

## **Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022**

Wards: All

## **Subject: 2022 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)**

Lead officer: Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

Contact officer: Barry Causer, Public Health Lead for COVID Resilience.

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### **Recommendations:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) members:

- A. note the process to produce a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 has commenced and is being managed by the Merton PNA Steering Group.
  - B. agree to share the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment with their networks and to respond formally to the consultation, which will inform the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment in Merton.
  - C. delegate the sign-off of the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment to the Director of Public Health in order to meet the statutory deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the progress made on the development of the Merton Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), asks that the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) shares the draft PNA with their networks and that members respond formally to the consultation which will start on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022. This report also asks that the HWB delegates the sign-off of the final PNA to the Director of Public Health.

The Terms of Reference for the PNA steering group and a project plan are attached as an appendix to this report.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### ***The role of community pharmacy***

Community pharmacy plays an important role in the sustainability of healthcare and in supporting the public's health with quality and accessible care from trained healthcare professionals. Pharmacies are often situated in convenient high street locations or next for GP practices, and furthermore generally open longer than GP practices, with many open into the evening and on public holidays.

Community pharmacies offer the supply of medicines as well as a wide range of commissioned services including some vaccinations, substance misuse services and sexual health services.

The value of community pharmacy has been recognised as being one of the frontline healthcare providers in the UK's COVID-19 response and were able to provide face to face advice on health needs and supply of medication during the pandemic.

### ***The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment***

From 1 April 2015 it became a statutory requirement that HWBs publish a PNA and publish a revised assessment every 3 years. The most recent PNA in Merton was published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and a revised PNA is required to be published by 1 October 2022, in-line with amendments to the statutory requirements which granted an extension due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PNAs primary purpose is for market entry purposes; and it is used by NHS England when making decisions on applications to open new pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractor premises. Such decisions are appealable and decisions made on appeal can be challenged through the courts.

A PNA is a tool for identifying current and future pharmaceutical need and to improve quality and effectiveness of pharmaceutical services. It uses robust, up to date evidence to ensure that pharmacy services are provided in the right place and that services commissioned from pharmacies by local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups meet the needs of the community that they serve.

The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulation 2013 set out that the following should be included in the PNA: current provision, gaps in provision, other relevant NHS services, recommendations for improvements and better access, methodology as to how the assessment was carried out and maps of provision. The regulations also name particular organisations and other interested parties that should be consulted for a minimum of 60 days.

## **3 PROGRESS TO DATE**

Following a competitive procurement exercise undertaken in February 2022, Soar Beyond Ltd has been commissioned by Public Health to support the preparation and delivery of the 2022 PNA. Soar Beyond have extensive expertise in producing PNAs, having produced eight in 2015 and 12 in 2018.

The Merton PNA initiation meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 between Soar Beyond and Officers from the Public Health team and a PNA Steering group has been established with representatives as follows:

- Merton Public Health
- NHS England representative
- Local Medical Committee representative
- Local Pharmaceutical Committee representative
- SWLCCG representative

- Health Watch representative (lay member)

The PNA Steering Group has met twice to date (28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022), agreeing the PNA project plan (Appendix B), the Terms of Reference (Appendix A), consultation plan with residents and contractors and the data collection requirements from key stakeholders.

The outcomes of survey questionnaires with the public and pharmacy contractors was taken to the Steering Group meeting on 17 May 2022, for the Steering Group to verify and approve the findings and service data. This enabled Soar Beyond to commence the analysis and writing of the draft PNA 2022.

### ***Initial findings from the pharmacy contractor questionnaire***

37 out of 41 pharmacy contractors responded to the pharmacy contractor questionnaire.

Of the responses:

- 76% dispense all types of appliances
- 71% deliver dispensed medication free of charge on request
- 93% are willing to provide new services if commissioned
- 59% believe there is a need for specific locally commissioned services in Merton, e.g. health checks, minor ailment service and childhood vaccination

### ***Initial findings from the public questionnaire***

43 responses were received from the public questionnaire.

