

Report of: Director of Public Health

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	15 October 2014	Item	All
Delete as appropriate	Non-exempt		

## SUBJECT: PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 1. Synopsis

This is Islington Health and Wellbeing Board's (HWB) first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) under new regulations and requirements. The PNA regulations require that each Local Authority HWB publish a PNA covering their area. The HWB is responsible for the following:

- Publishing the first PNA by 1 April 2015, ensuring that all required information and assessments are included;
- Ensuring an up-to-date map of services is included in the assessment;
- Publishing any statements or revisions within 3 years of the previous publication;
- Ensuring that other HWBs have access to the PNA;
- Consulting stakeholders and other areas about the content of the assessment for the minimum 60-day period;
- Responding to a consultation from a neighbouring HWB;
- Ensuring that once published, the PNA is kept up-to-date and any supplementary statements or full revisions are published as soon as possible following any changes.

Islington's PNA also included a comprehensive analysis of the health needs of the population at a locality level, qualitative research with local residents to better understand their views of pharmacy services, and a thorough assessment of each pharmacy service using service data to determine any gaps.

Overall, the assessment determined that Islington's population has sufficient provision of pharmaceutical services to meet the health needs of the population.

At this stage, a final draft PNA has been produced by the PNA Steering Group. Once approved by the HWB, the mandatory 60-day consultation will take place. The consultation will run from October 2014 to December 2014, with exact dates to be confirmed. Communications will be sent out to raise awareness of the consultation, and the consultation documents will be available on the Council website for downloading.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- APPROVE the draft PNA, prior to launching the mandatory 60-day consultation period.

## **3. Background**

The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the requirements of the PNA, as well the process for market entry of pharmacies into an area. The PNA, as part of this process, assesses the need for pharmaceutical services in Islington's population, identifying any gaps in service delivery and any areas for improvement. The PNA will be used by NHS England when determining whether to approve applications for pharmacies in the area to join the pharmaceutical list, and to inform NHS England's commissioned services.

Previously, PNAs were the responsibility of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to produce. The first PNAs were published in 2005, as the basis for deciding market entry of pharmacies to PCTs. The publication of the White Paper *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths – delivering the future* proposed a review of the requirements of PNAs in order to make the process more robust, and make PNAs more effective in assessing the need for services. The Health and Social Care Act (2012) transferred this responsibility to local authority Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs), and further widened the scope of the PNA.

## **4. Key findings**

The assessment has determined that Islington's population has sufficient provision of pharmaceutical services to meet the health needs of the population.

Islington has a similar rate of community pharmacies per 100,000 residents to the London average and there is at least one pharmacy in most wards of the borough, and a late opening pharmacy in three localities. Resident engagement has showed that pharmacies were generally viewed positively, with pharmacists viewed as professional, knowledgeable with regular pharmacy users in particular commenting that they highly value the support and personal service that they receive at pharmacies. However, there is scope for more work to improve awareness of the services offered by pharmacies, as well as improving their accessibility for people with mobility needs.

Data analysed indicates that the current demand for essential services is being met and there would be capacity, on average, to meet any increased demand for prescriptions that might arise over the next few years as a result of inward migration and an increase in the prevalence of long term conditions.

Within the context of the PNA, areas where improvements can be made in order to maximise the potential of community pharmacies in helping Islington's population stay healthy were identified. These are:

- Improving the awareness of available pharmacy services
- Improving the awareness of longer opening hours
- Addressing the areas where pharmacies can increase the provision of key public health programmes

These recommendations should also be reviewed by the commissioners responsible for the service, in order to determine ways in which pharmacy services could be improved in general.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1. Financial implications**

None identified.

Any improvement recommendations should not cause a pressure for the council and should be carried out, if applicable, within available resources.

### **5.2. Legal Implications**

Section 128A of the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred the responsibility for publishing and updating a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area, referred to as Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments ("PNAs"), from PCTs to Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Regulation 5 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 specifies that each Health and Wellbeing Board must publish its first PNA for its area by 1 April 2015. The PNA will require board-level sign-off and a period of public consultation beforehand.

Failure to produce a robust PNA could lead to legal challenges because of the PNA's relevance to decisions about commissioning services and new pharmacy openings. PNAs must be aligned with other plans for local health and social care, including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### **5.3. Equalities Impact Assessment**

As this is a needs assessment, equalities were included in assessing pharmacy services. Protected characteristics were also considered, as required by the regulations.

### **5.4. Environmental Implications**

The report will be available online, with printed versions only on request, as required by the regulations.

## **6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- APPROVE the draft PNA, prior to launching the mandatory 60-day consultation period.

**Background papers:** None

**Attachments:** Islington Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

### **Final Report Clearance**

**Signed by**



23 September 2014

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Director of Public Health

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Date

**Received by**

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Head of Democratic Services

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Date

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