

**PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA) UPDATE AND REVIEW**

**Report of the Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities (HHC) and Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) Steering Group in relation to Community Pharmacy provision, following the closure of three pharmacies and the reductions in opening hours of 100 hours pharmacies in Sunderland, in accordance with the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, which add to and amend the 2013 Regulations.
- 1.2 To assure the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) that the Executive Director of HHC, supported by the PNA Steering Group, has considered the potential implications of the closures and reduction in hours of pharmacies in Sunderland. Both are satisfied that these closures do not leave a significant gap in pharmaceutical services in Sunderland and therefore a supplementary statement to the PNA is not required.

**2.0 Executive Summary – changes to community pharmacy provision**

- 2.1 This report describes the current Community Pharmacy provision across Sunderland following the closure of the following three pharmacies:
  - a) Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd, Inside Sainsbury's, Silksworth Lane, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1PD on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023;
  - b) Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd, Inside Sainsbury's, Wessington Way, Sunderland SR5 3JG on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023; and
  - c) Boots UK Ltd, 2-3 Park Lane, Sunderland SR1 3NX on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- 2.2 The potential implications of these pharmacy closures have been considered and are set out in this report.
- 2.3 Additionally, the impact of changes to the provision of 100-hour pharmacies which now have the option to reduce their hours down to 72 hours, in accordance with changes to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, has been considered and is set out in this report.

### 3.0 Background

3.1 The PNA for Sunderland (July 2022 to July 2025) was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2022. At this meeting it was resolved that:

- a) the PNA for Sunderland (July 2022 to July 2025) be agreed;
- b) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of HHC to agree any further minor changes to the PNA in advance of formal publication by 1 October 2022;
- c) appropriate updates be received through the Executive Director of HHC; and
- d) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of HHC to identify any changes to the need for pharmaceutical services that arise during the lifetime of the PNA and determine whether a supplementary statement needs to be issued or whether it would be proportionate to produce a new PNA.

3.2 A link to the published PNA for Sunderland is available at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/19967/Pharmaceutical-Needs-Assessment>, along with a list of all pharmacies in Sunderland (last updated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023).

3.3 The PNA Steering Group was reconvened to support the Executive Director of HHC to fulfil the delegated PNA responsibilities referred to above. The Steering Group has been established to:

- a) Oversee and drive the formal process required for the development of a PNA for Sunderland;
- b) Ensure that the published PNA complies with all the requirements set out under the Regulations;
- c) Promote integration of the PNA with other strategies and plans including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Healthy City Plan, the ICBs' Commissioning Strategy plans and other relevant strategies; and
- d) Ensure the appropriate maintenance of the PNA, following publication, as required by the Regulations.
- e)

3.4 The PNA Steering Group comprises of representation from the Council (Public Health), the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Sunderland Healthwatch, ICB (Medicines Optimisation / Primary Care), Community Pharmacy and Primary Care Support England (PCSE). The Steering Group is chaired by a Public Health Consultant.

3.5 The Executive Director and PNA Steering Group are satisfied that the closures do not leave a significant gap in pharmaceutical services in Sunderland. This is due to the remaining pharmacies located within a 1 mile/1.6 km radius of the closed pharmacies that offer equivalent services. There continues to be adequate out of hours access across Sunderland.

- 3.6 Within the 2022 PNA statement it was identified that: 'There is currently adequate provision of NHS pharmaceutical services across Sunderland. There is no access to community pharmacy services within the Coalfields locality during most of the extended GP hours on weekday evenings and generally on Sundays and weekday evenings. Though these wider opening hours are not classified as part of essential services, their availability in the locality could improve access and choice for the local population. This does not highlight a specific need for additional community pharmacies in the Coalfields locality, though access issues should be better understood to establish whether any further action is required.'
- 3.7 Following the publication of the PNA, Sunderland has seen changes to the provision of 100-hour pharmacies, which now have the option to reduce their hours down to 72 hours, in accordance with changes to the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2023.
- 3.8 The NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, state a 3-month notice period for a 40-hour pharmacy closure is normally given to NHS England.
- 3.9 In June 2023, the Council was informed by NHS England that two pharmacies were closing in Sunderland over the summer and one in November (see section 4).
- 3.10 The Executive Director of HHC, supported by the PNA Steering Group has made a judgement as to whether any of these closures could leave 'a significant gap' in pharmaceutical services.
- 3.11 The two key issues that the Executive Director of HHC and PNA Steering Group have considered are:
- how patients can continue to receive pharmaceutical services in the area (particularly out of hours); and
  - whether the local pharmacy network can accommodate the potential increase in workload.
- 3.12 There are existing arrangements in place across the system for out of hours and emergency supply.
- 3.13 It is not deemed that any of these closures leave 'a significant gap in pharmaceutical services', and therefore a supplementary statement to the PNA 2022-25 is not required.

