

Final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Summary

1. Health and Wellbeing Boards have responsibility for the production of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The process for production and nature of content are subject to detailed regulations which have been followed; a previous draft was presented to the Board and a 60 day consultation period followed. The report has been amended following comments received. The final PNA which will cover the period March 2015 to March 2018 is now submitted for adoption.

Background

2. One of the duties of Health and Wellbeing Boards which came with the Health and Social Care Act 2012 was responsibility for the production of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs. A pharmaceutical needs assessment details out the needs for pharmaceutical services provided in the community by analysing health needs and current provision. The ultimate aim is to ensure that citizens can access medicines, other products and services to help them live long and healthy lives.
3. Previously the requirement to analyse need for pharmaceutical services fell to the local NHS, specifically the former Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). Local authorities now produce the reports on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. PNAs are used by NHS England to assess applications from persons wishing to open a new pharmacy. The aim is to ensure an even distribution of community pharmacies, to maximise the number of people who can easily access medicines and the other services offered, while

contributing to market stability to ensure continuity of access. As community pharmacies are businesses they can only operate when it is financially viable to do so. Some General Practices can dispense the medicines they prescribe – these are known as Dispensing Practices and various factors are taken into account by NHS England when considering whether to grant a practice dispensing status.

Main/Key Issues to be Considered

4. Although health overall compares well to other areas, the City of York has a number of health and healthcare issues which require attention. Although very difficult to measure Mental Health, indicators of healthcare for people with mental health problems are not so good. Alcohol-related harm is of concern, and York has a high level of binge-drinking. There remains a core of people in the care of substance misuse services reliant on on-going methadone treatment, and there is a relatively small number of injecting drug users, some pharmacies play an active role with these groups.
5. Levels of smoking have reduced in recent years, nevertheless it is the case that nearly a fifth of the adult population smoke, and pharmacists can and do give support to people wishing to quit.
6. York has a very high student population, and it is young adults who are the greatest users of sexual health services. Pharmacies play a role here in provision of information and advice and provision of emergency contraception when necessary.
7. As in so many places, the hospital in York experiences a relentless rise in in Emergency Department attendances and unplanned admissions. Good pharmaceutical care can help prevent the need for hospital visits, both by keeping people healthier and by providing a first port-of-call for patients with concerns.
8. In York there are a total of 40 community pharmacies and 10 dispensing GP practices giving a total of 50 dispensing outlets. When analysed against population size this equates to an average of 4,000 people per dispensing outlet or 25 outlets per 100,000 population, which is in the top 20% for dispensing outlet density. In addition the public can access distance-selling pharmacies (internet or mail order).

9. The only gap in the current provision would be that services should be more readily accessible to the student (and other) population on the University of York campus.

Consultation

10. As detailed in the Report stakeholders were consulted by questionnaire in the early stages of the assessment. A formal 60 day consultation on the Draft took place in November, December and January. Comments received have been considered and relevant points included, however the final report is little changed from the Consultation draft and overall conclusion remains the same.

Options

11. The Board has complied with the regulations in the preparation of the document and consultation and it is a legal requirement to publish the PNA before the end of March 2015. There is no other option.

Analysis

12. There are no other options and therefore there is no option analysis.

Strategic/Operational Plans

13. The Assessment details how pharmaceutical services can and do contribute to achieving the Council Plan's objective "Protecting Vulnerable People", and all five objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in many ways, for example "Making York a great place for older people to live" by maximising safe use of medicines, "Enabling all children to have a good start" by providing a source of information and advice for parents in helping them deal with the numerous minor ailments children experience as growing up, "Reducing inequalities" by helping keep substance misusers safe.
14. If people can be diverted to pharmacies in sufficient numbers to seek expert advice from pharmacists as an alternative to attending busy Emergency Departments this will make a major contribution to achieving NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group's 5 Year Plan.

Implications

15.

- **Financial**

- There are no financial implications to partners, except potentially NHS England in that any new pharmacies may increase their costs.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

- There are no direct HR implications.

- **Equalities**

- The assessment has considered needs of subgroups of the population and used this in reaching a conclusion.

- **Legal**

- There are no legal implications

- **Crime and Disorder**

- If the pharmacy-delivered services for substance misusers (supervised consumption of methadone and needle exchange) continue to be commissioned this will prevent drug-related crime increasing.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

- There are no IT implications.

- **Property**

- There are no implications for Council property.

- **Other**

- There are no legal implications.

Risk Management

16. There is the potential that this PNA may be challenged, for instance by a potential pharmacy provider. The conclusion cannot be challenged, but a complainant could assert that the proper process as spelt out in legislation and regulations has not been followed.

Recommendations

17. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider:

Accepting and Adopting the Final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and it is recommended that the Board do so.

Reason: There is a legal requirement on the Health and Wellbeing to publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Contact Details

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Report
Approved

Date 20/02/15

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2015 – 2018, City of York

Annexes

Annex A - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2015 – 2018, City of York

Annex B - Pharmacy, dispensing GP practice and non-dispensing GP practice locations

Annexes C & D - Controlled locality boundaries