

**SUNDERLAND PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA)**

**Report of Executive Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

**1 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Raise awareness with the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Scrutiny) of the work that has been undertaken on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) to produce an updated and approved PNA for Sunderland, in line with the statutory duty for publication by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025;
- Provide information about the required statutory consultation which is planned to begin in mid-March and finish in mid-May 2025;
- Raise awareness of the opportunity for Scrutiny members to comment on the draft statement of pharmaceutical needs assessment during the consultation period; and
- To update Scrutiny on the forthcoming closure of Blue House Pharmacy, Washington, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**2. Statutory role**

2.1 The duty to carry out PNA transferred to Health and Wellbeing Boards under the Health and Social Care Act 2012; this duty came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. The process is guided by the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 and any subsequent updates or amendments.

2.2 The current Sunderland PNA was published on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. PNAs must be completely reviewed at least every three years and this is therefore due to be renewed and published no later than 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

2.3 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 population of Sunderland. The PNA is an integral part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and is aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (in Sunderland this being the Healthy City Plan).

**3. PNA process**

3.1 In line with DHSC guidance on PNAs<sup>1</sup> the work to produce the PNA is being supported by a PNA Steering Group. This is led by the Council's public health team and has representation, advice and support from communications teams, Sunderland's Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Healthwatch

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<sup>1</sup> [Pharmaceutical needs assessments: Information pack for local authority health and \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Sunderland, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board South Tyneside and Sunderland Local Delivery Team and North of England Commissioning Support.

- 3.2 The Steering Group will make an assessment of needs based on the JSNA and additional information collected as part of the PNA process. In making this assessment, there is a need to “have regard to the different needs of different localities within the area”. It is adopting the five locality areas used by Sunderland City Council.
- 3.3 The Steering Group will also make an assessment of the current services available from community pharmacies in Sunderland. Information about opening hours and data about the services that are currently commissioned is collated for the report.
- 3.4 A survey was used to gather views about local pharmacy services from the public and a range of agencies and groups. This was made available online between early December 2024 and mid-January 2025 through Sunderland City Council’s website with the survey title “Pharmacy survey” and subtitle “Help improve your local pharmacy services.” The survey was promoted by Healthwatch Sunderland, and promoted by the ICB via Sunderland and South Tyneside Involvement Partnership, and information was shared by Sunderland City Council in the following ways:
  - On the Sunderland City Council website with a link to the survey;
  - With networks including Links for Life, Workplace Health Alliance and Ageing Well Ambassadors;
  - On screens in City Hall, on social media through Sunderland UK and area Facebook pages; and
  - In the residents e-newsletter.

In total 269 survey responses were received. These provide useful insights about the views of the public which will inform the PNA.

- 3.5 A questionnaire for community pharmacies was made available online between early December 2024 and late January 2025 with support from the Local Pharmaceutical Committee. This questionnaire gathered information on facilities which are available in community pharmacies and commissioned and non-commissioned services which pharmacies currently provide. A total of 22 out of 59 community pharmacy contractors responded, which was a response rate of 37%.
- 3.6 The Executive Director of Public Health and Wellbeing is the named officer who will ensure the PNA is reviewed, updated and published in line with statutory requirements, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will ensure that the timelines outlined in the project plan are achieved and allows for flexibility if required, in order to meet the designated publication date.

- 3.7 A link to the current published Sunderland PNA is available at: [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment - Sunderland City Council](#), along with a list of all pharmacies in Sunderland (last updated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024).

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The regulations require the Health and Wellbeing Board to consult for a minimum of 60 days with the following statutory consultees about the contents of the PNA:

- the Local Pharmaceutical Committee;
- the Local Medical Committee;
- all those currently on the pharmaceutical list in the City;
- Healthwatch Sunderland, and through them with any other patient, consumer or community groups with an interest in the issue;
- all NHS foundation trusts providing services in Sunderland;
- NHS England;
- Health and Wellbeing Boards in South Tyneside, Gateshead and County Durham; and
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB).