Of the responses:

- 91% have a regular or preferred pharmacy (7% use a combination of traditional or internet pharmacy)
- 67% have visited/contacted a pharmacy once a month or more frequently for themselves in the past six months
- 79% found it very easy/fairly easy to speak to their pharmacy team during the 18 months of the pandemic
- The main way patients access a pharmacy is by walking (74%), with 78% reporting it takes less than 15 mins to travel to a pharmacy
- There was generally good awareness of Essential Services provided from community pharmacies (over 80%)

As there were only 43 responses from a population of over 212,000, the findings will be interpreted with some care regarding the representation of the community as a whole. Findings from the questionnaire will be triangulated with access data, services provision information and health needs to form the conclusions of the PNA.

#### **4 UPCOMING MILESTONES AND CONSULTATION MILESTONES**

The draft PNA will be considered by the Steering Group at a meeting week commencing 27 June 2022 and upon approval by the Steering Group, the draft PNA will be made available for a 60-day consultation between 13th July 2022 and 12th September 2022.

The consultation plan, the format and survey questions in relation to the draft PNA will be confirmed at the next steering group meeting. This plan will be developed to raise awareness of the PNA consultation widely and will include presentations to key groups e.g. the Community Champions, initially set up to support the COVID-19 response.

Members of the HWB will be sent details of the draft PNA and details of the consultation and are asked to promote them to their networks and also to respond formally to the consultation.

The results of consultation will be considered by the Steering Group at its meeting on 19th September 2022, and a final PNA produced for publication.

As the final PNA must be published no later than 1st October 2022, it is recommended that the approval of the final PNA be delegated to the Director of Public Health and the final assessment provided for information to the HWB after publication.

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

The deadline for the HWB to publish a revised assessment is 1 October 2022.

#### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

The production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for 2022 has been funded by Merton Council Public Health team.

#### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

From 1 April 2015 it became a statutory requirement that HWBs publish a PNA and publish a revised assessment every 3 years. HWBs were recently given an extension to the most recent deadline due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

The PNA and the process being taken will provide an opportunity to identify needs and to secure improvements in provision.

**9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The approach taken to develop the PNA in partnership with an experienced external provider, means that the PNA will meet the statutory requirements and is seen as a low-risk approach.

**11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

A – TERMS OF REFERENCE

B – PROJECT TIMELINES

## **Appendix A Terms of Reference**

### **Merton Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Terms of Reference**

#### **Objective / Purpose**

To support the production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment on behalf of the Merton Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure that it satisfies the relevant regulations including consultation requirements.

#### **Delegated Responsibility**

Delegation TBC

#### **Accountability**

The Steering Group is to report to the Public Health lead- Head of Strategic Commissioning.

#### **Membership**

Core members:

- Head of Strategic Commissioning / Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning.
- NHS England representative.
- Local Medical Committee representative.
- Local Pharmaceutical Committee representative.
- CCG representative.
- Health Watch representative (lay member).

Soar Beyond are not to be a core member however will chair the meetings. Each core member has one vote. The Public Health Lead (Head of Strategic Commissioning or Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning) will have the casting vote, if required. Core members may provide a deputy to meetings in their absence. The Steering Group shall be quorate with three core members in attendance, one of which must be an LPC member. Non-attending members are unable to cast a vote – that vote may otherwise sway the casting decision.

Additional members (if required):

- CCG Commissioning Managers
- NHS Trust Chief Pharmacists
- Dispensing Doctors representative

In attendance at meetings will be representatives of Soar Beyond Ltd who have been commissioned by Merton Council to support the development of the PNA. Other additional members may be co-opted if required.

### **Frequency of meetings**

Meetings will be arranged at key stages of the project plan. The Steering Group will meet in autumn 2022 to sign off the PNA for submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Responsibilities**

- Provide a clear and concise PNA process.
- Review and validate information and data on population, demographics, pharmaceutical provision, and health needs.
- To consult with the bodies stated in Regulation 8 of The NHS Regulations 2013:
  - Any Local Pharmaceutical Committee for its area.
  - Any Local Medical Committee for its area.
  - Any persons on the pharmaceutical lists and any dispensing doctors list for its area.
  - Any LPS Chemist in its area.
  - Any local Healthwatch organisation for its area.
  - Any NHS Trust or NHS Foundation Trust in its area.
  - NHS England.
  - Any neighbouring HWB.
- Ensure that due process is followed.
- Report to Health & Wellbeing Board on both the draft and final PNA.
- Publish the final PNA by 1st October 2022.

