

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO ADULT
SOCIAL CARE AND
HEALTH SELECT
COMMITTEE**

18th February 2025

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR
OF ADULTS, HEALTH
AND WELLBEING**

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025

SUMMARY

The Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) published its first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) on 25 March 2015, in accordance with the statutory duty to do so and published subsequent updates in 2018 and 2022.

The legislation that describes the HWB's duties in this regard is the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013ⁱ (as amended). As well as describing what each PNA was required to consider when they were first developed and published, these 2013 Regulations also describe how each local Assessment must be maintained by the HWB.

The next Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is due to be published by 1st October 2025 (HWB notified 27th March 2024 meeting). This briefing provides an update to the Committee on the review, with proposed new localities having been approved at Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the updates in this report including:
 - a. changes to the pharmaceutical list in Stockton-on-Tees since the last PNA
 - b. changes to legislation in relation to 100-hour pharmacies
 - c. changes to pharmaceutical services
 - d. the findings from the residents' survey
2. To note and approve the revised localities that will be used to develop the PNA 2025
3. To note that a draft PNA 2025 will be considered at the March 2025 HWB for approval ahead of its statutory 60-day consultation with required stakeholders.

DETAIL

1. The regulations require the Health and Wellbeing Board to divide its area up into localities. This is open to local determination but it is suggested that the steering

group uses existing boundaries when defining localities e.g. wards to create localities.

Since the last PNA there has been a boundary review; 23 ward boundaries changes, and an additional ward has been created. Therefore, for the PNA 2025 there was a need to review our localities. Stockton-on-Tees PNA Review Steering group considered several options in related to localities for the PNA 2025 and agreed to use four localities for PNA 2025. Factors that influenced this included that; the two localities used in 2022 may mask variation of pharmaceutical needs in some parts of Stockton-on-Tees (particularly Thornaby and Billingham), pharmacy closures* that have occurred since PNA 2022, variation in deprivation, local knowledge of steering group and to avoid the document being too complex and lengthy.

Localities for PNA 2025

S1: Stockton-on-Tees North	S2: Stockton-on-Tees South	S3: Billingham	S4: Thornaby
Northern Parishes	Eaglescliffe East	Billingham Central	Stainsby Hill
Ropner	Eaglescliffe West	Billingham East	Mandale and Victoria
Stockton Town Centre	Yarm	Billingham North	Village
Norton North	Ingleby Barwick North	Billingham South	
Norton South	Ingleby Barwick South	Billingham West & Wolviston	
Norton Central	Southern Villages		
Hardwick and Salters Lane			
Newtown			
Roseworth			
Fairfield			
Hartburn			
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree			
Grangefield			

2. There have been several changes to the pharmaceutical list in Stockton-on-Tees since the PNA 2022
 - Three pharmacies closed in Stockton-on-Tees – from 39 to 36 (Rowlands Billingham, Boots Thornaby and Sainsburys (Elm Tree))
 - Application approved on appeal by NHS Resolution to reopen a pharmacy in Elm Tree, the applicant has 12 months to open from date of approval, premises has not opened yet and applicant has until 4th September 2025 to open
 - Application offering unforeseen benefits at Land East of Hanzard Drive, South of Bloomfield Drive/Applecross and North Of Glenarm Drive, Wynyard, TS22 5FA under determination by NHS England

3. On 25th May 2023 regulatory changes were made to allow existing 100-hour pharmacies to apply to reduce their hours to a minimum of 72 hours / week subject to certain restrictions. Any existing core opening hours must remain that are: - Monday to Saturday between 5pm and 9pm; - Sunday between 11am and 4pm, and - Sunday's total opening hours (i.e., the existing, total core opening hours on Sundays must remain). There are 8, 100-hour pharmacies in Stockton on Tees. Since the change in regulations all 8 pharmacies have reduced their hours to between 72-90 hours / week. Most are open Monday to Saturday 9am-9pm and 10am-4pm on a Sunday. Two pharmacies open earlier Monday – Saturday and one pharmacy is open 8.30am-7pm on a Sunday. Many of these pharmacies now close for staff breaks over lunchtime or for two 30-minute slots during the opening period. The loss in hours from the hour's reduction in 100 hour pharmacies equates to the loss of 3 standard 40 hour pharmacies.

4. Since the last PNA 2022 a number of additional national advanced services have been added to the services that pharmacies can offer. Pharmacies may choose whether to provide these services or not. If they choose to provide one or more of the advanced services, they must meet certain requirements and must be fully compliant with the essential services and clinical governance and promotion of healthy living requirements. This all represents additional workload being undertaken across pharmacies.

Additional service introduced since the last PNA include;

- Pharmacy First (all contractors in Stockton providing)
- Pharmacy Contraception Service (approx. half of contractors in Stockton providing)
- Community pharmacy hypertension case-finding service (majority contractors in Stockton providing)

From 1st April 2025 any pharmacy delivering the Pharmacy First service must also deliver Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Hypertension Case-Finding Service. Flu vaccination is another advanced service provided by all pharmacies except one across Stockton. Covid vaccination is provided by 13 pharmacies across Stockton.

Covid vaccination is continuing to be delivered by specifically contracted pharmacies.

5. A resident's survey and pharmacy contractors survey been undertaken to inform the PNA 2025.

105 residents completed the residents' survey.

Key findings from the survey:

- 71% of respondents report using the same pharmacy
- 53% of respondents either drive or are driven to visit a pharmacy, 38% of respondents walk to their pharmacy
- 62% of respondents state that it takes <10 minutes to reach their pharmacy using their usual mode of transport, 31% access within 10-20minutes.
- 84% describe their usual pharmacy as very good or good
- 69% of respondents are happy with the current opening times of their usual pharmacy.

Only 6 contractors completed the contractors survey but we are able to get data from NHS England.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Briefings have been given to Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture. An update was provided at the January 2025 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A residents' consultation has been undertaken.

NEXT STEPS

A draft of the PNA 2025 will be taken to the March 2025 Health and Wellbeing Board for approval ahead of a formal 60-day statutory consultation.

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ⁱ Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/349> and hereafter referred to as the Regulations