

Health and Wellbeing Board

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Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028

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Summary

The Medway Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025-2028 process has officially commenced, with key activities currently focused on data collection and public engagement. Completion of this report is mandatory under the Health & Social Care Act 2012.

The data collection phase involves gathering relevant insights from stakeholders, service providers, and the public to ensure the updated PNA accurately reflects current and future pharmaceutical needs within Medway.

This report provides an update on the progress of the PNA development, key milestones achieved, and upcoming activities.

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress made in development of the PNA.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1 The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs and can be found at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/pharmaceutical-services-regulations>.

2.2 The budget for the PNA is funded from the Public Health ring fenced grant.

3. Background

3.1 Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in England has a statutory responsibility to publish every three years, and keep up to date, a statement of

the need for pharmaceutical services in its area, otherwise referred to as a [pharmaceutical needs assessment \(PNA\)](#). If a pharmacy wants to provide pharmaceutical services, they are required to apply to NHS England to be included in the pharmaceutical list for the Health and Wellbeing Board's area in which they wish to have premises and NHS England refers to the PNA to inform its decision

- 3.2 In general, their application must offer to meet a need that is set out in the Health and Wellbeing Board's PNA, or to secure improvements, or better access similarly identified in the PNA. The [Pharmacy Manual outlines the procedures to be followed in detail](#). As well as identifying whether there is a need for additional premises, the PNA will also identify whether there is a need for additional services, or whether improvements or better access to existing services are required. Identified needs, improvements or better access could either be current, or will arise within the three-year lifetime of the pharmaceutical needs assessment.

4. Key Updates and Progress

4.1 Steering Group Established

- The PNA Steering Group has been established, with oversight from the Director of Public Health.
- Regular meetings are underway to track progress and ensure timely delivery.

4.2 Data Collection Phase

4.2.1 The data collection process has commenced, including:

- Engagement with key stakeholders such as local pharmacies and patient groups.
- Analysis of population demographics and health needs.
- Collation of pharmaceutical service provision across Medway which includes all providers:
 - Community pharmacy contractors including distance selling pharmacies
 - Dispensing appliance contractors
 - Dispensing practice GP practices

4.3 Public Engagement Activities:

- A structured public engagement plan has been rolled out
- Engagement activities with contractors and dispensing practices has also commenced to establish services provided.

5. Key Next Steps

- Completion of the data collection by 17 February 2025
- Draft PNA to be reviewed and agreed by the steering group 31 March 2025
- Mandatory consultation to begin 28 April 2025 for 60 days
- Final PNA to be presented to the Board for sign off at its meeting on 4 September 2025

6. Advice and analysis

- 6.1 A specialist pharmacist provider has been commissioned to conduct the pharmaceutical needs assessment, providing analysis and advice as well coordinating the gathering of data which will inform the PNA.

7. Risk management

- 7.1 Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Late delivery of the PNA	The PNA is due to be refreshed by October 2025. This implies a reasonably tight timeline, and the deadline could be missed if there are difficulties during production.	An experienced specialist pharmacist provider has been contracted to support the update of the PNA. Careful project management is being used to monitor progress.	DIII
Lack of engagement from contractors	Contractors will be engaged during the process to establish service provision.	Data is being sought from other sources in order to mitigate the risk of not having the data if the pharmacy is unable to provide.	BIV

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Lack of engagement with stakeholders	Key stakeholders are required to support the production of the PNA including the ICB and LCP	A communications plan and existing partnerships are in place to mitigate.	DII
Future legal challenge	If NHS England receives a legal challenge to the services, they commission based on the PNA, the local authority could also be part of that legal challenge.	The planned process meets the requirements of the legislation and ensures that the PNA is a robust document.	DIII

For risk rating, please refer to the following table:

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely B Likely C Unlikely D Rare	I Catastrophic II Major III Moderate IV Minor

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Insight from members of the public, GPs and pharmacists will be sought as part of the PNA development process sought. A formal sixty-day consultation on the completed draft PNA is planned to take place from April to June 2025. Particular effort will be made to ensure that all interested Medway residents over the age of 16 years and all groups within the community can participate.

9. Climate change implications

- 9.1 Medway Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. To achieve this, the Council has published its own Climate Change Action Plan. However, reducing emissions is not limited to the Council and as part of Scope 3 (third party) emissions, the Council encourages all suppliers to take a similar approach. The commissioned provider for the new PNA has a Climate Change Action Plan.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 An open tender for a specialist provider to undertake the PNA process was undertaken in 2024. Best value was gained through this process. £50,000 has been budgeted from the Council's ring-fenced public health grant, however final costs are expected to be lower than the budgeted figure. The

consultation process and the publication of the PNA on the Council's website will also be met from within existing council revenue budgets.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1 It is a statutory duty for the Health and Wellbeing Board to produce a PNA. Health and Wellbeing Boards are a formal committee of the local authority charged with promoting greater integration and partnership between bodies from the NHS, public health and local government. The NHS Act (the "2006" Act), amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, sets out the requirements for HWBs to develop and update PNAs and gives the Department of Health (DH) powers to make Regulations. The Council may be at risk of legal challenge if a decision is made by NHS England with respect to pharmacy provision after the end of October if the PNA has not been published.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/7723/medway_pharmaceutical_needs_assessment_2022

<https://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/about-us/vision-and-priorities/kent-and-medway-integrated-care-strategy>