

## **West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board**

**27 January 2022**

### **West Sussex Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022**

**Report by Jacqueline Clay, Manager, West Sussex Public Health and Social Research Unit**

#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to update the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board of its obligations in relation to the preparation of the pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA)

A PNA is a statement of need, identifying current and future pharmaceutical needs of West Sussex and it will be used for market entry decisions by NHS England.

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory obligation to produce and publish a PNA for West Sussex. It is also required to revise the PNA at least every three years.

Due to COVID-19 the deadline for producing the PNA has been extended to 1st October 2022.

This report sets out the process being undertaken and the timeline for the production of the PNA.

A steering group to oversee the process has been established.

#### **Recommendation(s) to the Board**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to: -

- a) Note its statutory responsibility in regard to the PNA
- b) Agree that sign off of the PNA will be via Chairman's action to meet the deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

## **1 Background and context**

### **1.1 What is a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment?**

The PNA is a statement of needs for pharmaceutical service provision within a local area.

It is used by NHS England in its determination as to whether to approve applications to join the pharmaceutical list under The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 as well as applications to change existing services.

It is also used by NHS England, Local Authorities (LA) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) to inform their commissioning of pharmaceutical services.

### **1.2 Role of Health and Wellbeing Boards**

Following the restructuring of the NHS in April 2013, the responsibility of producing a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) was transferred from (the then) Primary Care Trusts (PCT) to the newly established Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB).

The HWB is required to publish a revised PNA at least every three years, or when necessary. Failure to produce a robust PNA could lead to legal challenges because of the relevance of the PNA to decisions about commissioning services and new pharmaceutical services openings.

The deadline for the publishing the PNA is October 1st, 2022.

## **2 Proposal details**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to: -

- a) Note their statutory responsibility in regard to the PNA
- b) Agree that sign off of the PNA will be via Chair's action to meet the deadline of October 1st 2022.

### **3.0 Working Underway**

A steering group has been established in West Sussex to oversee the production of the PNA. This includes representatives from:

- Healthwatch.
- Local Medical Committee (LMC)
- Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC),
- NHS England,
- West Sussex County Council Public Health
- West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group

A project plan has been agreed by the group (Appendix 1), the high-level deadlines for the work are:

January 2022	HWB notified / reminded of duty to publish PNA and provided with project outline
January 2022	PNA Steering group established and met. Steering Group to monitor the PNA process
January to March 2022	Data collated for PNA.
March – April 2022	Engagement surveys with contractors and wider public (via telephone survey)
June – July 2022	Statutory 60 Day Consultation of final draft document
September - October 2022	Final sign off of HWB of PNA (virtual sign off via Chair's action)
Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022	PNA published on WSCC website

#### **4.0 Consultation, engagement and advice**

4.1 **Consultation** - Under the current regulations, a minimum 60-day consultation process is required to consult stakeholders on the draft PNA. This consultation will take place from mid-June.

4.2 **Engagement** – Prior to the consultation period, engagement will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders and the wider public.

In relation to contractors – online surveys of contractors (community pharmacies, dispensing doctors and dispensing appliance contractors) will be undertaken.

In relation to the wider public – it is proposed that an external company are contracted to undertake a telephone survey (providing a stratified sample of at least 500 people from each of district and borough council area within West Sussex). Proposed questions for this survey are attached. Additional engagement will be undertaken (using the same questions) via existing networks and organisations such as Healthwatch and patient engagement groups.

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#### **Appendix**

West Sussex PNA Project Scope Document