

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 Final Approval

### SUMMARY

This report serves to notify the HWB that the statutory review of the 2022 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has been completed and an updated PNA 2025 is now ready to be published by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the review has been completed.
2. To approve the final PNA 2025 to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025



### DETAIL

1. 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.
2. The legislation that describes the HWB's duties in this regard is the **National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013<sup>i</sup>** (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.
3. Draft documents have been taken to Stockton-on-Tees HWB in July 2024, January and March 2025, with a final version presented here today. The draft PNA was also taken to the Adult and Health and Social Care Select Committee in February 2025 and Corporate Management Team in July 2025. As part of the development a resident's survey was undertaken in December 2024/January 2025. The draft document has also had a 60-day statutory consultation in May / June 2025 with required stakeholders.
4. There have been a number of changes to pharmacies in the Stockton-on-Tees HWB area since the PNA in 2022. The most significant changes being the closure of one 40 hour pharmacy in Thornaby (Thornaby Locality), one 40 hour pharmacy in Elm Tree (Stockton North Locality), one 40-hour pharmacy as a result of a consolidation in Billingham (Billingham Locality) and the closure of the Distance Selling Premises at Preston Farm ( Stockton South Locality) .Following a change in regulations all of our eight 100 hour pharmacies have applied to and reduced their

opening hours, they remain open between 72 hours and 90 hours per week. An application for a new pharmacy has been approved at Elm Tree Centre, Elm Tree Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 0UW, the pharmacy has until 4th September 2025 to open.

5. As of March 2025, there are 35 pharmacies, of which 8 are open for 72 hours or more, all providing a full range of essential services. There are no appliance contractors. 1 GP practice dispenses to eligible patients and in 2023/24 it dispensed or personally administered 1.5% of all prescriptions within the HWB area. In 2023/24 92.5% of prescriptions written by GP practices in Stockton-on-Tees HWB area were dispensed by the pharmacies in Stockton-on-Tees. Most pharmacies in addition provide advanced and enhanced services commissioned by NHS England and some provide services commissioned by Stockton-on-Tees council. This map details current pharmacies within Stockton-on-Tees HWB area [Pharmacy locations across the Borough](#) .
6. As well as accessing services from pharmacies and dispensing practices within Stockton-on-Tees, residents can choose to access contractors outside of the HWB area. In 2023/24 7.5% of prescriptions were dispensed outside the HWB area this reflects the fact that some residents will access a pharmacy in a neighbouring area, use a distance selling pharmacy or a specialist appliance contractor.
7. Access to pharmacy in Stockton-on-Tees is good with 93% of those who responded to the residents' survey saying they were able to access a pharmacy within 10-20minutes using their usual mode of access (40% stated they walked). Within localities consideration of walking / driving time maps confirmed this. The eight 100-hour pharmacies ensure extended access to essential services from a pharmacy into the evening Monday – Saturday and all are open on a Sunday. In relation to access to advanced and enhanced services commissioned by NHS England there is good sign-up and evidence of activity.
8. Stockton-on-Tees HWB has defined necessary services as the.
  - Essential services provided at the premises included in the pharmaceutical list
  - The dispensing service provided by 1 GP practice
9. Based on the information available at the time of developing this PNA no current gaps in the provision of essential services have been identified in any of the localities in Stockton-on- Tees HWB area.
10. The PNA looks at changes which are anticipated within the lifetime of the document e.g. housing developments. Given consideration of population demographics, housing projections and distribution of pharmacies and dispensing practice within the HWB area the document concludes that current provision will meet the future needs of residents during the 3-year lifetime of this pharmaceutical needs assessment. However, 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.
11. Based on the information available at the time of developing the PNA no gaps were identified in essential services that are provided now or in 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.

12. The review has been supported by colleagues from Communication, Housing and Public Health Intelligence within the council and by colleagues in the NENC ICB, NECS and Healthwatch.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. No direct financial implications

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. 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.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

15. See legal implications above.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

16. The aim of the PNA is to assess the pharmaceutical services required to meet the needs of the local population, taking account of demographic change and the current and future health needs in Stockton-on-Tees.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

17. The PNA has been reviewed with due consideration of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Council Plan.

## **CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

18. The review of the PNA included a formal consultation requirement which is defined in the regulations. All relevant local stakeholders were invited to be consulted as part of this process.

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