

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) Paper

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Surrey Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 - Proposed Delivery Plan
HWBS Priority populations:	The PNA has the potential to support outcomes for all Priority Population/s including residents in Key Neighbourhoods.
Assessed Need including link to HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3:	The PNA assesses need for all Surrey residents and relates to HWB Priority 1, 2 and 3.
HWBS Outcome:	Outcomes across the three priorities.
HWBS System Capability:	Integrated Care; Data, insights and evidence; Empowered and Thriving communities
HWBS Principles for Working with Communities:	Community capacity building: 'Building trust and relationships'
Interventions for reducing health inequalities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Based interventions
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Board Sponsor(s):	Ruth Hutchinson - Director of Public Health, Surrey County Council
HWB meeting date:	20 March 2024
Related HWB papers:	Please see "Surrey Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022", item number 35/22 presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 28 September 2022, 2.00 pm - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)
Annexes/Appendices:	None

2. Executive summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). In view of the recent changes to pharmaceutical provision, including 16 closures, it is proportionate to reopen the PNA (last published in 2022) to conduct a comprehensive reassessment of pharmaceutical needs. This paper outlines the proposed scope and timeline for agreement by the Board.

3. Recommendations

1. To acknowledge the reopening of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and note this work will supersede the publication of an interim annual statement.
2. To agree the proposed measures (and provide a steer on additional measures) that will be used to assess pharmaceutical need in the Surrey PNA 2025 (see section 5, table 1).
3. To agree the timeline (see section 7, table 2) for publication for the Surrey PNA 2025.

4. Reason for Recommendations

Although the Surrey HWB delegated responsibility for overseeing the production of the PNA to the PNA Steering Group (PNA SG), it is crucial for the HWB to give a steer to ensure there is alignment between this work and the strategic priorities of the Surrey system (e.g. NHS Forward Plan, Health and Well-being Strategy, ICP strategies, Fuller Stocktake, Pharmacy First delivery).

5. Detail

Background

Every Health and Wellbeing Board in England has a statutory responsibility to assess the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and to publish (and keep up to date) a statement of its assessment, termed the pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA). The legislation specifies that the PNA should describe and identify gaps in current (and future) service provision related to access. The PNA also provides useful information around how pharmacies might be better used to contribute to addressing the health needs of the local population.

The PNA supports decision making on market entry applications for new service providers of pharmaceutical services.

The assessment of service quality (e.g. medicines stock, staff expertise, waiting times) are outside the scope of the PNA.

The Surrey HWB delegated responsibility for overseeing the production of the Surrey PNA 2022 to the PNA Steering Group (PNA SG) consisting of key professionals from the Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), Surrey Local Medical Committee (LMC), Integrated Care Board (ICB), Public Health, the Surrey County Council communications team and Healthwatch.

There are additional duties for the HWB which include maintaining an up-to-date map of premises at which pharmaceutical services are provided and making written representations to the commissioners relating to certain notifications of pharmacy changes. These are delegated to the Public Health Intelligence and Insights Team (PHIIT).

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Local Context

The last Surrey PNA was published in 2022 and concluded:

- *There are no gaps in necessary services in Surrey*
- *There are no identified needs for additional pharmaceutical services, or enhancements to current arrangements across the county that would secure improvements or better access to services.*

A PNA is routinely revised every three years. However, it may be appropriate to reopen the needs assessment if there are changes to the local population or services sufficient enough to warrant it. An alternative, to reopening the full report is to produce a supplementary statement which reflects the impact of the changes and forms part of the PNA but does not require it to be reopened.

Since the publication of the PNA in 2022, the HWB have been notified of 16 pharmacy closures in Surrey (1 distance selling pharmacy and 15 community pharmacy (9 Lloyds in Sainsbury's pharmacies and 6 Boots pharmacies)), 4 pharmacies have consolidated with a nearby location and 2 new distance selling contractors have been approved for opening.

Over the past 24 months the closures described above have occurred intermittently and the impact of each was considered individually, with a view to producing a supplementary statement if the change created a new gap in pharmaceutical provision. In view of the volume of closures, it is now proportionate to reopen the full PNA to assess the cumulative impact of these changes and conduct a comprehensive reassessment of pharmaceutical need. A review also appears timely considering the potential evolution of the role of pharmacies through emerging schemes such as [Pharmacy First](#) and the delivery of the next steps in Fuller Stocktake [report](#), particularly 'Delivering the change our patients and staff want and need: improving same-day access for urgent care'.

Proposed scope of the Surrey PNA 2025

The minimum information to be contained in PNAs is set out in Schedule 1 of [The National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) and Regulation 9 outlines additional matters

for consideration when making assessments. However, it is also stated that ‘*health and wellbeing boards are free to include any other information that is felt to be relevant*’

Table 1 provides a summary of proposed measures to used to assess pharmaceutical need in the Surrey PNA 2025. Some of these are repeated from the previous PNA published in 2022 and some are proposed additions. The Board are asked to agree the measures listed and to suggest additional measures for inclusion.