- 4.2 The statutory consultation period will run from the middle of March to the middle of May 2025. A downloadable copy of the consultation draft Sunderland PNA document and consultation questions/feedback form will be available online. The statutory consultees, including Scrutiny members, will be made aware of the consultation directly and provided with the link. In addition, responses from a wide range of agencies and individuals are encouraged and are welcomed.

- 4.3 Following the consultation period, the draft document will be updated to reflect any new information relevant to the PNA.

- 4.4 The document will be further revised after consideration of the comments received and findings of the statutory consultation.

A final version of the PNA for Sunderland will be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its scheduled meeting in July 2025 for final approval and sign off. Following this, it must be published by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

#### **5. Update on changes to pharmacies in Sunderland since the last Scrutiny update in February 2024**

- 5.1 Notification of closure of Blue House Pharmacy, Blue House Lane, Washington, NE37 2TE (FLF83) on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Blue House (100-hour) Pharmacy has given notice that it plans to close on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025. (Note there are 2 Blue House Pharmacies in Washington – the one with ODS code FLF83 is the one which has given notice of its plans to close). There is no consultation exercise for a closure, and any pharmacy can decide to give notice on their contract and close. Notice periods are three

months for a 40-hour contractor and six months for a 100-hour contractor. The NENC ICB primary care team has confirmed that the contractor has provided its regulatory six months' notice for this closure.

5.1.1 Implications for locally commissioned services:

The Sunderland public health team will be looking at what locally commissioned public health services the pharmacy currently provides, to see whether there are any local commissioning implications (see Appendix 1).

5.1.2 The PNA Steering Group will be informed of the closure of Blue House Pharmacy, Washington. They will assess the impact of the closure on pharmaceutical need in Sunderland and will assess the impact on the PNA. The Steering Group will not be in a position to comment on this until after the closure has taken place in case circumstances around the notification change between now and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

5.2 Changes to opening hours will be considered as part of the Sunderland PNA. Changes since the last Scrutiny update in February 2024 up to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 are set out in Appendix 2 for information.

## 6. Recommendations

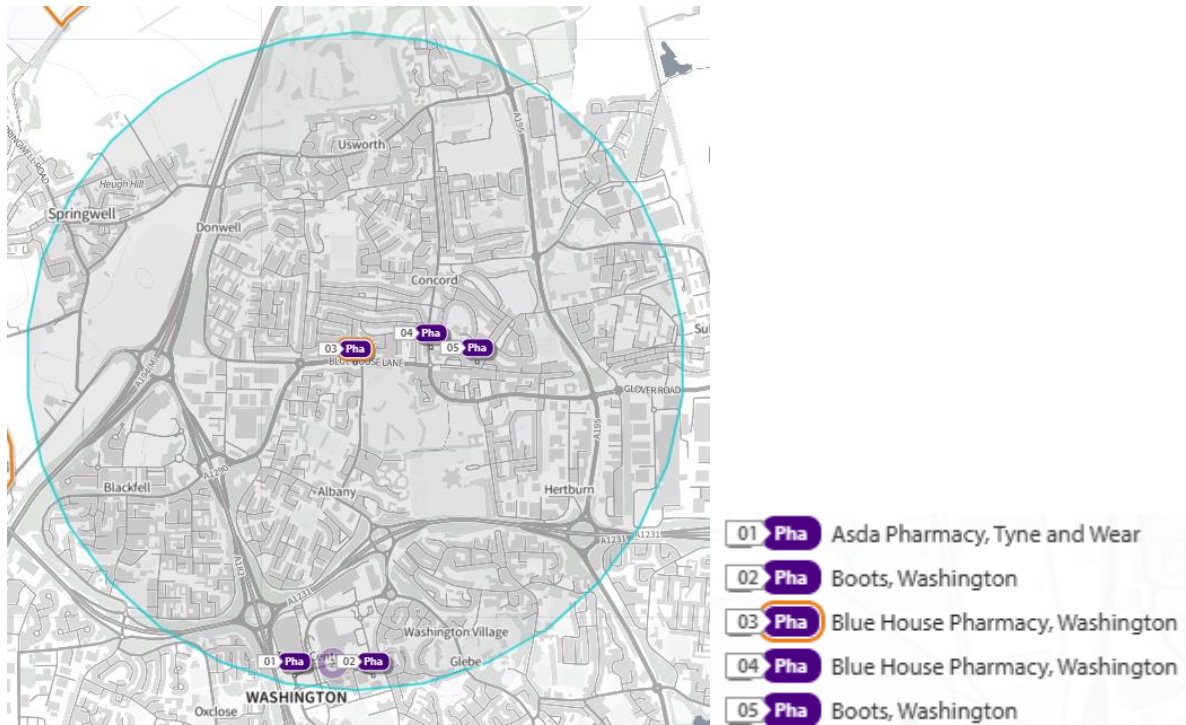
6.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- Note the work underway to produce an updated Sunderland PNA in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board's statutory duty;
- Note the dates for the statutory consultation on the PNA and the opportunity for the Committee or Members to comment on the PNA; and
- Note and comment on the information in the report.

