

**North Yorkshire County Council
Scrutiny of Health Committee
15 December 2017**

North Yorkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

Purpose of report

This report is intended to update members on progress made with the PNA and to encourage the committee and committee members to take part in the statutory 60 day consultation that starts in December 2017.

Background

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) every three years. A PNA describes what pharmacy services are currently available in North Yorkshire and what services might be needed in the future. The document is used to inform decisions on whether changes need to be made to opening times of pharmacies or if new pharmacies or services are required.

Decisions on whether to open new pharmacies or make any changes are made by NHS England who review the application and decide if there is a need for a new pharmacy in the proposed location. When making the decision NHS England is required to refer to the local PNA. As these decisions may be appealed and challenged via the courts, it is important that PNAs comply with regulations and that mechanisms are established to keep the PNA up-to-date. There is also a requirement for NHS England to consult Health and Wellbeing Boards when applications are made to changes pharmacy services e.g. a new pharmacy, or closure, relocation or change in ownership of an existing pharmacy.

The North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Public Health team are leading the PNA on behalf of the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

Development of the 2018-21 PNA

A PNA steering group has been established to lead the PNA and a project plan is in place. The group includes representatives from the Local Medical Committee (LMC), NHS England, Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire (CPNY), Healthwatch and City of York and North Yorkshire Public Health teams.

The final PNA has to be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board and published by the end of March 2018, and to achieve this the review has been divided into four stages:

Stage one: Stakeholder engagement. An eight week engagement exercise was launched at the end of May to gather feedback on the provision and availability of pharmacies and pharmacy services. The engagement also aimed to identify whether there might be any potential future plans or changes that could impact on the need for pharmacies. Four surveys were devised as follows:

- Users/potential users of pharmacies
- Pharmacies

- Health and Social Care Providers
- Strategic Partners (including CCG's)

Stage two: Data analysis and drafting the report (July to November 2017). This includes reviewing the demography of North Yorkshire to identify where the need for pharmacy services is and mapping the availability of pharmacies including opening times, location and services commissioned.

Stage three: Consultation on the draft PNA (December 2017 and January 2018). The Health and Wellbeing Board has to carry out a 60 day statutory formal consultation period where a number of agencies must be given the opportunity to consult on the draft PNA. These agencies include the CCG's, Healthwatch, NHS Mental Health Trusts, NHS Acute Trusts, pharmacies and dispensing practices, NHS England, neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards CPLY and the LMC.

Stage four: Production and approval of the final report (January to March 2018). The final PNA will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 23rd March 2017 for final approval and sign off. A process must also be agreed for the Health and Wellbeing Board to review future pharmacy applications and produce supplementary statements to the PNA where necessary.

Feedback from the engagement exercise

A good response was received from a range of stakeholders across North Yorkshire through four surveys. The number of responses received were as follows:

	2017	2014
General public/pharmacy users	375	117
Strategic partners	12 (including all local CCGs)	10
Health and Social Care Providers	37	31 (included 1 pharmacy)
Pharmacies	50	no separate pharmacy questionnaire last time

NB the previous PNA results also included York services/residents.

In addition to the surveys feedback was gathered through focus groups including the older people's forum and disability forums to ensure the needs of key groups were represented.

Early findings

Analysis of the data has taken place to summarise the demographics and the health needs of North Yorkshire and any implications on the need for pharmacies. This includes mapping the provision of pharmacies, their opening times, population density and travelling distance from a pharmacy. We are also consulting with neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards about services provided in their areas which may affect the pharmaceutical needs in North Yorkshire.

Evidence shows that generally there continues to be a good geographic spread of pharmacies across North Yorkshire, with the majority of people being within reasonable travel distance of a pharmacy. There are currently 113 community

pharmacies in North Yorkshire and 48 dispensing practices. There is good pharmacy coverage in the more deprived wards in North Yorkshire and all districts have above the national level of pharmacies per 100,000 population. There are no gaps in necessary provision.

Key notes from the assessment include:

- The population in North Yorkshire is growing and is getting older. Within the next three years it is expected that the population of North Yorkshire will include a greater number of people with long term health conditions. Although the population is growing, our projections suggest that this need can be accommodated within existing capacity over the next three years. Trends suggest additional capacity may be required to meet these growing needs over time
- Opening hours indicate good access during Monday to Saturday. However, there are areas where Sunday access is improved by pharmacies in neighbouring authorities.
- Around 98% of the population of North Yorkshire lives within five miles (as the crow flies) of a pharmacy, with around 63% of the population living within a 20 minute walk of a pharmacy. However, there are parts of the county that are reliant on pharmacies in other Local Authority areas. If community pharmacy services in these areas were not maintained then travel time to the next available pharmacy could be significantly increased for some residents.
- The residents of North Yorkshire currently have better health than their peers nationally. This means that there will be opportunities for greater self-care and self-monitoring of conditions, some of which may be facilitated by community pharmacies.
- There was feedback from some pharmacy providers that they do not have the systems in place to allow them to provide some services currently such as disabled access.
- A range of additional/enhanced services are provided and these appear to be based on population need. There are no gaps in additional services although activity for public health commissioned service falls below desirable levels so work needs to be done to address any barriers in providing this service. Local Authority and NHS commissioners should continue to monitor potential opportunities for developing new services such as long term conditions where a need has been identified.
- There are a number of developments that are expected to take place over the next three years that may impact on the need for and access to pharmacy services. E.g. GP extended access, housing developments, on-line pharmacies and changes to the way in which pharmacies are funded. It is not possible to assess the impact of this at this time, however, it should remain under review as part of the ongoing PNA process. Any pharmacy changes or closures that have a significant impact on access may be subject to a supplementary statement being issued by the Health and Well-being Board if this occurs before the next PNA is prepared in 2020.
- Pharmacy services providing advice on minor illnesses and repeat ordering of prescriptions appears fairly well used in North Yorkshire (based on survey data). However, there also appeared to be some knowledge gaps among the public of the services offered by pharmacies.
- The development of healthy living pharmacies and closer working with primary care will improve services for the user over the next three years.

Next steps

The PNA has been drafted and the statutory 60 day consultation starts in December. A range of stakeholders are invited to comment on the findings and the final document will be published in April.

Recommendations

That members of the Scrutiny of Health Committee:

- Note the contents of this report
- Engage in the public consultation on the PNA
- Help publicise the public consultation on the PNA in their area.

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