



Report of: Jonathan O'Sullivan, Director of Public Health

Health and Wellbeing Board	Date: 22 March 2022	Ward(s): All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt

SUBJECT: Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This paper provides information on the process for conducting and publishing a new Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) by 1 October 2022.
- 1.2 Since 1 April 2013, every Health and Wellbeing Board in England has had a statutory responsibility, to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services for the population in its area. Data contained within the assessment will be used to plan pharmaceutical services in the borough to best meet local health needs.
- 1.3 As part of a North Central London (NCL) agreement, Enfield Council led on a joint procurement for the production of PNAs for all five local authorities. A Steering Group has been established to support the production of the PNAs, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Boards, and in line with the relevant regulations.
- 1.4 This will be the third PNA, with the first two published in 2015 and 2018.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To formally delegate the approval of the draft and final PNA 2022 to the Director of Public Health.

3. Background

- 3.1 The National Health Service (NHS) Act 2006 (under Section 128A) requires each Health and Wellbeing Board to assess the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and publish a statement of its assessment. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 sets out the minimum information that must be contained within a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) and outlines the process that must be followed in its development.
- 3.2 The PNA is a report of the present needs for pharmaceutical services. It is used to identify any gaps in current services or improvements that could be made in future pharmaceutical service provision.
- 3.3 To prepare the PNA, data is gathered from pharmacy contractors, pharmacy users and other residents, and from a range of sources (commissioners, planners and others). The report also includes a range of maps that are produced from data collected as part of the PNA process.
- 3.4 The deadline for publishing the next PNA was extended to 1 October 2022, as a result of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 Following a NCL joint procurement process, led by Enfield Council, Soar Beyond Ltd has been commissioned to support the preparation of the draft PNA 2022 reports for each of the five London Boroughs, in line with the 2013 Regulations. Soar Beyond have extensive expertise in producing PNAs, having produced eight in 2015 and 12 in 2018.
- 3.6 The one-off cost for Islington is £36,200 and as a statutory responsibility, it is funded from the ring-fenced public health grant.
- 3.7 As part of the preparation, a PNA Steering Group has been set up with representatives from the following organisations:
- Clinical Commissioning Group / Medicine Management Team
 - Healthwatch
 - Local Authority Public Health team
 - Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- 3.8 The first PNA Steering Group meeting was held on 13 January 2022. At this meeting, the Terms of Reference (Appendix A) and Project Plan (Appendix B) were agreed.

4. Key Considerations and sustainability

- 4.1 To ensure the 1 October 2022 deadline is met, it is proposed that the approval to publish the final PNA is delegated to the Director of Public Health. This approach is being proposed across all NCL boroughs and has been adopted by other Local Authorities.
- 4.2 PNAs are a special assessment of pharmaceutical services provision in an area. The PNA includes information on current pharmaceutical services provision, information on health and other needs, and an assessment on whether current provision meets current or future needs of the area.
- 4.3 As part of the process, surveys will be undertaken with the public, commissioners and community pharmacy contractors in the borough. The aim of these surveys is to seek opinion

on current pharmaceutical services provided in the area. These surveys will be carried out and analysed by March 2022.

- 4.4 The PNA is currently being produced by Soar Beyond, and a draft version is due to be considered by the Steering Group in May 2022.
- 4.5 Subject to the approval of the Steering Group and the Director of Public Health, the draft PNA will be made available for the mandatory 60-day consultation period, from 6 June 2022 to 1 August 2022. The results of the consultation will be considered by the Steering Group before the end of August 2022, and a final PNA will be produced for publication.
- 4.6 The final PNA must be published no later than 1 October 2022.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications:

The cost of the recommendations within this report are currently estimated to be £176,000 to NCL with a contribution of £36,200 from Islington.

Islington has already met £24,134 of these planned costs, leaving £12,066 remaining to be paid. This £12,066 is relatively small and can be absorbed within the wider PH budget or PH reserves.

The risk of overspend is expected to be minimal. Each Local Authority is required to approve (and pay for) any additional work in advance, prior to such work starting. No over or underspends are expected through this commissioned piece of work, as the costs that have been approved are based on the current specification.

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred the responsibility for developing and updating PNAs to Health and Wellbeing Board. The responsibility for using PNAs as the basis for determining market entry to a pharmaceutical list transferred from primary care trusts to NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Under Section 128A of the NHS Act 2006, each Health and Wellbeing must in accordance with regulations:

- (a) assess needs for pharmaceutical services in its area, and
- (b) publish a statement of its first assessment and of any revised assessment

5.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

There are no significant environmental impacts associated with the PNA. The questionnaires will be conducted primarily as an online survey, with printed copies created only on request. The final report will be available online, with printed versions only on request, as required by the regulations.

5.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those

who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

As part of the production of the PNA, an Equality Impact Assessment is being drafted and the PNA will consider the equalities impact related to pharmacy services. In line with the specification, Soar Beyond must detail how the PNA will be carried out, including how the PNA has taken into account the different needs of different localities in Islington, as well as the different needs of people in its area who share a protected characteristic, and a report on the consultation that it has undertaken. The PNA will draw on multiple sources, including responses from a public questionnaire and the Serving the Local Community 2021 report, which provides qualitative insight on pharmacy perspectives on effective uptake implementation and delivery of population health.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 To meet the statutory requirement to publish the final PNA by 1 October 2022, this report recommends delegating approval of the final PNA to the Director of Public Health and for the final assessment provided for information to the Health and Wellbeing Board by October 2022

Appendices

- Appendix A: PNA Steering Group
- Appendix B: PNA Project Plan

Background papers:

- N/A

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEO'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a simple horizontal line.

Jonathan O'Sullivan, Director of Public Health Date: 16/03/2022

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