

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025

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Public Health

PNA 2025

The pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) for Stockton-on-Tees is a statement of need for pharmaceutical services. This is a statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board which:

- determines if pharmaceutical services are available in Stockton-on-Tees to meet the needs of the population and
- guides NHS England in its application of legislation to the decision-making processes affecting pharmaceutical services

Produced in line with the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

What are pharmaceutical Services?

Pharmacy contractors provide three types of service that fall within the definition of pharmaceutical services and the community pharmacy contractual framework. They are:

- Essential services – all pharmacies must provide these services.
- Advanced services – 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. From 1st April 2025 any pharmacy delivering the Pharmacy First service MUST also deliver Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Hypertension Case-Finding Service.
- Enhanced services – service specifications for this type of service are developed by NHS England and then commissioned to meet specific health needs. (One national enhanced service – Covid Vaccination).

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PNA Steering Group Membership

Intelligence Specialist Public Health

Pharmaceutical Adviser Public Health

Communication / Marketing (SBC)

Planning Department (SBC)

Healthwatch

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Progress to date

- Overseen by Director of Public Health
- PNA Steering Group established
- Reviewed and revised policy context
- Reviewed and updated localities
- Reviewed and updated local demographic health needs data
- Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders and public to determine views current pharmaceutical services provision in the HWB area
- Engaged with housing and planning departments to understand and update future developments in HWB area that may affect pharmaceutical need
- Engaged with NHS England for contract and activity data
- Draft document developed for statutory consultation April / May 2025

Changes since PNA 2022

- Four pharmacies closed in Stockton-on-Tees – reducing number of pharmacies from 39 to 35 (Rowlands Billingham, Boots Thornaby and Sainsburys (Elm Tree)). 13/2/25 Distant Selling Premises in Stockton South Locality Preston Farm Industrial Estate – closed without notice.
- 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, not opened yet and has until 4th September 2025 to open.
- Application for a new pharmacy in S1 Stockton-on-Tees North rejected by NHS England

Pharmacy Services Changes since PNA 2022

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.

Residents Survey 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.

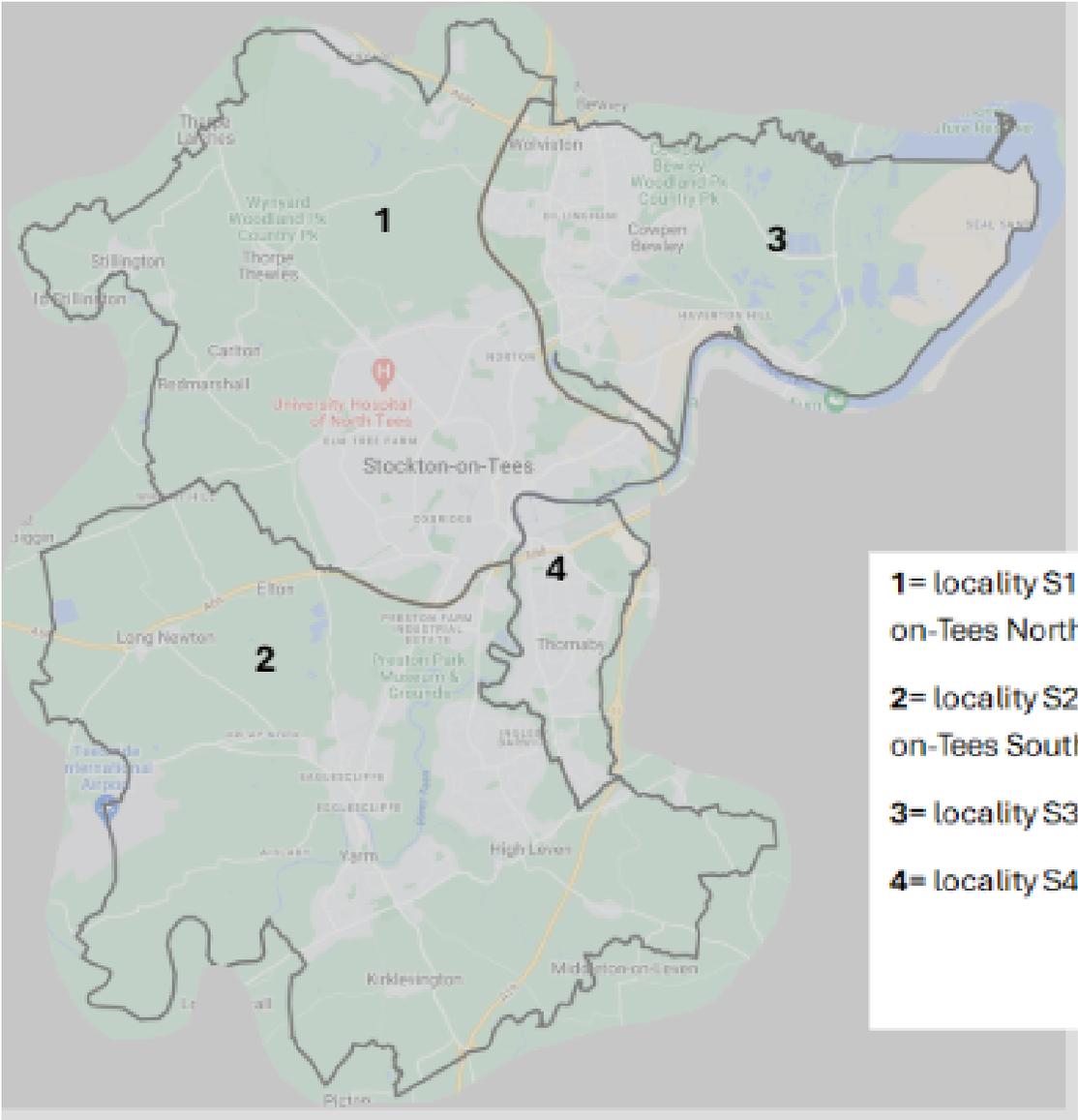
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Key Issues

