



Executive Summary

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

PNA 2022-23 Draft for consultation

Introduction

The production and publication of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) became a statutory requirement in the Health Act 2009. Following the abolition of Primary Care Trusts (PCT) in 2013 this statutory responsibility was passed to Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) by virtue of the National Health Service (NHS) Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services (Amended) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 1st April 2013. The requirement is to publish a PNA at least every 3 years; there have been three previous PNAs in 2011, 2015 and 2018. The publication of this PNA was extended to October 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19.

Each HWB is required to publish its own revised PNA for its area. In Shropshire, the HWB must describe the current pharmaceutical services in the county, systematically identify any gaps, unmet needs, and in consultation with stakeholders make recommendations on future development.

The PNA is a key document used by NHS England local area teams to make decisions on new applications for pharmacies and change of services or relocations by current pharmacies. It is also used by commissioners reviewing the health needs for services within their particular area, to identify if any of their services can be commissioned through community pharmacies.

Pharmacy has much more to offer than the safe and effective dispensing of medicines. It is increasingly expanding its provision of additional clinical services, becoming a persuasive force in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and reducing health inequalities. They are easily accessible and are often first point of contact, including for those who might otherwise not access health services.

Shropshire HWB considers community pharmacies to be a key public health resource and recognises that they offer potential opportunities to commission health improvement initiatives and work closely with partners to promote health and wellbeing.

The consultation of the key findings and proposed recommendations is taking place from 2nd August 2022 to 30th September 2022. The consultation is seeking the views of the statutory consultees, other stakeholders and members of the public on whether it addressed the issues that they consider relevant and important.

Local Context

This PNA Covers the area of Shropshire Local Authority; together with Telford and Wrekin Council both form the geography which is Coterminous with NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS).

Key demographic messages for Shropshire

- Shropshire is a diverse, large, predominately rural inland county with a wide range of land use, economic activities, employment and social conditions.
- Shropshire's population has been increasing at a slightly slower rate (8.3%) than England (9.1%) between 2000 and 2020 (using ONS population estimates). Much the Shropshire population growth has been due to migration.

- Shropshire has a relatively high concentration of people in the older age groups. In 2020, about 52.7% of the County's residents were aged 45 or over, compared to only 42.9% nationally (ONS 2020 Estimates).
- Shropshire, like many parts of the country, has an ageing population. Between 2000 and 2020 Shropshire median population age rose from 41.2 to 48.2. Whilst England's median age rose from 37.8 to 40.2 years old (ONS 2020 Estimates).
- LSOAs in Harlescott, Mookmoor and Ludlow East wards are the three LSOAs with the highest deprivation levels within Shropshire. All three fall within the top 10% of most deprived LSOA areas within England. Looking at whole wards, the three most deprived wards within Shropshire are Monksmoor, Harlescott and Castlefields & Ditherington, (ONS 2019).
- The number of people aged 0-18 is projected to decrease. In 2020 this age group accounts for 19.6% of Shropshire's population compared to 22.5% for England.

Access to pharmaceutical services

- There are currently 47 community pharmacies in Shropshire, located throughout the county in towns, market towns and larger villages.
- The pharmacies are usually close to GP practices providing choice and convenience for patients.
- Most pharmacies opening times generally mirror those of the GP practices, however most pharmacies also open for at least some of the day on a Saturday. There are 6 pharmacies open on a Sunday in Shropshire.
- Due to the rural nature of much of Shropshire, many localities are supported by GP practices that dispense to their patients. Dispensary opening hours usually reflect the opening times of the practice. Dispensing doctors offer services to help fulfil the pharmaceutical needs of the patients in these areas.
- There appears to be reasonable access to most services commissioned by Public Health in Shropshire, such as emergency hormonal contraception. However, this appears to be lower than some peer and neighbouring systems.

Current pharmaceutical provision

- The distribution of pharmacies per head-of-population shows the overall rate to be lower than the national average.
- There are three 100-hour pharmacies two of which are located in Shrewsbury and one in Oswestry.
- Some advanced services AUR and SAC are only provided by a small number of pharmacies.

Gaps in pharmaceutical provision

- **Visibility of services** - The patient survey highlighted communications about the specific services that community pharmacies provide, and which pharmacies have signed up to provide them. These services need to be more visible.
- **Weekend access** - There is limited provision on Sundays in the South of the county.
- Further investigation and consideration is perhaps necessary to evaluate if there is enough pharmacy provision given growth in housing stock and projected population growth in the county.

Recommendations

- Review and expand the opening times of pharmacies on Sundays specifically in South Shropshire.
- Consider future joint training sessions bringing together representatives from community pharmacy and other organisations' pharmacists to promote integrated working.
- Explore options for improving communications around provision of services delivered in community pharmacy.
- There is a need to raise awareness, signposting and improve the availability of online information to promote the services currently available. There are also opportunities for both the HWB and within the Integrated Care System to capitalise on the capacity within the range of services offered from community pharmacies and for future service development. Consideration should be given to including community pharmacy and the services they can provide in future commissioning plans and strategies in order to support the delivery of community-based services.
- Considering information from stakeholders including community pharmacies and dispensing doctor practices, the number and distribution of the current pharmaceutical service provision in Shropshire is assessed as insufficient. During the period of 2017 to 2038 an estimated 28,750 houses will be built in Shropshire. In areas of significant development and population growth, additional future pharmacy provision will need to be considered. The HWB will monitor the development of major housing sites and produce supplementary statements to the PNA if deemed necessary, to ensure that appropriate information on pharmacy needs is available.