**Information on Pharmacy Closure Notification**

Name of Pharmacy which has given notice of planned closure: Blue House Pharmacy, Blue House Lane, Washington, NE37 2TE (FLF83)

**Map of Pharmacies within a 1.6km radius of Blue House Pharmacy NE37 2TE**



There are 4 pharmacies within a 1.6km / 1 mile radius of Blue House Pharmacy. Public health services currently offered by Blue House Pharmacy, Blue House Lane include:

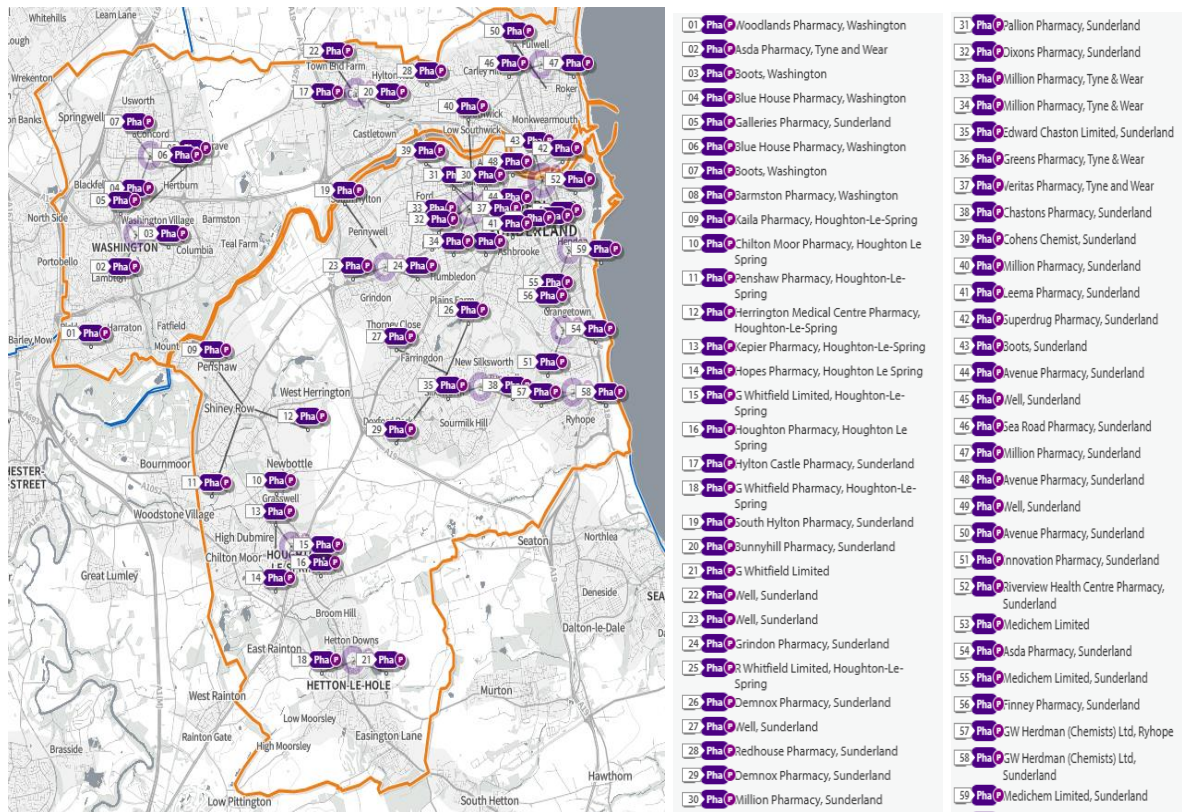
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT);
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC);
- C-Card (condom card)
- STI postal kits; and
- Needle exchange

