



Oldham
Council

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board with the final Oldham Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, 2022.

Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up-to-date a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The Department of Health and Social Care determined that the publication of PNAs be suspended during the pandemic with the deadline set for publishing the PNA by October 2022.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to:

1. Review and approve the final PNA report for publication

Oldham Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, 2022

Background

The guidance for the production of the PNA was published in October 2021. This aimed to support local authorities to interpret and implement their duties with regard to pharmaceutical needs assessments and set out the process to be followed¹.

On behalf of Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board, the GM Strategic Medicines Optimisation Team has undertaken the process of developing the PNA according to the guidance.

Current Position

1. The draft Oldham PNA was presented for review at the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2022.
2. The PNA underwent the mandatory consultation of at least 60 days in Summer 2022.
3. After minor amendments the final report is presented for approval by the Board.

Summary of the PNA

Pharmaceutical services are defined by reference to the regulations and directions governing pharmaceutical services provided by community pharmacies, dispensing doctors, and appliance contractors.

The pharmaceutical services to which each PNA must relate are all the pharmaceutical services that may be provided under arrangements made by NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) for –

- the provision of pharmaceutical services (including directed services) by a person on a pharmaceutical list
- the provision of local pharmaceutical services under a Local Pharmaceutical services (LPS) scheme; or
- the dispensing of drugs and appliances by a person on a dispensing doctors list.

Whether a service falls within the scope of pharmaceutical services for the purposes of the PNA depends on who the provider is and what is provided:

For dispensing GP practices, the scope of the service to be assessed in the PNA is the dispensing service. However, as there are no dispensing GP practices in Oldham, these are not considered in the document.

For appliance contractors, the scope of the service to be assessed in the PNA is the dispensing of appliances and the provision of appliance use review (AUR) and stoma

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-information-pack>

appliance customisation (SAC). This means that, for the purposes of the PNA, it is concerned with whether patients have adequate access to dispensing services, including dispensing of appliances, AURs and SACs where these are undertaken by an appliance contractor but is not concerned with other services appliance contractors may provide.

For community pharmacy contractors, the scope of the services to be assessed in the PNA is broad and comprehensive. It includes the essential, advanced and enhanced services elements of the pharmacy contract whether provided under the terms of services for pharmaceutical contractors or under LPS contracts.

Other providers may deliver services that meet a particular pharmaceutical service need although they are not considered pharmaceutical services under the relevant regulations. These are considered as part of the assessment because they may reduce the need to deliver further services.

Schedule 1 of the NHS 2013 Regulations state that the PNA must include, as a minimum, a statement of the following:

- **Necessary services** - pharmaceutical services which have been assessed as required to meet a pharmaceutical need. This should include their current provision (within the HWB area and outside of the area) and any current or likely future gaps in provision.
- **Relevant services** - services which have secured improvements, or better access, to pharmaceutical services. This should include their current provision (within the HWB area and outside of the area) and any current or future gaps in provision.
- **Other NHS services**, either provided or arranged by a LA, NHS England, a CCG, an NHS Trust or Foundation Trust which either impact upon the need for pharmaceutical services, or which would secure improvements, or better access to, pharmaceutical services within the area.
- **A map** showing the premises where pharmaceutical services are provided.
- **An explanation** of how the assessment was made.

Results of the PNA

Oldham has 58 pharmacies (50 walk-in and 8 distance selling pharmacies) providing a range of essential services, advanced services, and locally commissioned services (including NHSE&I enhanced services) on behalf of Oldham Council, NHS Oldham CCG and NHS E&I. All pharmacies in Oldham have NHSE&I contracts, there are no Local Pharmaceutical Service (LPS) Contracts.

There are seven 100-hour pharmacies and no dispensing doctors in Oldham. There are no dispensing appliance contractors (DAC) in Oldham, which means that residents of

Oldham access dispensing and services associated with appliances from pharmacy contractors or through DACs elsewhere within England.

- Oldham has 25 pharmacies per 100,000 population, which is higher than the England and Greater Manchester averages
- Oldham has a choice of pharmacies open across a range of times, including early morning, evenings and the weekend
- Oldham pharmacies offer a range of pharmaceutical services to meet the needs of the population
- The majority of the Oldham population lives within 1.0 mile of a pharmacy
- The majority of residents can access a pharmacy within 20 minutes by walking, public transport or driving
- There are pharmacies located within each of the five clusters and across the whole area covered by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- 95% of items dispensed within Oldham pharmacies were for people registered with an Oldham GP practice
- 91% of the public survey respondents (86 responses) said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall pharmacy service provided by their local pharmacy
- 83% of the public survey respondents stated that they had no difficulties accessing the pharmacy of their choice
- Over 83% of the public survey respondents stated that they had no difficulties accessing the pharmacy due to opening hours.

Based on the information available at the time of developing the PNA, the conclusion is that there are no current gaps in the need for pharmaceutical services nor gaps in identified future circumstances.

No gaps have been identified:

- in the current provision of essential services during normal working hours
- in the current provision of essential services outside normal working hours
- in the current provision of advanced and enhanced services identified
- in the provision of pharmaceutical services in the specified future circumstances. However, should a new local healthcare centre be built to serve the proposed development of residential properties, consideration could be given to the benefits of the provision of a nearby pharmacy.
- in essential services that, if provided now or in the future, would secure improvements or better access to essential services
- in securing improvements or better access to other NHS services either now or in specified future circumstances.

Issues for the Health and Wellbeing Board to discuss

It is suggested that future PNA surveys will be screened to ensure the questions are in plain English and that future PNA surveys be more widely promoted.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approves the final version for publication in line with the statutory requirement.