Table 1: Proposed measures for inclusion in Surrey PNA 2025.

Proposed measures to assess pharmaceutical need in the Surrey PNA 2025.	Was this measure used in the previous PNA?	Comments
The number of pharmacies per 100,000 population by area	Yes	Gives a crude indication of whether there are enough pharmacies for the population. There is no nationally or locally set target for this measure because the expectation will vary based on local geography and population need.
Dispensing activity levels	Yes	Gives a crude indication of demand.
Opening hours and opening times (number of hours contracted, provision on weekdays, evenings, weekends)	Yes	Gives an indication of the provision of services at different times of the day and week. The SG (on behalf of the HWB) need to determine whether out of hours access will constitute a gap in provision.
Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distance (the 2022 PNA used one and five mile distances) - Travel time catchments (the 2022 PNA considered five to 20 minute intervals from pharmacy points.) 	Yes	Gives an indication of how far/ long residents have to travel to access a local pharmacist. There is no nationally or locally set standard of what is acceptable as expectation will vary based on factors such as rurality, car ownership, availability of distance selling pharmacy and alternate services available. The SG (on behalf of the HWB) need to determine appropriate distances for consideration in the 2025 PNA.
Car ownership	Yes	Gives an indication of the proportion of residents who may be less reliant on public transport to access pharmacies, particularly useful in considering needs after hours and/ or in rural areas.
Demographic variables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protected characteristics (and 	Yes	As per the 2013 regulations and 2021 DHSC guidance document.

any other identified groups) - Population density - Rural and urban areas and population - Age profiles - Index of multiple deprivation		
Population projections	Yes	As per the 2013 regulations and 2021 DHSC guidance document.
Number of households and planned housing growth	Yes	As per the 2013 regulations and 2021 DHSC guidance document. Gives an indication of population growth areas in each locality. There is no nationally or locally set target for this measure because the expectation will vary based on local geography and population need. For the 2025 PNA The SG (on behalf of the HWB) need to revisit and determine how best to consider the impact of planned housing developments on need.
Health needs of the population (e.g. mortality, morbidity including asthma, COPD, diabetes, stroke. Physical activity levels, obesity)	Yes	As advised in the DHSC guidance document.
Dispensing activity of each pharmacy/ locality	Yes	As advised in the DHSC guidance document.
Service provision - Essential - Advanced - Enhanced	Yes	As advised in the DHSC guidance document, includes identification of which services are deemed "necessary").
Other relevant services (e.g. public health locally commissioned services and other NHS providers in Surrey)	Yes	As advised in the DHSC guidance document.
Surveys of patients and the public	Yes	Strongly recommended in the DHSC guidance document.
Surveys of community pharmacy contractors and others providing relevant services		As advised in the DHSC guidance document.
Access to residents living in Key Neighbourhoods	No, new proposed measure	Further details TBC. Proposed consideration of these residents who are priority as outlined in the

		Surrey Health and Well-being strategy .
Assessment of unmet need	No, new proposed measures	Further details TBC. Many of the previous measures are focused around demand for pharmaceutical services. PNA SG to explore how best to measure unmet need of Surrey residents.

6. Opportunities/Challenges

The most significant challenge is the time it takes to complete the work. The Regulations outline a number of steps (with mandatory timescales) that make a timely publication difficult. The suggested length of delivery by national guidance is 55 weeks. The Board is asked to acknowledge and agree to the timeline proposed in Section 7 (below).

7. Timescale and delivery plan

The below timeline for the delivery of the Surrey PNA 2025 has been developed in compliance with steps proposed in the DHSC Information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards (referred to as the guidance document) and acknowledging the need to produce a timely report.

Table 2: Proposed timeline for the delivery of the Surrey PNA 2025.

	2024									2025				
	A pri l	M ay	Ju ne	J ul y	Aug ust	Septe mber	Oct ober	Nove mber	Dece mber	Jan uary	Febr uary	Ma rch	A pri l	M ay
1. Planning, review and governance	■	■												
2. Patient/ public & contractor questionnaires	■	■	■											
3. Data collection and preparation		■	■	■										
4. Drafting PNA content			■	■	■	■	■							
5. Consultation draft signed off							■	■	■	■				
6. Formal consultation									■	■	■			
7. Finalise & publish PNA												■	■	■

8. What communications and engagement has happened/needs to happen?

Healthwatch Surrey are a member of the PNA SG to ensure the views of residents are considered at every stage of development. Key steps in the development of the PNA are the patient survey (approach taken to collect the views of Surrey residents, pharmacy contractors and dispensing GP practices) and the 60-day formal

consultation period to ensure the final outcome adequately reflects the needs and views of the Surrey population.

9. Next steps

- The PNA Steering Group will begin the development of the Surrey PNA 2025 and work towards the agreed timeline outlined in Section 7.
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Questions to guide Board discussion:

- What measures would the HWB like to be considered when assessing pharmaceutical need, acknowledging that service quality is out of scope of the PNA?

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