

# CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date

21 March 2018

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## PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Public

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### Purpose of this report:

1. To receive, consider and approve the final draft of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Consider the recommendation and findings of the PNA
2. Approve the PNA for publication

### Background

1. The PNA will be used by NHS England in its determination as to whether to approve applications to join the pharmaceutical list under The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The PNA is required to be published by each HWB by virtue of section 128A of the NHS Act 2006 revised in 2009
2. The PNA looks at the current provision of pharmaceutical services across Central Bedfordshire, whether this meets the needs of the population and identifies any potential gaps to service delivery.

## Consultation

3. In the process of undertaking the PNA, Central Bedfordshire HWB sought the views of a wide range of key stakeholders to identify issues that affect the commissioning of pharmaceutical services to meet local health needs and priorities. A statutory consultation was undertaken from 16th October to 15th December 2017 to seek the views of members of the public and other stakeholders.
4. In total 477 respondents participated in the consultation for Central Bedfordshire.
5. Respondents from Central Bedfordshire indicated that attending their local pharmacy was still the most popular method of accessing pharmaceutical provision (89%), with only 14% of respondents saying they had used the online pharmacy in the past year.
6. The most popular reasons given for visiting their pharmacy was to access general health advice (44%) and for advice on medicine use (28%). This would suggest that personal interaction with a pharmacist is still a valued service for residents.
7. 55% of respondents indicated their usual mode of travel to their pharmacy is by car, with 40% by walking. This is not unusual given the geographical makeup of Central Bedfordshire. 17% of respondents indicated that parking was an issue for them at their nearest pharmacy. Although 50% suggested they did not have any access issues at their local pharmacy.
8. The most popular services accessed in pharmacies currently are medications for minor conditions such as; sore throats, coughs and hay fever, access to low-cost medicines and the seasonal 'flu vaccine'. Over the counter checks such as blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol were popular choices of services respondents would like to access if available, suggesting either more needs to be made available or these products need further promotion.
9. Comments have highlighted a desire to see more flexible/ extended opening hours that would allow working residents to access the service later in the evening. Comments also suggested that residents are generally very satisfied with the service as it currently is.
10. An analysis of individual demographic groups such as the elderly or disabled did not highlight any variance of opinions from those in the majority. Overall the findings of the survey did not uncover any pressing issues or widespread dissatisfaction with pharmacy services in Central Bedfordshire, and there was a desire to see the service maintained at its current level.

## **Summary findings of the PNA**

11. The provision of pharmacies (21 pharmaceutical providers per 100,000 population) is similar to the national average
12. With the exception of residents living in the least dense quintile (35 – 777 people per sq. km, most residents can access a pharmacy within 1 mile of their home. There are very few pockets of areas that cannot access a pharmacy within 2.5 miles, again areas of low population and all residents can access a pharmacy within a 5 miles radius.
13. A good range of services are commissioned, in addition to the NHS pharmaceutical contract, to meet identified health needs.

## **Recommendation**

14. The overall recommendation is that the current number of community pharmacies providing essential and advanced services is sufficient to meet current needs in Central Bedfordshire.

## **Opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services**

15. A gap analysis was undertaken as part of the PNA. The detailed opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services are identified in the full PNA and the key opportunities are in the executive summary which is appended to this report.
16. Community Pharmacists can play an important role in supporting resident's health and wellbeing and this is enhanced through pharmacies becoming Healthy Living Pharmacies. Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) is a voluntary, nationally recognised concept enabling pharmacies to help reduce health inequalities within the local community. HLPs have the public's health at the heart of what they do and have a proven track record of commissioned service delivery in public health need areas such as smoking, obesity, sexual health and alcohol harm reduction.
17. Central Bedfordshire currently has over 20 HLPs.
18. Community Pharmacies also have an important role in helping people to self-care e.g. minor illnesses or long-term conditions such as hypertension or diabetes. This, together with other services such as medication reviews and flu vaccinations, enable pharmacies to play a crucial role in reducing demand on secondary care as well as for GP practices.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

19. The opportunities to enhance local services such as stop smoking advice and flu vaccinations are funded through existing budgets.

## **Governance and Delivery Implications**

20. The opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services are delivered through existing mechanism such as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, STP Prevention Plan, the Better Care Plan and Out of Hospital Strategy

## **Equalities Implications**

21. The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
22. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the PNA which recognised that comments in the consultation highlighted a desire to see more flexible/ extended opening hours to allow working residents to access the service later in the evening. An analysis of individual demographic groups such as the elderly or disabled did not highlight any variance of opinions from those in the majority
23. The EIA for the PNA did not identify any decisions which minimised unfairness, or had a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, women and men.

## **Implications for Work Programme**

24. None

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

25. That the current number of community pharmacies providing essential and advanced services is sufficient to meet current needs in Central Bedfordshire
26. That the opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services are considered as part of the re-freshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

## **Appendices**

PNA Executive Summary

The full PNA is provided through an electronic link:

[https://www.jsna.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jsna/info/17/additional\\_reports/101/pharmaceutical\\_needs\\_assessment](https://www.jsna.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jsna/info/17/additional_reports/101/pharmaceutical_needs_assessment)

## **Background Papers**

None