- Reduction in pharmacies by 4 (1 distant selling)
- Impact of changes to national housing policy and review of local plan – main areas of development Wynard, West Stockton
- Reduction in hours 100-hour pharmacies
- Unprecedented levels of pharmacy closures – in 2024, 230 closures nationally
- Additional services being delivered through pharmacies

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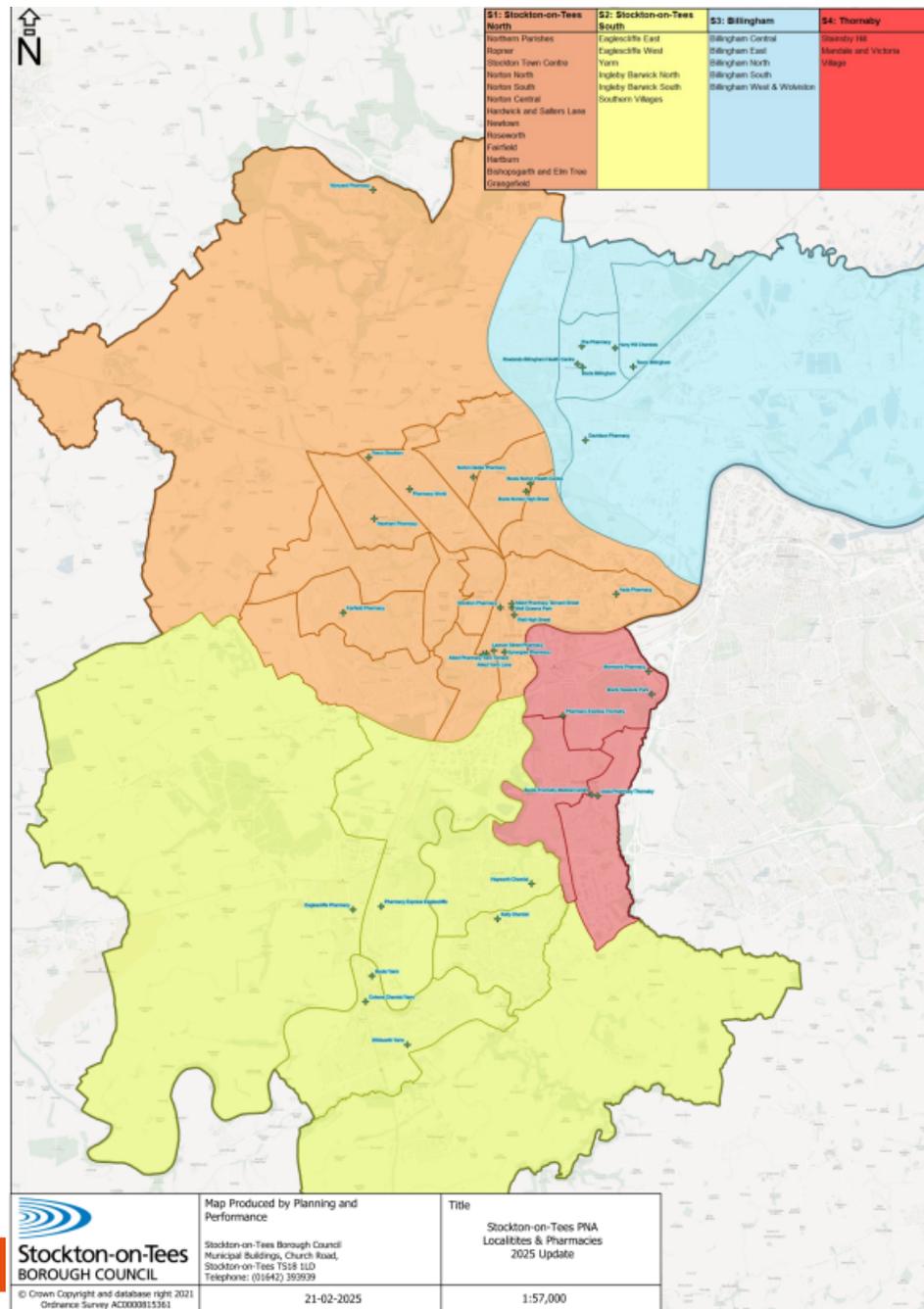
Localities Map