#### **4.0 Summary of closures**

4.1 Details of the three pharmacy closures since the 2022 PNA are set out below, with accompanying maps showing existing pharmacies in a 1.6km/1 mile radius set out in appendix 1.

#### **4.2 Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd, (Inside Sainsbury's), Silksworth Lane, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1PD (40 hours). Market Exit 13/06/2023.**

Lloyds Pharmacy, Silksworth closed in June 2023. There are eight surrounding pharmacies, within a one-mile radius, which offer all ICB and Public Health commissioned services previously provided by Lloyds.

Lloyds was located in Sainsbury's, where the primary purpose of visiting is to use the supermarket, as opposed to the pharmacy. This is evidenced by the lower number of prescriptions dispensed at Lloyds compared to surrounding pharmacies.

#### **4.3 Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd, Inside Sainsbury's, Wessington Way, Sunderland SR5 3JG (54 hours). Market exit 28/07/2023.**

Lloyds Pharmacy, Wessington Way closed in July 2023. There are six surrounding pharmacies, within a one-mile radius, which offer all ICB and Public Health commissioned services previously provided by Lloyds.

Lloyds was located in Sainsbury's, where the primary purpose of visits is to use the supermarket, as opposed to the pharmacy. This is evidenced by the lower number of prescriptions dispensed at Lloyds compared to surrounding pharmacies.

#### **4.4 Boots UK Ltd, 2-3 Park Lane, Sunderland SR1 3NX (54 hours). Market exit 11/11/23.**

Boots Pharmacy, closed in November 2023. There are nineteen surrounding pharmacies, within a one-mile radius, which offer all ICB and Public Health commissioned services previously provided by Lloyds.

Boots was located in Park Lane, where the purpose of the visits were to utilise both the shop and pharmacy.

4.5 The PNA Steering Group has identified no risk to patients' ability to continue receiving pharmaceutical services in each area and conclude that an adequate out of hours provision remains following these closures.

4.6 The PNA Steering Group has confirmed that surrounding pharmacies are happy to accommodate the potential increase in workload without disruption to services.

## **5.0 Summary of current Community Pharmacy Provision in Sunderland**

- 5.1 Since the Sunderland PNA was published in July 2022, Sunderland has seen changes to the provision of 100-hour pharmacies. This was due to a regulatory change that took effect in May 2023 which gave pharmacies the option to reduce their hours down to 72 hours, in accordance with the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2023.
- 5.2 Sunderland continues to have 4 former 100-hour pharmacies, all of which have reduced their hours, now delivering between 72 and 88 hours a week.
- 5.3 There have been three pharmacy closures since the PNA was published. In relation to these changes, the PNA Steering Group has concluded that:
- i. Patients can continue to receive equivalent pharmaceutical services within the area (1 mile radius);
  - ii. Patients continue to have adequate out of hours provision; and
  - iii. The local pharmacy network can accommodate the potential increase in workload without disruption to services.
- 5.4 Sunderland Healthwatch is part of the PNA Steering Group to represent the voice of patients. Healthwatch has identified that there was little feedback raised about the closure of the three pharmacies. However, what was received was focused on the communication of closures to patients as opposed to concerns around access.
- 5.5 To better understand if there are any Community Pharmacy access issues within the Coalfields area the PNA Steering Group has looked at the current provision and assessed this against expressed need since the PNA was published.
- 5.6 Houghton Medical Group offers an extended access provision within the Coalfields area, opening weekdays until 20.00, Saturday 09.00-17.00 and Sunday 10.00–15.00.
- 5.7 Coalfields has not had any pharmacy closures, with eleven 40-hour pharmacies remaining within the area. Pharmaceutical services are available across Coalfields between 08.00-18.30 Monday to Friday (08.00-19.30 on Wednesdays) and 08.30–12.30 on Saturdays. There is no provision on Sundays.
- 5.8 In addition to the community pharmaceutical services provided in Sunderland, there are also several community pharmacies within County Durham that could be more accessible for some residents who live in the Coalfields area. These include weekend provision, however, weekday evening access remains limited (see Appendix 2 – map of pharmacy provision across Sunderland and County Durham).

