



Oldham
Council

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Z Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Officer Contact: Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Julie Holt, Public Health Specialist

25th January 2022

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress of the production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). Oldham's current PNA was due to be reviewed during 2020/21 and the renewed PNA to be published in April 2021.

The Department of Health and Social Care determined that the publication of PNAs be suspended for one year, until April 2022, in order to reduce unnecessary extra pressure on local authorities and Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) during the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Further notification was received that the deadline for publishing the PNA has now been postponed until October 2022.

Guidance for production of the PNA was produced in October 2021, setting out the process to be followed.

The Medicines Optimisation team has been contracted to undertake the PNA for Oldham. The Team will concurrently undertake the PNAs for Bury and Rochdale.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to:

1. Note that guidance for the production of the PNA has now been received.
2. Note the delay to the intended timescale due to the impact of the COVID pandemic and staff absence in the Medicines Optimisation Team undertaking the PNA.
3. Note the issues raised and the need for mitigating actions to limit the impact of any further delays on the production and publication of the Oldham PNA.

Guidance for production of the PNA

The guidance for the production of the PNA was published in October 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>).

Whilst this information pack has no statutory standing and does not constitute non-statutory guidance, it aims to support local authorities to interpret and implement their duties with regard to pharmaceutical needs assessments. and sets out the process to be followed

The information pack is set out as follows:

- chapter 1 introduces the requirements for pharmaceutical needs assessments,
- chapter 2 defines a number of the terms used in the regulations,
- chapter 3 provides an overview of the process of developing a pharmaceutical needs assessment,
- chapter 4 describes the engagement that should be undertaken whilst the document is being written,
- chapter 5 sets out the information that must be contained within the pharmaceutical needs assessment,
- chapter 6 provides advice on how to identify gaps in the provision of pharmaceutical services,
- chapter 7 sets out the requirement to consult on a draft of the document, and
- chapter 8 sets out the requirements on the health and wellbeing board once the document is published.

There are three appendices:

- appendix 1 contains a suggested timeline,
- appendix 2 contains a decision-making flowchart in relation to the requirements set out in chapter 8 and 6
- appendix 3 contains three supplementary statement templates

Oldham's PNA

The intention is for the Oldham PNA (and similarly for Bury and Rochdale) to follow the process set out in the guidance to produce the PNA and for it to be published on-line by the deadline.

Current position

Due to the impact of Covid and staff sickness in the Medicines Optimisation, the time frames for undertaking the PNAs in the three boroughs (Oldham, Bury and Rochdale) has slightly drifted. The Medicines Management team have identified some timing and capacity issues as follows:

1. There is concern that the survey on pharmacy services may generate a limited response due to the public focus currently being on COVID issues. Also, there may be a lack of healthcare staff able to promote the survey to increase uptake.
 2. The Team, which is not at full capacity, is also engaged in delivering COVID measures which will stretch their ability to deliver the three PNAs concurrently.
 3. The draft Oldham PNA will need to be approved for the mandatory 60 day consultation to take place in March to allow consultation over April and May so that
-

the final version after amendments are made can be delivered to a Health and Wellbeing Board in July or Aug for approval

4. Having a draft available by March requires the timely provision of accurate data sets on population, housing and services from LAs, CCGs and NHSE, which may be challenging to achieve because of staff shortages due to deployment and COVID-related absences.
5. The formation of the ICS has been delayed from April 1st 2022 to 1st July 2022. This means the documents will be written under current terminology i.e. they will refer to CCGs, but will be published once ICS are established, thus a 'bridging terminology' will be required to account for potential future changes.
6. Despite the delay to the date for establishment of the ICS, as yet there has been no mention by the Department of Health of any further delay of PNA publication date.

Medicines Optimisation has proposed a schedule which is slightly amended from the original and which will meet the publication deadline. Briefly this is:

- a) To send out pharmacy surveys / questionnaire from 14th Jan 2022
- b) collate local data and write a draft before 7th March 2022
- c) gain approval in March for the draft to be sent out for 60 day stakeholder consultation undertake the required 60 day public consultation (April/ May 2022)
- d) amend the draft in line with consultation responses in May/June 2022
- e) seek final approval for publication from the Health and Wellbeing Board in June/July/or August (dependent on the Board's meeting dates)
- f) upload the final document on-line by the deadline of October 2022.

The Medicines Optimisation Team have been asked to develop a contingency plan to mitigate the impact of limited staff capacity and any further delays which could result in the Oldham PNA not being completed by the deadline.
