

Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

21 June 2023

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment: Supplementary Statement

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jane Somper, Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: S Crowe, Director of Public Health

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statement of the need for pharmaceutical services in an area. The latest Dorset PNA was published in October 2022. Since then, there have been changes in the availability of pharmaceutical services. Three pharmacies in BCP have closed, 2 pharmacies in Dorset council area have changed ownership, and we are aware of applications for a further change of ownership in DC, a change of location in DC and a consolidation in Poole.

The supplementary statement sets out those changes that have already occurred. Once issued it will become part of the PNA.

Recommendation:

- To approve the publication of the supplementary statement.
- To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to publish further supplementary statements as required.

Reason for Recommendation:

Each Health and Wellbeing Board must publish a PNA under section 128A of the NHS Act 2006 (amended). Part 2 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 sets out the detailed requirements. The Board must publish a new PNA every 3 years, or where there are significant changes. A Supplementary Statement can explain changes to the availability of pharmaceutical services, where:

- (a) There has been a change to the availability of pharmaceutical services and this change is relevant to the granting of applications to open a new, or relocate a pharmacy; or to provide additional services; and
- (b) the HWB is satisfied that the publication of a revised PNA would be a disproportionate response or is already in the process of producing an updated PNA but is satisfied that there is a need for a supplementary statement in order to prevent significant detriment to the provision of pharmaceutical services.

As further changes in pharmacy services are expected it would be helpful if further supplementary statements could be issued as they occur, hence the delegation to the Director of Public Health.

1. Lloyds Pharmacy changes

- 1.1 Following a national review, Lloyds Pharmacy plans to close all its outlets inside Sainsbury's this year. The three BCP closures are because of this plan. There are no further Lloyds pharmacies inside Sainsbury's within Dorset.
- 1.2 In closing the pharmacies Lloyds is responsible for communication to patients about this, including supporting vulnerable patients to nominate a new pharmacy and contacting patients where medication has not been collected close to the closure date.
- 1.3 Lloyds Pharmacy have also sold, or are in discussion about selling, many of their other pharmacies. The proposed change of ownership is for one of our remaining ten Lloyds pharmacies.
- 1.4 It is not yet clear whether we can expect further closures or changes of ownership, as Lloyds may continue to review the need for their remaining pharmacies.

2. **Choice of Supplementary statement or revised PNA**

2.1 The Department of Health and Social Care published guidance to support health and wellbeing boards develop their PNAs. This includes guidance on whether changes should result in producing a new PNA.

2.2 Core members of the virtual PNA Steering group considered the guidance and the changes in pharmaceutical services to date. They agreed that it was disproportionate to produce a new PNA including public consultation at this time because:

- It is not yet clear that the Lloyds situation has stabilised,
- The current PNA does not identify any gaps, and an initial look at the data suggests that using a 20-minute drive time this would not change,
- If the PNA were to identify gaps in the areas where closures have occurred, it is unclear whether there would be capacity for other community pharmacies to pick this up.
- New legislation came into force 25 May 2023 that may result in further changes to 100-hour pharmacies over the next few months.

3. **Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no significant financial implications from this report. Activity previously delivered at pharmacies that have now closed will be picked up either by other community pharmacies in the vicinity or through distance-selling pharmacies (online pharmacies).

4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

4.1 The analysis within the 2022 PNA considered access, with drive time as the key measure. Balancing access against the need for travel can be a challenge in a rural area such as Dorset. The PNA Steering Group agreed a 20-minute drive time as the right cut-off to identify gaps.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

5.1 Community pharmacies are a vital community asset. They see high footfall in places convenient to the local population. They may provide other services as well as pharmaceutical services. These may include public health services.

5.2 The 2022 PNA identified 142 community pharmacies in across Dorset (74 in BCP Council and 68 in Dorset Council), plus 2 distance selling pharmacies. All provide essential pharmaceutical services. The PNA

stated that there is appropriate provision for the Dorset population, with no current gaps.

- 5.3 The three community pharmacy closures are in the BCP area. The three changes in ownership within the DC area should not impact on service delivery. The planned relocation in the DC area will not have a significant impact on service delivery.

6. **Other Implications**

- 6.1 Community pharmacies in high streets and town centres can play a part in maintaining footfall within these areas.

7. **Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 Risk that the PNA is not sufficiently robust will fall on the commissioner of pharmaceutical services as there is a risk of challenge to their decision making. NHS England delegated commissioning responsibility to NHS Dorset in April 2023.

- 7.2 Risk from closures of community pharmacies will also fall on public health who commission public health services from community pharmacies.

- 7.3 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: MEDIUM

Residual Risk: LOW

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 The 2022 PNA included formal consultation. One of the questions asked about any consideration required to make sure services do not have adverse impacts on any specific groups of people. Comments were incorporated into a first stage Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) for the PNA.

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Dorset PNA Supplementary statement, June 2023.

10. **Background Papers**

- [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) - 2022-2025](#)
- [The National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
- [DHSC - pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-information-pack \(October 2021\).pdf](#)