Public health services provided by existing neighbouring pharmacies (information from NEPO portal, and Change, Grow, Live) are as follows:

Pharmacy name	Pharmacy address	Services provided include the following
Asda Pharmacy	Washington Centre, Washington, NE38 7NF	Smoking cessation, NRT, EHC, C-Card, STI postal kits and take-home Naloxone
Boots	Unit 80, The Galleries, Washington, NE38 7RT	Smoking cessation, NRT, EHC, C-Card, STI postal kits and take-home Naloxone

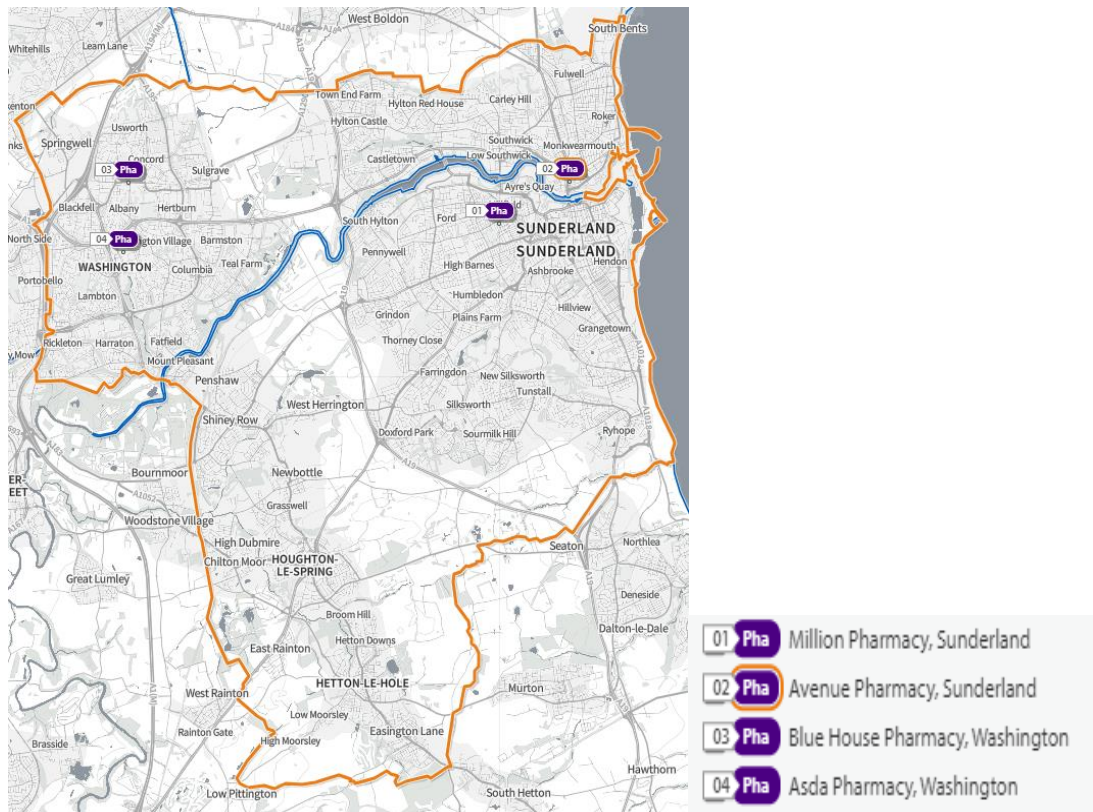
Boots	12 Arndale House, Washington, NE37 2SW	Smoking cessation, NRT, EHC, C-Card, STI postal kits and take-home Naloxone
Blue House Pharmacy	1 Heworth Road, Washington, NE37 2PY	NRT, EHC, C-Card, STI postal kits and needle exchange

