

**Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**13 March 2025**

**Progress on Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025**

**Report by Director of Public Health and Communities**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to**

- a) To note that the process to produce a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) by 1st October 2025 has commenced.
- b) To receive an update on progress and the project plan timelines on the production of the 2025 Oxfordshire PNA.
- c) To agree the approach to the approval of the final PNA.

**Executive Summary**

1. Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory duty to carry out a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) every three years. The last PNA for Oxfordshire was published in 2022 and has been kept up to date with supplementary statements reflecting changes in provision. The 2025 PNA is now due for publication in October 2025.

**Introduction and Background**

2. 'Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments' or 'PNAs' are a special assessment of pharmaceutical services provision in an area. The PNA includes information on current pharmaceutical service provision, information on health and other needs, and an assessment on whether current provision meets current or future needs of the area. It is a mandatory exercise. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for developing and updating PNAs to Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). The NHS ([Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#) set out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs.
3. To prepare the report, data is gathered from a range of sources including pharmacy contractors, pharmacy users, local residents, and others (commissioners, planners).
4. An external expert resource, Soar Beyond Ltd, has been commissioned to support the preparation and delivery of the PNA 2025 report. Soar Beyond have extensive expertise in producing PNAs, having produced 26 in the last round in 2022.

5. Since the last PNA for Oxfordshire was published (in 2022) there have been changes to local provision of pharmacy services, with some contractors closing premises (for example Lloyds in Sainsbury supermarkets) and applications for new pharmacies to open. The PNA provides a formal and evidence-based view on any gaps in pharmaceutical provision locally and is the primary resource used by NHS England when considering applications to open new pharmacies in the county. Therefore, this new PNA will ensure decisions taken on determining applications for new pharmacies in Oxfordshire are informed by the needs of local residents.
6. The final report is a publicly available document and will highlight any current gaps in provision as well as likely future needs based on anticipated demographic changes within the lifetime of the PNA.

## **PNA progress to date**

7. The Oxfordshire PNA process commenced late 2024 overseen by a wider BOB system-wide steering group, as agreed by the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing board in September 2024.
8. An Oxfordshire PNA Communications sub-group was convened in December 2024, to design the public engagement exercise, consisting of:
  - Consultant in Public Health
  - Council Senior Engagement Consultation Officer
  - Healthwatch representative
  - Soar Beyond representatives
9. The public engagement exercise commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> January and completed on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Survey link: [Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)
10. Multiple methods have been employed to maximise engagement with our residents. BOB ICB have promoted the survey with all GP practices and pharmacies (digital poster and accompanying messaging), and a physical poster has been sent to all pharmacies to display on the premises. Digital posters have also been sent to health champions across the library network. The survey has been promoted with our community health and wellbeing partners, the Make Every Contact Count partnership, and our Drug and Alcohol service provider. Healthwatch Oxfordshire have promoted through their engagement methods and patient participation groups. The survey has also been promoted in the Oxfordshire Consultations newsletter (reach 3600+ residents), and Your Oxfordshire (reach 40,000+ residents), and included in the Councillor briefing.
11. Concurrently, a data collection process is being undertaken. Soar Beyond is collating relevant data, including data on pharmacy contractors and GP dispensing practices; pharmaceutical services; current and future population

characteristics (demographic and health needs of our population); and housing trajectory data.

12. An Oxfordshire PNA Project group has also been established with the first meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March.
13. Planned PNA Project group consists of:
  - Consultant in Public Health / Nominated Public Health Lead
  - Local Pharmaceutical Committee representative
  - Healthwatch representative (lay member)
  - Soar Beyond representative
  - BOB ICB representative

## **Producing the final PNA**

14. The outcomes of the engagement and data collection will be taken to the Oxfordshire PNA Project group to review. This will enable Soar Beyond to commence the analysis and writing of the draft PNA 2025.
15. The draft assessment will be considered by the Project and Steering Group in early May 2025.
16. Upon approval of a draft PNA by the Steering Group, the assessment will be made available for a 60-day consultation provisionally scheduled between the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Statutory parties to be consulted include the city and district councils, Thames Valley Pharmacy (LPC), Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee (LMC), Oxfordshire Healthwatch, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust, BOB Integrated Care Board and neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards. Those on the pharmaceutical and doctor dispensing lists will also be invited to respond. Local voluntary groups, patient groups and members of the public, will be invited to respond via Healthwatch Oxfordshire and Council consultations newsletters.
17. The final draft PNA will be produced considering the findings from the consultation. This will be circulated and approved by the Steering group in August 2025. The final PNA will be brought for approval to the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing board in September 2025. The PNA must be published no later than 1st October 2025.

## **Financial Implications**

18. Funding for the production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for 2025 has already been allocated.

## **Legal Implications**

19. The work is being undertaken to ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board is able to comply with its duties to carry out pharmaceutical needs assessments in

accordance with the requirements of the [NHS \(Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#).

Comments checked by:

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