

**LEICESTERSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 24  
FEBRUARY 2022**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the timescale associated with the development and publication of the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and to seek approval of the proposed governance arrangements to enable production of the PNA.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that
  - a) The associated timescales for the development and publication of the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), be noted;
  - b) The proposal to form an interagency LLR wide reference group to develop the PNA, be approved;
  - c) It be noted that the draft PNA will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval to consult at its meeting on the 26 May 2022.

**Background**

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to prepare a PNA for Leicestershire and publish it by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.
4. The purpose of the PNA is to:
  - Identify the pharmaceutical services currently available and assess the need for pharmaceutical services in the future;
  - inform the planning and commissioning of pharmacy services by identifying which services should be commissioned for local people, within available resources, and where these services should be;
  - inform decision making in response to applications made to NHS England by pharmacists and dispensing doctors to provide a new pharmacy. The organisation that will make these decisions is NHS England.

5. The last PNA for Leicestershire was produced in 2018 and can be accessed at: <http://www.lsr-online.org/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment.html>.
6. The responsibility for producing the PNA rests with Health and Wellbeing Boards in the general reforms embodied in the Health and Social Care Act (2012). The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (amended) sets out the minimum information that must be contained within a PNA and outlines the process that must be followed in its development and can be found at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/349/contents>
7. In October 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published a pharmaceutical needs assessment information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards to support in the developing and updating of PNAs. The PNA guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>
8. The PNA is a statutory document that is used by NHS England to agree changes to the commissioning of local pharmaceutical services. As such, if NHS England receives a legal challenge to the services they commission based on the PNA, the local authority could also be part of that legal challenge. It is essential that the process that is followed meets the legislation that is set out and that the PNA is a robust document.

### **Governance**

9. As many of the relationships required for the PNA are Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) wide – involving representation from NHS England, the Leicestershire Pharmaceutical Committee, Local Professional Network for Pharmacists and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee, it is proposed that a PNA Reference Group be established. Due to the tight timescales for this project, a shadow Reference Group has already met in order to start to progress the PNA work. The Reference Group will support PNA work across the three Health and Wellbeing Boards, identify any economies of scale that can be delivered through joint work and ensure that there is an effective process for consultation on the PNAs. However, there will be separate PNA documents for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and each will require approval by the respective Health and Wellbeing Board.
10. Draft terms of reference and membership for the PNA Reference Group are attached as Appendix A.

### Development of the revised PNA

11. Approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be sought for the pre-consultation draft version and the final version of the Leicestershire PNA. The PNA reference group will develop the pre-consultation draft PNA which will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval to consult

in May 2022. Following consultation, the final draft of the PNA will be submitted for approval in September 2022, allowing publication towards the beginning of October 2022. The PNA Reference Group will also provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that the final PNA is an accurate reflection of the pharmaceutical needs of the population and has been developed using robust processes.

12. The principal resourcing for the development of the Leicestershire PNA is provided by the Leicestershire County Council Business Intelligence Service, with information and advice provided through the PNA Reference Group by NHS England, the LPC, CCGs and other partners.

### **Engagement and formal Consultation**

13. To gather additional intelligence for the development of the draft PNA, it is proposed that two surveys will run throughout the spring. One survey will ask service users for their views on the current pharmaceutical provision and the second will gather data on services provided, opening times etc from pharmaceutical professionals. The findings from these two survey exercises will be incorporated into the initial draft PNA document. Work is currently being undertaken to finalise the content and arrangements for conducting these surveys along with any alternative methodologies.
14. In addition, the draft PNA will be subject to a 60-day statutory consultation period which will start at the beginning of June 2022. Regulation 8 of the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations specifies that the Health and Wellbeing Board must consult with the following:-
  - the Local Pharmaceutical Committee
  - the Local Medical Committee
  - any persons on the pharmaceutical lists and any dispensing doctors list for its area
  - any LPS chemist in its area with whom NHS England has made arrangements for the provision of any local pharmaceutical services
  - Healthwatch, and any other patient, consumer or community group in its area which in the view of the Health and Wellbeing Board has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services in its area;
  - any NHS trust or NHS foundation trust in its area
  - NHS England
  - any neighbouring HWB.
15. Health and Wellbeing Boards must consult the above at least once during the process of developing the PNA. Those being consulted can be directed to a website address containing the draft PNA but can, if they request, be sent an electronic or hard copy version.

16. The draft PNA will be published on the Leicestershire County Council website and the views of the statutory consultees and other stakeholders will be actively sought. Further detail concerning the consultation approach will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board when the draft PNA is presented for approval to consult at its meeting in May.

### **Content and Timescales**

17. The regulations and guidance documents provide information on the PNA content. This has been reflected in the overview of proposed content of the PNA provided in Appendix B. It is proposed that a similar approach be taken to that used in the 2018 PNA but may seek more innovative ways to present and visualise the data.
18. Since the last PNA the Government's policy document of "Community pharmacy in 2016/17 and beyond" has been implemented. The impact of these changes and an assessment of the new and emergent system should be examined to understand the implications for the PNA 2022.
19. The project plan is tight with respect to delivering a signed off PNA by 1st October 2022. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could also impact on timescales. The PNA Reference Group will monitor this and escalate any issues of concern to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The current timescale are:
- 26 May - pre-consultation draft PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval to consult
  - June – July – formal 60 day consultation undertaken
  - 22 September – final PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval
  - 1 October 2022 – Publication of the PNA

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

20. The PNA will be subject to an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment which will be completed as part of its initial development.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Reference Group Terms of Reference

Appendix B - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – Working Outline

### **Officers to Contact**

Mike Sandys  
 Director of Public Health  
 Leicestershire County Council

Tel: 0116 305 4239

Email: [mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk](mailto:mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk)

Caroline Boucher / Andy Brown

Head of Business Intelligence / Business Intelligence Team Leader

Leicestershire County Council

Tel: 0116 305 7262 / 0116 305 6096

Email: [caroline.boucher@leics.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.boucher@leics.gov.uk) / [andy.brown@leics.gov.uk](mailto:andy.brown@leics.gov.uk)

Kajal Lad

Public Health Business Partner

Leicestershire County Council

Tel: 0116 305 6059

Email: [kajal.lad@leics.gov.uk](mailto:kajal.lad@leics.gov.uk)

