaceutical services, gaps in current provision and how the PCT proposes to close these gaps. The PNA will also consider the future needs for services.
5. PCTs are required to undertake a consultation on their first PNA for a minimum of sixty days, and the regulations list those persons and organisations that must be consulted e.g. the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Local Medical Committee, LINKs and other patient and public groups.
6. The PNA will be updated at least every three years and sooner if significant changes in the provision of pharmaceutical services are identified before the three year deadline.

Action Plan adopted by NHS Bedfordshire

7. A Core group was put together to develop the PNA and a Steering Group (slightly wider advisory group) formed to oversee the process. The Steering Group reports directly to the PCT Board and membership of this group included: A Board Director, the Head of Medicines Management, a Public Health Consultant and manager, PCT Community Pharmacy Lead, Representative for Practice Based Commissioning, Patient Engagement and Communications manager, Community Pharmacy and GP representatives, a Patient representative (LINKs).
8. A Risk register has been generated for the PNA and will be monitored regularly throughout the duration of the project.
9. A Stakeholder event was held for Community Pharmacists, briefing them on the purpose of the PNA, the development and consultation process. This was done to ensure that our pharmacists were well informed of this project and given ample opportunity to contribute to it and that they were happy with the level of representation they had.
10. Briefing documents were sent out to key stakeholders at the start of the project to raise awareness and give them the opportunity to feed into the process.
11. The Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment; consultation response form; and consultation circulation list are attached as appendices.

Conclusion

12. A Draft PNA has now been published for consultation; the consultation period runs from 13 September to 26 November 2010, giving all consultees a minimum of 60 days within which to respond.

Appendices:

Appendix A – NHS Bedfordshire Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Appendix B – Consultation response form

Appendix C – Circulation list for consultation

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