

Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Board

25th March 2015

Warwickshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2015

Recommendations

That the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB):

1. **Consider and approve the Warwickshire PNA for publication by the 1st April 2015**
2. **Champion and encourage local discussions between commissioners and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) on how to support the wider delivery of the HWB priorities by; enhancing the use of current pharmaceutical services and the development of additional pharmacy services in the future.**
3. **Support and liaise with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) to continue working with contractors to consider the findings of this PNA and the views of the public and patient respondents discussed in this report that relate directly to pharmacy contractors.**
4. **Support and liaise with the LPC to explore options for improving communications between commissioners and the pharmacy contractor network to facilitate better engagement in the future.**

1.0 Background

1.1 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.

1.2 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for the development and updating of the PNA from Primary Care Trusts to HWBs. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (The 2013 Regulations) state that HWBs must produce their first PNA by no later than 1st April 2015.

1.3 The draft Warwickshire PNA 2015 was available for consultation from 17th November 2014 until 15th January 2015. Responses have been considered and appropriate revisions made to the draft to produce the final version which the board is asked to consider and approve.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 It is important to ensure that there are an appropriate number of pharmacies throughout the County, in the right places, offering a suitable range of services.

2.2 The PNA is an essential tool used by the NHS England when deciding if new pharmacies are needed when dealing with applications for entry onto the pharmaceutical list and also (in certain rural locations) whether GPs should be allowed to dispense. The PNA also guides partners on decisions on the commissioning of future services so that these are of good quality, are easily accessible, meet local health and pharmaceutical needs and provide good use of NHS financial resources.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Part A of the PNA contains a summary of current provision detailing the pharmaceutical services that are provided by community pharmacies and other providers, together with the times and locations where these services are available.

3.2 Part B considers the locally identified health needs as prioritised by the HWB. Key documents such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment have been referenced to ensure that any developments of services support the priorities in the Health and Wellbeing (HWBS) Strategy.

3.3 Part C presents a comparison of provision and need, using sections A and B, to identify potential gaps in services. This will provide a steer for future commissioning and support decisions on applications for new providers of pharmaceutical services.

3.4 A county wide survey of public and service user's views has also been completed.

4.0 Findings

4.1 The views 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
- Over 80% of respondents travel for less than 15 minutes to reach a pharmacy.

4.2 The PNA has concluded that the level of access to, range of, level of choice and delivery of pharmaceutical services currently commissioned, generally meets the needs of the population.

4.3 The PNA found however, that many contributors expressed a difficulty in accessing information around pharmacy services including the range and when and where they are available. There is also lack of clarity around the role of the community pharmacist. People are therefore failing to get full benefit from the range of services currently available.

4.4 65% of the population accesses a pharmacy or dispensing GP every month. There are many opportunities for community pharmacies to take on a wider role to meet some of the County's key health and wellbeing challenges and make every contact count. Also supporting new legal duties under the Care Act 2014 from 1st April 2015, for Local Authorities to provide information and advice relating to care and support services, including health.

5.0 Background Papers

5.1 Appendix I – Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board’s Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – Consultation Responses

5.2 Appendix II – full Report available at <http://hwb.warwickshire.gov.uk/2011-2/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment/>

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