



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29 MAY 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025:

PROGRESS REPORT AND PRE-CONSULTATION DRAFT

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with an update on work undertaken to produce the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 and to seek the Board's approval to consult on the draft document.

Recommendation

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
 - a. Note the work undertaken to produce the draft PNA 2025, which has been developed in line with the findings of public and pharmacy surveys;
 - b. Approve the draft PNA 2025, subject to any comments the Board might have, for statutory consultation; and
 - c. Note that a further report will be considered by the Board at its meeting in September 2025 detailing the outcome of the consultation and seeking approval of the final PNA 2025.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. The HWB has a statutory responsibility to prepare a PNA for Leicestershire and publish it by 1 October 2025. At its meeting on 26th of September 2024, the Health and Wellbeing Board noted the proposed timescales and process for the production of the PNA, along with its areas of focus, likely structure, governance and consultation arrangements to inform the draft.
4. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (amended) set out the minimum information that must be contained within a PNA and outline the process that must be followed in its

development and can be found at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/349/contents>

5. The last PNA for Leicestershire was produced in 2022 and can be accessed at: <https://www.lsr-online.org/pna-for-2022>
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board considered reports relating to the 2022 PNA on 2 February 2022 and 26 May 2022. It was intended that at the meeting in September 2022 the Board would be asked to approve the final version of the PNA but due to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II the September 2022 meeting was cancelled therefore approval was given by the Chief Executive using his delegated powers.

Background

7. 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.
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.
9. The national guidance for developing a PNA was published by the Department of Health and Social Care in October 2021 as an information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards. As the guidance was not updated for the 2025 PNA, the 2021 document still applies. It can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>
10. A LLR PNA Reference Group has been established to oversee the production of the 2025 PNA documents for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to ensure a consistent local approach. Membership of the Group includes representatives of the local authorities, Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland, Integrated Care Board, HealthWatch, LLR Local Medical

Committee, Voluntary sector and District Councils. While ensuring a common approach across the three areas, separate PNAs for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were prepared for the appropriate Boards.

11. The principal resourcing for the development of the Leicestershire PNA is provided by the Public Health Department Business Intelligence Team, with information and advice provided through the Reference Group by relevant commissioning organisations.
12. The regulations and guidance documents provide information on the PNA content. This has been reflected in the draft PNA included as **Appendix A**. Although a similar approach to that taken in the 2022 PNA has been used when developing the PNA content, there have been some variation in content and presentation, dictated by some important changes in pharmaceutical services since the last PNA.

Progress to Date

13. The PNA Reference Group considered pre-consultation drafts at its meeting on 30th April 2025, discussing their contents in light of statutory requirements. The views of the Reference Group have been incorporated into the draft Leicestershire document attached at **Appendix A**. This draft includes analysis and presentation of available data and also the headline results from the surveys of Leicestershire residents and the survey of local pharmacies. In light of the relatively low response rate to the professional survey (43 responses across LLR so far) the survey will remain open until the end of July, and the findings will be incorporated into the final PNA report. The PNA Appendices are not included, as they are lengthy documents; they are however available online (<https://www.lsr-online.org/pna-for-2025>).
14. The draft 2025 PNA contains a number of preliminary conclusions and recommendations drawn from emerging data and evidence on local pharmaceutical services. These will be reviewed following the statutory stakeholder engagement to take place in June-July 2025.

Consultation/Patient and Public Involvement

15. To gather additional intelligence for the development of the draft PNA, two surveys ran from February to April 2025. The public survey asked service users for their views on the current pharmaceutical provision – this survey had a good response rate (1,227 respondents across LLR, including 739 Leicestershire residents). The professional survey gathered data on services provided from pharmaceutical professionals. Because of the lower than expected response rate (43 responses across LLR), the professional survey will be left open

through the summer. The headline findings from these two survey exercises have been incorporated into the initial draft PNA document and will be updated with other results of engagement in September 2025.

16. The PNA is subject to a minimum 60-day statutory consultation period which, subject to approval, will commence in June 2025. The Pharmaceutical Services Regulations specify that the Health and Wellbeing Board must consult with the following:
 - the local pharmaceutical committee;
 - the local medical committee;
 - pharmacy and dispensing appliance contractors included in the pharmaceutical list for the area of the health and wellbeing board;
 - dispensing doctors included in the dispensing doctor list for the area of the health and wellbeing board, if any;
 - any pharmacy contractor that holds a local pharmaceutical services contract with premises that are in the health and wellbeing board's area;
 - Healthwatch, and any other patient, consumer, or community group in the area which the HWB believes has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services;
 - any NHS trust or NHS foundation trust in the HWB area;
 - NHS England, and;
 - any neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Board.
17. 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.
18. An effective statutory consultation process is being developed. 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.

Resource Implications

19. Pharmacy Services are core funded through NHS England budgets but also commissioned for extra services from a range of sources. Any changes in services and provision will impact on those particular budgets. The PNA has been developed within existing business intelligence and public health budgets, including the consultation arrangements.

Timetable for Decisions

20. The project timetable is included as **Appendix B**. The deadline for delivering an approved PNA is the 1st of October 2025. The current timescales are:

- 29 May - pre-consultation draft PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval to consult;
- June – July – formal 60-day consultation;
- 25 September 2025 – final PNA submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval;
- 1 October 2025 – Publication of the PNA.

Background papers

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Guidance and Regulations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>

Report considered by Health and Wellbeing Board 26 May 2022

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s169091/Final%20PNA%20Update%20Leics%20HWBB%20May%202022.pdf>

Report considered by Health and Wellbeing Board 1 December 2022

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s172370/Urgent%20action%20taken%20by%20the%20Chief%20Executive.pdf>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Pre-consultation Draft of the 2025 Leicestershire PNA

Appendix B – LLR 2025 PNA Project Timeline

Appendix C – Draft of the Appendix to the 2025 Leicestershire PNA (online only -

<https://www.lsr-online.org/pna-for-2025>)

Officers to contact

Mike Sandys
Director of Public Health
Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 305 4239
Email: mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk

Hanna Blackledge
Senior Intelligence Manager (Research and Insight)
Leicestershire County Council

Tel: 0116 305585

Email: hanna.blackledge@leics.gov.uk

Andy Brown

Team Leader - Business Intelligence

Leicestershire County Council

Tel: 0116 3056096

Email: andy.brown@leics.gov.uk

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

21. The PNA will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The consultation process has sought to obtain and analyse views from the wide range of equalities groups.

Partnership Working and associated issues

22. The PNA has been produced in partnership with a range of partner agencies who have an interest in continued effective and efficient delivery of pharmacy services in the county and related services.

Risk Assessment

23. The assessment looks at a wide range of factors related to the adequacy of current pharmacy services in the County and the implications and risks that would arise with inadequate provision.