- 5.9 Both Healthwatch and General Practices within the Coalfields area have received no patient concerns around access to pharmaceutical services specifically within the area.
- 5.10 Healthwatch and General Practices will continue to work with the PNA Steering Group to ensure that patient feedback is highlighted in all changes to pharmaceutical services within Sunderland. The LPC and Healthwatch closely assess the potential impacts on vulnerable groups and patient groups that could experience access issues.
- 5.11 The PNA Steering Group has considered the current community pharmacy provision across Sunderland and concluded that there is no significant gap in pharmaceutical services. There continues to be adequate out of hours access across Sunderland. The Coalfields area continues to have adequate access. The PNA Steering Group will continue to work with Healthwatch and General Practices to review the impact on patients of any changes to pharmaceutical services across the city.

## **6.0 Contribution to delivering the Healthy City Plan**

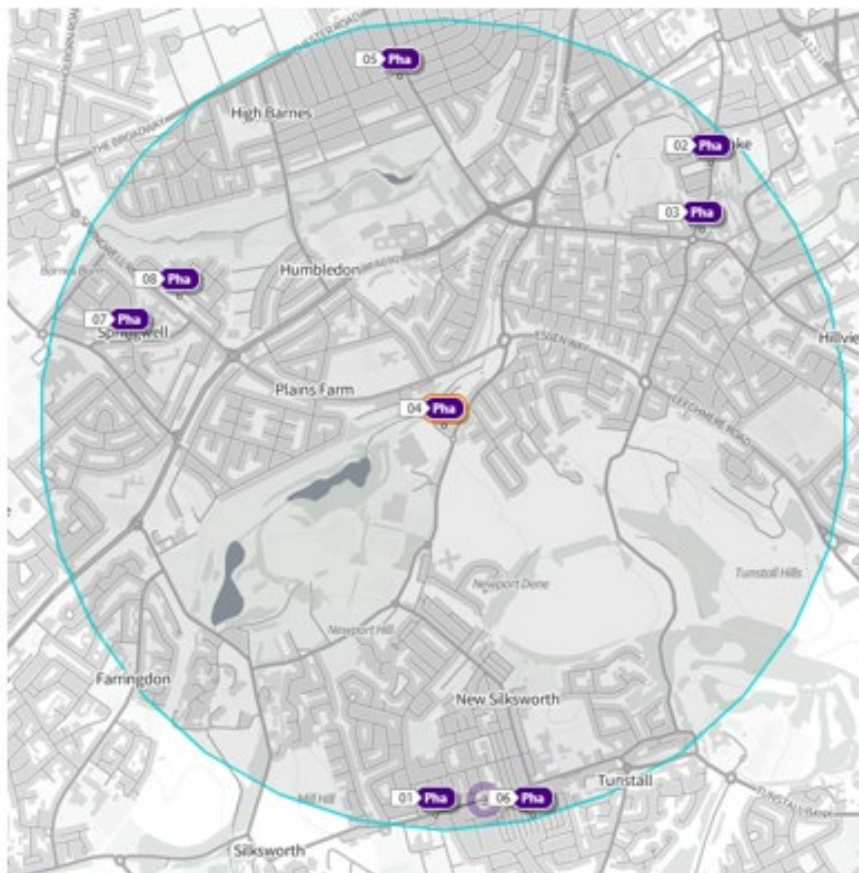
- 6.1 The clinical governance responsibilities of the PNA Steering Group will continue to support the improvement of health as set out in the Healthy City Plan by ensuring an adequate provision of Pharmaceutical services is available to residents of Sunderland.
- 6.2 The closure of the three pharmacies has not had an implication on delivery of the Healthy City Plan. Pharmaceutical provision is available across the city and will continue to support the improvement of health across Sunderland.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a. Be assured that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities is supported by the PNA Steering Group to fulfil the delegated responsibilities (as referred to in paragraph 3.1 (d) of this report).
  - b. Endorse the findings of the PNA Steering Group and be assured that:
    - i. the closure of the three pharmacies and reductions in hours does not leave a significant gap in pharmaceutical services across Sunderland; and
    - ii. the existing PNA does not require a supplementary statement.