- 1= locality S1 Stockton-on-Tees North**
- 2= locality S2 Stockton-on-Tees South**
- 3= locality S3 Billingham**
- 4= locality S4 Thornaby**

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Pharmacy Map



Current Provision Essential Services

There is good access to pharmaceutical services outside normal working hours through provision 8, 100 hour pharmacies and extended weekend and opening hours offered by other pharmacies.

- 8 pharmacies are open 7 days a week
- 19 pharmacies are open 6 days a week
- 8 pharmacies are open Monday – Friday

The HWB noted that the extended access and out of hours service offered by GPs may vary its opening times during the lifetime of this PNA. However, it would expect that the commissioner of these services would be mindful of the existing pharmaceutical services in the provision of such services and ensure that that any services commissioned were able should they require to provide urgent and necessary treatments to patients in the hours where pharmaceutical services were not available.

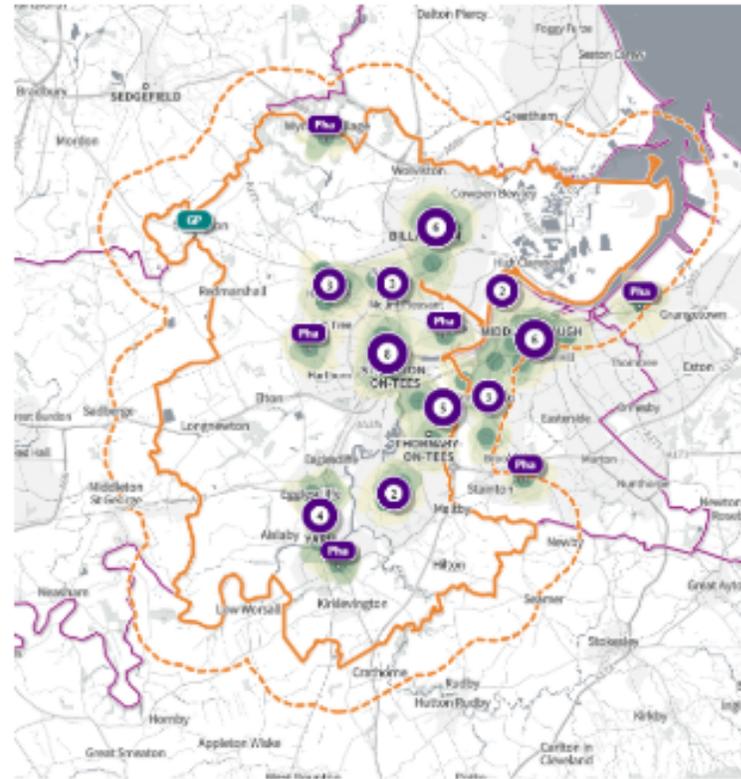
Access to Pharmaceutical Services

During normal working hours the majority of the population can access a pharmacy within a 10 minute drive and within a 15 minute walk.

This was supported by the residents survey which showed that 93% can get to their usual pharmacy by their usual mode of transport(walking or driving) within 10-20 minutes.

There is good access to pharmaceutical services outside normal working hours through provision 8, 100 hour pharmacies and extended weekend and opening hours offered by other pharmacies*.

