

# **Central Bedfordshire**

## **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2018 – 2021**

### **Executive Summary**

## 1.1 Introduction

This Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (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.

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.

The PNA includes information on:

- Pharmacies in Central Bedfordshire and the services they currently provide
- Other providers of pharmaceutical service such as dispensing GP surgeries
- Maps showing the location of providers of pharmaceutical services in Central Bedfordshire
- Potential gaps in provision that could be met by providing more pharmacy services, or through opening more pharmacies, and likely future needs.

## 1.2 Process

This PNA is undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in national regulations.

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 16<sup>th</sup> October to 15th December 2017 to seek the views of members of the public and other stakeholders. The feedback is reported and reflected in the final revised PNA report.

## 1.3 Key findings and recommendations

### Recommendation

That the current number of community pharmacies providing essential and advanced services is sufficient to meet current needs in Central Bedfordshire.

## Findings

This recommendation is based on the following indicators used in assessing the level of adequacy of pharmaceutical service provision in comparison to national statistics (as described in the regulations). The findings were:

- The number of community pharmacies in Central Bedfordshire registered to provide pharmaceutical services under the NHS pharmacy contract has increased slightly from 42 in 2014 to 43 in 2017. Among the 43 community pharmacies, five are 100 hour pharmacies which are well spread geographically and provide good access to extended opening across all four localities / quadrants in Central Bedfordshire.
- Central Bedfordshire has 21 pharmaceutical providers per 100,000 population which is within the range of provision across the country and is similar to the national average (2015-16)
- The average number of prescription items dispensed per pharmacy per month in Central Bedfordshire was 7,224 dispensed items, which is similar to the national average (2015-16)
- With the exception of residents living in the least dense quintile (35 – 777 people per sq. km) in Central Bedfordshire, 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. This access is supplemented by providers in the neighbouring local authority areas.
- A good range of services are commissioned, in addition to the NHS pharmaceutical contract, to meet identified health needs.

## 1.4 Opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services

A gap analysis was undertaken as part of the PNA. The key opportunities identified are summarised below.

1. Community pharmacy services should have a more targeted focus towards the needs of their local population to help prevent widening of inequality gaps.
2. Community pharmacy teams should promote healthy behaviours as part of the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) initiative, as well as sign-posting to locally commissioned health improvement services including excess weight management services.
3. Smoking prevalence is markedly higher routine and manual workers, some black and minority ethnic groups and people with mental illness. It is recommended that the commissioner and the community pharmacy providers work together to ensure that stop smoking services are more accessible to these groups.
4. Community pharmacy can also contribute to sexual health improvement and reductions in teenage pregnancy by providing emergency hormonal contraception and chlamydia screening and treatment, with a particular need in the two Central Bedfordshire wards that have been identified as teenage pregnancy 'hotspots'.
5. There are currently 22 community pharmacies in Central Bedfordshire providing a Supervised Consumption service to support drug misuse and four providing needle exchange service, which has increased since 2014. A Health Needs Assessment for drug services is being undertaken and this will include consideration of the requirement for community needle exchange services.
6. The HNA will also consider whether community pharmacies should be commissioned to deliver Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) services to support people with alcohol misuse problems.
7. Many deaths before the age of 75 years are avoidable with the main causes of premature death in Central Bedfordshire from 2012 to 2014 were cancer, heart disease and lung disease. Avoidable deaths can be prevented through healthy lifestyles, screening and early detection. Community pharmacists should continue to promote national campaigns and use the Making Every Contact Count to raise awareness.
8. The Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) scheme, recently launched in Central Bedfordshire, provides a valuable opportunity to improve the health of the local population. The scheme ensures that pharmacy staff are trained and confident to effectively deliver public health initiatives including smoking cessation, flu immunisation and Making Every Contact Count. It is recommended that more pharmacy contractors work towards achieving Healthy Living Pharmacy status and demonstrating positive outcomes from the scheme.

9. It is recommended that community pharmacies proactively offer Medicines Use Review and New Medicines Services as well as advisory support for carers to enable them to administer medicines and to increase the uptake of these services by their local communities.
10. GPs and pharmacists should use the Repeat Dispensing services via Electronic Prescribing to reduce patients visiting GP practices for collection of their repeat prescriptions.
11. Older people in care homes could benefit from establishing robust communication and ordering systems could help to ensure patient safety and reduce pharmaceutical waste. Agreement with dispensers to produce Medicine Administration Record sheets at the point of dispensing.

## 1.5 Conclusion

Overall, the level of pharmaceutical service (as described in the regulations) currently provided across Central Bedfordshire meets the health needs of the population and provision of pharmaceutical services is good in our areas of deprivation.

Community pharmacies are valued community assets and are easy to access. Their potential role should be considered as part of strategies to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

It is recognised that Central Bedfordshire is an area of housing growth, with the total population of Central Bedfordshire is forecast to increase by 15% between 2017 and 2030. The PNA will be reviewed during 2020 and republished in April 2021 unless there are significant changes to local need or provision in the interim.

# **Central Bedfordshire in contact**

## **Full Report:**

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

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