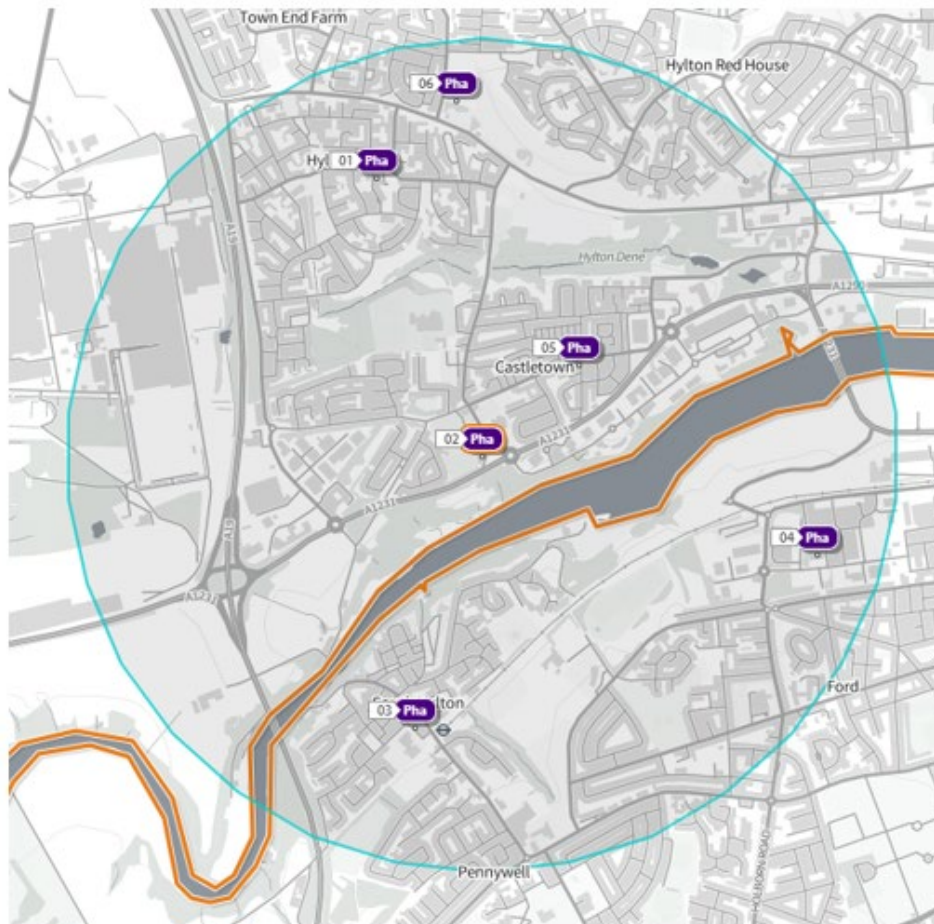
## Appendix 1: Details of pharmacies surrounding closed pharmacies

### Pharmacies within a 1.6km radius of Lloyds, Silkworth Sunderland



- 01 Pha Chastons Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 02 Pha B Braun Medical Ltd, Sunderland
- 03 Pha Leema Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 04 Pha LloydsPharmacy, Sunderland
- 05 Pha Dixons Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 06 Pha Edward Chaston Limited, Sunderland
- 07 Pha Snowdon's Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 08 Pha Boots, Sunderland

