

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the views of the Health & Wellbeing Board on the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022 prior to public consultation.

How does the report support Gateshead's Health & Wellbeing Strategy?

2. The development and publication of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Background

3. The purpose of the PNA is twofold:
 - a. To determine if there are sufficient community pharmacies to meet the needs of the population of Gateshead.
 - b. To determine other services which could be delivered by community pharmacies to meet the identified health needs of the population.
4. A PNA describes the population's health needs and the pharmaceutical services which exist or could be commissioned to address these. It is also used to identify any gaps in pharmaceutical services which could be filled by new community pharmacies. The previous PNA was produced and implemented in 2018 with the requirement that the HWB must publish a statement of its revised assessment within 3 years of publication. This was extended by a further 18 months because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. The attached draft PNA has been developed through a steering group including representatives from the Council's Public Health team, the CCG, the Local Medical and Pharmaceutical Committees, and Healthwatch.
6. The draft PNA highlights the provision of core and extended pharmacy services across Gateshead and makes a number of recommendations (Appendix 1). It also reflects on progress on the recommendations from the 2018 report.
7. There is a requirement for consultation on the PNA with relevant stakeholders (described in the report) for a minimum period of 60 days.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that consultation on the draft PNA addresses the following questions:
 - a. to consider whether there are sufficient community pharmacies to meet the needs of the population, and particularly whether this is the case in the East locality of the Borough; and;
 - b. to consider whether other services could be delivered by community pharmacies.
9. The consultation should last from 20 June to 18 August 2022, and the final PNA taking account of comments as appropriate would then be brought back to a meeting of the HWB before the end of September 2022 for approval. (Appendix 2)

Recommendations

10. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the proposed consultation on the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the recommendations for inclusion within the PNA 2022 outlined in Appendix 1.

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Appendix 1

Gateshead Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

Conclusions and Key Points

- There are 46 pharmacies in Gateshead, located primarily in areas of higher population density with 98% of the population being within 1 mile of a community pharmacy.
- There is more than one pharmacy in most villages and urban areas within Gateshead, allowing patient choice and access to enhanced services.
- In addition, there is one 100-hour pharmacy, three distant selling pharmacies, and one rural general practice provides dispensing services to some of their patients.
- There is adequate provision of pharmacies across Gateshead Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. However, as in previous years services continue to be more limited in weekday evenings and over weekends.
- On Saturdays, 67% of pharmacies are open in the mornings and 30% are open on Saturday afternoons, allowing working residents to access pharmacy services. Sunday and evening provision across Gateshead is more limited. Access to pharmacies that are open for longer during the day and the weekend is greater in the Central, Inner West and South localities of Gateshead with the East and West localities having limited Saturday morning and no Sunday access within the locality.
- Although there has been a reduction in pharmacy provision in Gateshead since the last PNA, there continues to be adequate access to community pharmacies during the weekdays and weekends, although this is more limited in the evenings and on Sundays.
- The longer hours of access to pharmacy services are provided by the one 100-hour pharmacy provider and a number of community pharmacies provide extended hours including 9 community pharmacies that provide services for between 51 - 60 hours per week and 5 that provide services between 61-99 hours per week.
- Services currently commissioned from pharmacies in Gateshead include emergency contraception, smoking cessation, needle exchange, supervised consumption of methadone, minor ailments, and specialist palliative care drugs. There is adequate provision of all these services across Gateshead.
- Although the more rural areas in the West of Gateshead have a more limited pharmacy provision, the findings regarding access to services by foot and public transport include these areas and demonstrate there is adequate access to services in terms of travel time for all the population of Gateshead.
- The areas of Gateshead that are within the 30% most deprived areas in the country account for 52% of the areas in Gateshead. However, the majority of pharmacy services are seen to be located near to or in these areas. From this information, although there is adequate access to community pharmacy services

across the area, the east and west localities of Gateshead are less well served both with pharmacy premises and also the range of pharmacy opening hours.

- The finding described in this PNA is that there continues to be a good delivery of Pharmacy Advanced Services across Gateshead. All pharmacies provide the CPCS and NMS services and many indicated their intention to commence the hypertension case finding service. Provision of support for people requiring Appliances and Stoma care is more limited in the area but this may be a reflection of the required needs of the local community.
- Services currently commissioned from pharmacies in Gateshead include emergency contraception, smoking cessation, needle exchange, supervised consumption of methadone, minor ailments, and specialist palliative care drugs. There is adequate provision of all these services across Gateshead.
- There is also adequate provision of the locally commissioned services by the CCG across Gateshead with many other pharmacies willing to provide the service if commissioned.

Recommendations

- Access to pharmacy in respect of urgent care is adequate but the HWB board recommends that discussions and review of the pharmacy services out of hours are recommenced.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board considers that the current number of pharmacies and overall number of hours is adequate to meet the needs of people accessing pharmacy services.
- After considering all the elements of the PNA, the Health and Wellbeing Board concludes that there is adequate provision of NHS pharmaceutical services across Gateshead.
- The HWB recognise that community pharmacies in Gateshead across the majority of localities, dispense significantly higher numbers of prescriptions than the national average, however these pharmacies are able to meet the current need.
- Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board wish to acknowledge the contribution that Community pharmacy services have made to the recent Covid Pandemic response. The majority of pharmacies in Gateshead provided support to the local community both in terms of maintaining essential medicine services and also in the delivery of medicines to those unable to leave their homes, supplying Lateral Flow Device testing kits and in the support and administration of the covid vaccination programme.

Appendix 2

Consultation on the Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

The formal consultation on the draft PNA for Gateshead will run from 20 June to 18 August 2022 in line with the guidance on developing PNAs and section 242 of the Health Service Act 2012, which stipulates the need to involve Health and Wellbeing Boards in scrutinising Health Services.

In keeping with the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (2013) the following stakeholders will be consulted during this time:

- Gateshead Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- Gateshead Local Medical Committee
- All persons on the pharmaceutical lists and all dispensing doctors list in Gateshead
- LPS chemists in Gateshead with whom NHS England has made arrangements for the provision of any local pharmaceutical services.
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
- Gateshead Healthwatch
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust, and Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS England
- Neighbouring HWBs in Newcastle, Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.
- General Practitioners
- ICS
- Letters will be sent to all consultees informing them of the web site address which contained the draft PNA document.
- Additionally, comments from the public will be sought via the Council's on-line consultation portal.

Three specific consultation questions will be asked:

- a. whether there are sufficient community pharmacies to meet the needs of the population; and
- b. whether other services could be delivered by community pharmacies.
- c. Do you feel that the information is a good reflection of the current pharmaceutical provision in Gateshead?

Respondents can also offer other comments.