

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

20 March 2020

SUNDERLAND PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA)

Report of the Director of Public Health

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Remind the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) of its statutory duty to undertake a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and the requirement to produce an updated and approved PNA for Sunderland for publication by 1 April 2021.
- Seek approval to undertake the necessary programme of work to fulfil this duty.

1.2 The HWBB has previously delegated leadership for activities relating to the PNA to the Director of Public Health.

2. Statutory role of Health and Wellbeing Boards regarding PNA

2.1 The duty to carry out the PNA transferred to HWBBs under the Health and Social Care Act 2012; this duty came into effect on 1 April 2013. The process is guided by *The NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013* and any subsequent updates or amendments. These state that HWBBs were to agree and publish their first PNA by 1 April 2015 and then publish a revised assessment within three years of publication of this assessment, or sooner in response to significant changes to the availability of pharmaceutical services.

2.2 The HWBB is required to produce the PNA as part of its broader responsibility for developing a shared understanding of the current and potential future health needs of the city's population. The PNA is an integral part of the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) and is aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.3 *The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services, Charges and Prescribing) (Amendment) Regulations 2016* includes provisions to allow mergers or consolidations of closely located, community pharmacies. This allows two pharmacies to make an application to merge and provide services from one of the two current premises. HWBBs have two statutory duties in relation to this:

- i) When NHS England notifies a HWBB about an application to consolidate two pharmacies, the HWBB **must** make a statement or **representation** back to NHS England within 45 days stating whether the consolidation **would** or **would not** create a gap in pharmaceutical

services provision. NHS England will then convene a panel to consider the application to consolidate the two pharmacies, taking into account the representation made by the HWBB.

- ii) Once NHS England has made a determination on the application to **consolidate** two pharmacies, it will inform the HWBB. Where a pharmacy's premises are removed from the pharmaceutical list as a consequence of granting a consolidation application and if, in the opinion of the HWBB, the removal **does not create a gap** in pharmaceutical services provision that could be met by a routine application then the HWB **must**:
- publish a **supplementary statement** saying that removal of the pharmacy which is to close from the pharmaceutical list will not create a gap in pharmaceutical services; and
 - update the map of premises where pharmaceutical services are provided.

A supplementary statement forms part of the PNA and is a statement of relevant changes since the PNA was published, which may affect an application for a new pharmacy.

3. What is a PNA used for?

- 3.1 The PNA process was introduced to define the pharmaceutical needs in a specific area, for use by NHS England in determining entry onto the pharmaceutical list to ensure the adequate and appropriate provision of NHS pharmaceutical services in England. It can also be used to:

- help commissioners to commission services from community pharmacists to meet local need;
- support commissioning of high-quality pharmaceutical services;
- ensure that community pharmacy services are commissioned to reflect the health needs identified in the JSNA and the ambitions set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and
- facilitate opportunities for pharmacists to make a significant contribution to the health of the population of Sunderland.

- 3.2 A person who wishes to provide NHS pharmaceutical services must apply to NHS England proving they are able to meet a pharmaceutical need or improve access as set out in the relevant PNA. There are exceptions to this, such as applications to provide NHS pharmaceutical services on a distance-selling basis.

- 3.3 The HWBB is not responsible for deciding how many pharmacies there should be or where they should be sited. NHS England will use the PNA document to make such decisions. In doing this, NHS England will need to balance population needs and available financial resources with current provision and considerations of the free market.

4. Governance arrangements

- 4.1 In February 2020, a Steering Group was established to support the PNA process. This includes representation from:
- the council's public health team, including analytical support;
 - the council's communication and engagement teams;
 - the CCG's medicines optimisation team;
 - Sunderland Local Pharmaceutical Committee; and
 - Healthwatch Sunderland.
- 4.2 NHS England and Sunderland Local Medical Committee have confirmed that they do not wish to have a representative on the Steering Group. Both are statutory consultees and will be consulted in line with the regulations and as set out in the timeline.
- 4.3 The Steering Group will be chaired by a Public Health Pharmacy Adviser who reports to the Director of Public Health. Progress will be reported to the Board in September 2020.
- 4.4 The Steering Group will meet as appropriate until the consultation draft PNA is produced. It will then meet once more following the statutory consultation to finalise the PNA.
- 4.5 Steering group meetings may have different formats, such as face to face meetings or conducted virtually.

5. PNA process

- 5.1 The PNA process will involve the following steps:
- Agree the localities that will be used within the needs assessment
 - Assess current and future health needs
 - Undertake public engagement to assess views about community pharmacy services
 - Collate information about existing services
 - Undertake a survey of community pharmacies
 - Develop the narrative for the consultation draft PNA, draw initial conclusions and make initial recommendations
 - Gain approval from the HWBB for the consultation draft PNA
 - Undertake the required statutory consultation for a minimum of 60 days
 - Consider consultation feedback and carry out any additional work that is required
 - Develop the final post-consultation version of the PNA, with final conclusions and recommendations
 - Seek approval from the HWBB for the final version of the PNA at the March 2021 meeting for publication by 1 April 2021.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Note the information about the Board's statutory role in relation to the PNA, and the requirement to produce an updated and approved PNA for Sunderland for publication by 1 April 2021
- Give approval for the Steering Group to undertake the necessary programme of work to fulfil this duty
- Confirm that leadership for activities relating to the PNA should continue to be delegated to the Director of Public Health.