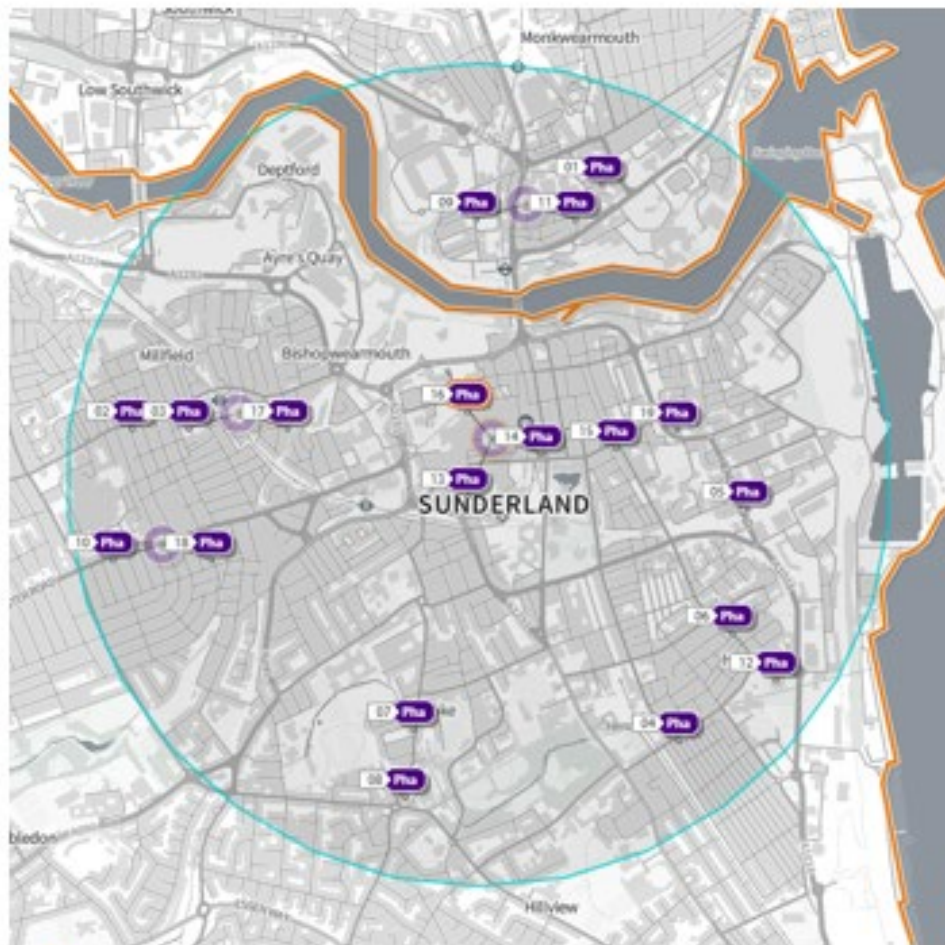
## Pharmacies within a 1.6km radius of Lloyds, Wessington Way Sunderland



- 01 Pha Hylton Castle Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 02 Pha Lloyds Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 03 Pha South Hylton Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 04 Pha Amcare Ltd, Sunderland
- 05 Pha Davy's Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 06 Pha Bunnyhill Pharmacy, Sunderland



## Pharmacies within a 1.6km radius of Boots Park Lane



- 01-Pha Avenue Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 02-Pha Millon Pharmacy, Tyne & Wear
- 03-Pha Lynn-Lee Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 04-Pha Medchem Limited, Sunderland
- 05-Pha Pwleworth Medical, Sunderland
- 06-Pha Medchem Limited, Sunderland
- 07-Pha St Braun Medical Ltd, Sunderland
- 08-Pha Lexma Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 09-Pha Well, Sunderland
- 10-Pha Greens Pharmacy Sunderland
- 11-Pha Avenue Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 12-Pha Medchem Limited, Sunderland
- 13-Pha Superdrug Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 14-Pha Boots, Sunderland
- 15-Pha Mccarthy's Pharmacy, Sunderland
- 16-Pha Boots, Sunderland
- 17-Pha Allied Pharmacy Millfield, Sunderland
- 18-Pha Allied Pharmacy Chester Road, Tyne & Wear
- 19-Pha Riverside Health Centre Pharmacy, Sunderland



## Appendix 2: Map of Pharmacy provision across Sunderland and County Durham.

Pharmacy Provision in Sunderland and the Surrounding Area  
Updated November 2023