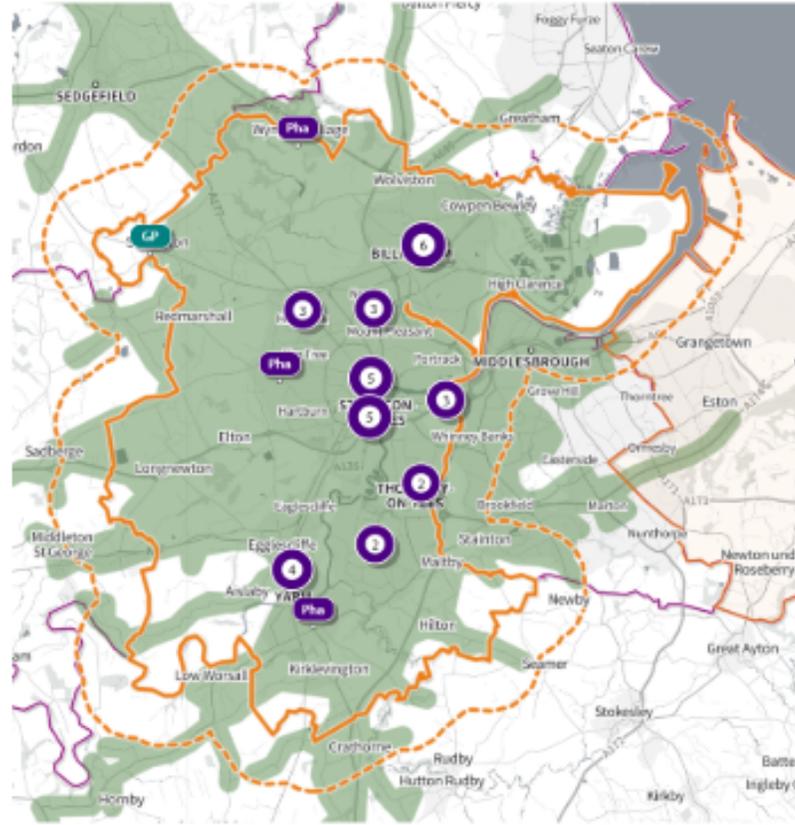
Map Showing Pharmacies / Dispensing Practice (Stillington) walking time with a 1.6km buffer zone outside HWB area (SHAPE)



Walk by time
 3 6 9 12 15 minutes

	Pharmacy
	Multiple pharmacies
	GP Dispensing practice
	1.6km buffer zone
	HWB boundary

Map showing Pharmacies +Dispensing Practice (Stillington) within a 10-minute Drive with a 1.6km Buffer zone outside HWB area (SHAPE)



	Pharmacy
	Multiple pharmacies
	GP Dispensing practice
	1.6km buffer zone

Necessary Services

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Necessary services are defined within the regulations as those services that are provided:

- Within the Health and Wellbeing boards area and which are necessary to meet the need for pharmaceutical services in its area, and
- Outside the Health and Wellbeing board area but contribute to meeting the need for pharmaceutical services in its area

For the purposes of this pharmaceutical needs assessment, the Health and Wellbeing board has agreed the necessary services are:

- Essential services provided at premises on the pharmaceutical list
- The dispensing service provided by some GP practices

Statement of Need

PNA 2025

- **Based on the information available at the time of developing this PNA no current gaps in the provision of essential services in normal working hours have been identified in any localities.**
- **Based on the information available at the time of developing this PNA no current gaps in the provision of essential services outside normal working hours have been identified in any localities.**
- **Based on the information at the time of developing the PNA no gaps were identified in the future provision of essential services other than in following specified circumstances- in Locality S1 should there be a total and permanent loss of existing pharmaceutical services provision in the Wynard area located at or in the immediate vicinity of The Stables, Wynard, TS22 5QQ there will be a future need for pharmaceutical services provision offering core opening hours Monday – Friday 9:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00.**

Statement of Need

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- **Based on the information available at the time of developing this PNA no current gaps in the current provision of other relevant services or in specified future circumstances have been identified in any localities.**
- **Based on the information available at the time of developing the PNA no gaps were identified in essential services that are provided now or on the future that would secure improvements or better access, to essential services in any of the localities apart from in the following specified circumstances - in the future that should the extant grant lapse for Elm Tree centre in locality S1 that access to pharmaceutical services could be improved or provide better access to pharmaceutical services if a premises was located in the same location that has been approved in the extant application.**
- **Based on the information available at the time of developing the PNA no gaps were identified in other relevant services that are provided now or on the future that would secure improvements or better access, to other relevant services in any of the localities**

NEXT STEPS

- Complete 60-day statutory consultation with required consultees
- Review consultation comments
- Final draft PNA prepared for approval by HWB in July 2025 with a publication date of 1st October 2025

Update PNA 2022

Updated map to be issued to maintain existing PNA