**Lancashire**

**Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**

**Summary**

**2014**

This PNA describes the needs of the citizens of Lancashire County in relation to pharmacy services.

The PNA includes information on:

* Pharmacies in Lancashire and the services they currently provide
* Maps of providers of pharmaceutical services in Lancashire County area.
* Relevant services in neighbouring areas.
* Potential gaps in provision and likely future needs for the population of Lancashire.
* Opportunities for existing pharmacies in providing local public health services and join the healthy living pharmacy scheme.

Decisions on whether to open new pharmacies are made by NHS England Lancashire Area Team. When making the decision NHS England is required to refer to the local PNA. As these decisions may be appealed and challenged via the courts, it is important that PNAs, both in their content and in the process of their construction, comply with regulations and that mechanisms are established to keep the PNA up-to-date. In accordance with these regulations, Lancashire County Council PNA will be updated every three years.

## Main recommendations

1. Lancashire is well provided for by pharmaceutical services and, as a result, this PNA has not identified a current need for new NHS pharmaceutical service providers. However Lancashire citizens need wider range and better quality services in many existing community pharmacies.
2. Services pharmacies provide may not be fully known to citizens. There is potential for pharmacies in publicising their services more effectively.
3. The extended opening hours of some community pharmacies are valued and these extended hours should be maintained. From a citizens' point of view information on opening hours could be advertised more effectively.
4. Commissioners are recommended to commission services in pharmacies around the best possible evidence and to evaluate any locally implemented services, ideally using an evaluation framework that is planned before implementation.

## Main findings

Services pharmacies provide in each districts in Lancashire County are listed in Table 1.

Providers of pharmaceutical services have an important role in improving the health of Lancashire citizens. They are easily accessible and are often the first point of contact, especially for those who might otherwise not access health services.

There are 295 pharmacies in Lancashire and the number of pharmaceutical service providers per population is higher than found by the previous PNAs in 2010.

In 2 out of the 3 localities (Central and East) the number of pharmacies per 100,000 people has increased since the last PNA (number of pharmacies increased in Central Lancashire from 20 per 100,000 population to 24, East Lancashire from 20 per 100,000 to 27 while North Lancashire stayed the same at 24 per 100,000 population). In Lancashire the number of pharmacies per 100,000 people is 25 compared to the England average of 22 and the average for the North West being 26. There is good coverage in terms of opening hours across the county.

Pharmacies can be a useful first point of contact to health care and some public health services. Pharmacies can either provide the relevant service or signpost citizens to the most appropriate provider.

Many pharmacies are open long hours but finding information about the nearest such pharmacy can be a challenge.

Many pharmacies offer free of charge services for minor ailments that may save a longer journey to Urgent Care Centre or Accident & Emergency.

More than 68% of pharmacies run home delivery service.

More than 80% of pharmacies and dispensing surgeries have wheelchair access to their consultation area.

Of the pharmacies across Lancashire signed up to local improvement service agreements, 215 provide chlamydia testing and emergency hormonal contraception.

Community pharmacies can contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local population in a number of ways, including motivational interviewing, providing information and brief advice, providing on-going support for behaviour change and signposting to other services.

Due to historic reasons, in Lancashire County, commissioning of services from community pharmacy has been varied and although work is on-going to standardise commissioned community pharmacy services, for some services inequalities do remain.

Three of the four Lancashire Stop Smoking Services (East, Central and West) have been using a pharmacy Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Voucher Scheme since 2009. The scheme has recently been extended to North Lancashire in 2014/15 and community pharmacies are currently being recruited to the scheme.

Many pharmacies across the county provide dispensing for prescriptions issued for the management of substance misuse problems, supervised consumption of prescribed medication and needle and syringe exchange.

A Lancashire Healthy Living pharmacy programme prospectus has been drawn up that local pharmacy contractors are invited to sign up to. Healthy Living pharmacy is an identified priority in the Local Professional Network (Pharmacy) (LPN) work plan and is accountable to the LPN for roll out and delivery of the plan.

Pharmacies displaying the Lancashire Healthy Living Pharmacy logo give advice and offer services to improve the health of citizens. Healthy Living Pharmacies do these alongside with their core services. Pharmacies not displaying the logo may also provide a range of public health services.

## Context

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area, referred to as pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) that needs to be published before 1st of April 2015.

Decisions on whether to open new pharmacies are made by NHS England Area Team. When making the decision NHS England is required to refer to the local PNA. As these decisions may be appealed and challenged via the courts, it is important that PNAs, both in their content and in the process of their construction, comply with regulations and that mechanisms are established to keep the PNA up-to-date. In accordance with these regulations, Lancashire County Council PNA will be updated every three years.

PNAs were published by Lancashire PCTs in North, Central and East of the County in 2010.

Health and wellbeing needs for the local population are described in the Lancashire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This PNA does not duplicate these detailed descriptions of health needs and should be read in conjunction with Lancashire JSNA (<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6101&pageid=35157&e=e>).

Deprivation in Lancashire is higher than the national average and about 18.2% (38,700) children live in poverty. Life expectancy in Lancashire for both men and women is lower than the England average. Additionally there are considerable inequalities within the county. Life expectancy is 9.9 years lower for men and 7.6 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Lancashire than in the least deprived areas.

To ensure that pharmaceutical services are commissioned in line with population need, the Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners will monitor the development of major housing sites and will provide supplementary statements if necessary in accordance with regulations.

## Process

This PNA was undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in regulations 3-9 Schedule 1 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013.

Undertaking the PNA the pan Lancashire steering group sought the views of stakeholders to identify issues that affect the commissioning of pharmaceutical services and to meet local health needs and priorities. A stakeholder event was held in March 2014.

A survey was administered as part of this PNA targeting pharmacies to collect information on the services they provide. Another questionnaire was distributed by Health Watch Lancashire to its contacts to gather information about user experiences.

A 60 day public consultation will be undertaken to seek the views of members of the public and other stakeholders, on whether they agree with the contents of this PNA and whether it addresses issues that they consider relevant to the provision of pharmaceutical services. The feedback gathered in the consultation will be reflected in the final PNA report. As part of the 60 day public consultation a further event will be held to promote the public consultation and identify views from the public and other stakeholders.



## Consultation

We ask Lancashire citizens to participate in the production of this important document by answering the following questions and sharing their views

1. **Do you feel that the purpose of the pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) has been explained sufficiently? If not, please explain why.**
2. **Do you agree with the key findings and recommendations about pharmaceutical services in Lancashire? If not, please explain why.**
3. **Do you feel the draft PNA adequately describes current pharmaceutical services in Lancashire? If not, please explain why.**
4. **Do you know of any pharmaceutical services that are not described in the PNA? If yes, please tell us what they are.**
5. **Do you feel that the needs for pharmacy services for the population in Lancashire have been adequately identified? If not, please explain why.**

1. **Do you agree that pharmacy services are available at convenient locations and opening times? If not, please explain why.**

1. **Do you agree that we do not currently need more pharmacies in Lancashire? If not, please explain why.**

**Please add any further comments**

You can fill in this questionnaire online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Full text of this PNA can be accessed at www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay

We are happy to supply a hard copy of this document or that of the full version. To request please email: PHKnowledge@lancashire.gov.uk