

WARWICKSHIRE
HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD'S
PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

April 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is an assessment of the pharmaceutical services that are currently provided in Warwickshire, including dispensing of prescriptions by community pharmacies, dispensing GPs and other providers, as well as other services available from community pharmacies. The PNA aims to ensure that the NHS pharmaceutical services currently provided meet the needs of the local population and also to guide decisions about commissioning of future services, including whether new pharmacies should be allowed to open.

A growing and ageing population in Warwickshire puts increasing pressure on health and social care. Dementia rates are increasing, 1 in 4 people smoke, 1 in 4 people are obese and around 1 in 3 people live with at least one long term condition.

There are 111 community pharmacies in Warwickshire. It is important to ensure that there are an appropriate number of pharmacies in the right locations and offering an appropriate range of services. The PNA helps to achieve this.

The pharmaceutical services provided in Warwickshire have been evaluated. This is presented in Part A. Key documents such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) have been referenced and it is important to ensure that any developments of services support the priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS). This is presented in Part B. A county wide survey of the views of the public and service users has also been completed. Part C considers Parts A and B together and aims to identify any gaps in service where there is a need to be met.

NHS Regulations state that Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) must produce their first PNA by no later than 1st April 2015.

Findings and Conclusions

Pharmaceutical Needs and Provision

The PNA has concluded that the level of access to, range of, level of choice and delivery of pharmaceutical services currently commissioned is adequate and

generally meets the needs of the population. The service is provided by appropriately located contractors, delivering services at appropriate times to allow reasonable access. No significant gaps have been identified that constitute pharmaceutical needs warranting new providers.

Views of the Public, Patients and Service Users

The views and opinions of the public and patients revealed a generally high level of satisfaction.

- 94% of respondents are very or fairly satisfied with opening hours
- Over 93% find it easy or fairly easy to access pharmaceutical services
- Almost half of respondents need to travel less than one mile to reach a pharmacy or dispensing GP and 75% need to travel less than 2 miles
- Over 80% of respondents travel for less than 15 minutes to reach a pharmacy

Opportunities to Enhance the Future Role of Community Pharmacy

Pharmacies can maximise their contribution to improving healthcare, by utilising to the full the current service profile available under their contract. The developing public health advisory role offers further opportunity for community pharmacies to support the wider delivery of the HWB priorities by enhancing the use of current services and the development of additional pharmacy services in the future.

A number of survey respondents reported difficulties accessing information about pharmaceutical services - where is the nearest pharmacy that is open at a particular time, late at night, at the weekend or a bank holiday? There is a need for such up-to-date information to be made more easily accessible to the public.

The PNA presents an opportunity for local representatives of community pharmacy contractors to engage with service commissioners to further explore how the development of services provided by pharmacies can help to deliver the priorities of the HWB in Warwickshire.