**Map of NHS pharmacy provision in Sunderland at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (including Blue House Pharmacy, Washington FLF83)**



(This excludes a private pharmacy (Lynn Lea, Millfield) and Dispensing Appliance Contractors).

# Map of “100-hour” Pharmacies (including Blue House Pharmacy, Washington FLF83)



## Appendix 2

### Changes to Sunderland Pharmacies from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 onwards to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025, received from Primary Care team (Pharmacy and Optometry), NENC ICB

Date Change was Effective From	Contractor Type	Type of Change	ODS Code	Name of Contractor	Address of Contractor
18/03/2024	40 Hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FR953	Superdrug Plc t/a Superdrug Pharmacy	Unit 3, 37 Walworth Way, The Bridges, Sunderland, SR1 3LB
08/04/2024	40 Hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FKV18	Edward Chaston Limited	1 Silksworth Terrace, New Silksworth, Sunderland, SR3 2AT
15/04/2024	40 Hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FXT71	Core Pharma Limited t/a Houghton Pharmacy	31 Queensway, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH5 8EL
15/04/2024	40 Hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FJF19	G Whitfield Limited	1a Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 4DN
13/05/2024	40 Hours	Change of Ownership	FNA59	Ajido Ltd t/a Dominion Pharmacy	1-1a, Whitehall Terrace, Sunderland, SR4 7SN
26/06/2024	40 Hours	Change of Ownership	FXP91	J S Locum Services Ltd t/a Kalia Pharmacy	Grangewood Surgery, Chester Road, Shiney Row, Sunderland, DH4 4RB,
15/07/2024	40 Hours	Change of Ownership	FDR74	Million Healthcare Ltd t/a Milion Pharmacy	8 Sea Road, Fulwell, Sunderland SR6 9BX
15/07/2024	40 Hours	nhs.net added	FNA59	Ajido Ltd t/a Dominion Pharmacy	1-1a, Whitehall Terrace, Sunderland, SR4 7SN
27/07/2024	40 Hours	Change of Core Hours	FRQ06	Seaton Healthcare Limited t/a Galleries Pharmacy	Independence Square, Washington, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, NE38 7SS
31/07/2024	40 Hours	Change of Ownership	FRC97	Aspect Healthcare Services Limited t/a Greens Pharmacy	149 Chester Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR4 7HS,
12/08/2024	30 Hours - DAC	Change of Supplementary Hours	FAA96	Fittleworth Medical Limited	Unit 7, Glaholm Road, Sunderland, SR1 2NX
06/08/2024	40 hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FA454	Medichem Limited	68 Vilette Road, Sunderland, SR2 8RW
20/09/2024	40 hours	Change of Ownership	FJE93	Aspect Healthcare Services Limited t/a Dixons Pharmacy	68 Ormonde Street, Sunderland, SR4 7PP
01/10/2024	40 hours	Change of Ownership	FEC90	Elmfield Trading Limited	2 Imperial Buildings, Durham Road, Birtley, Chester - Le - Street, Co. Durham, DH3 1LG
03/01/2025	40 hours	Change of Trading Name	FNA59	Adijo Ltd t/a Veritas Pharmacy	113 Chester Road, Sunderland, SR4 7HG
13/01/2025	100 hours	Change of Core Hours	FP554	Avenue Pharmacy (Sunderland) Ltd	53 Lower Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR6 0BD
13/01/2025	100 hours	Change of Supplementary Hours	FP554	Avenue Pharmacy (Sunderland) Ltd	53 Lower Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR6 0BD