

Divisions Affected -

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

17th March 2022

Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022

Report by David Munday, Consultant in Public Health

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to

(i) Accept the draft Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022 for publication as a report of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and as fulfilment of the board's statutory duty to publish a PNA at least once every three years.

(ii) Note that the PNA has not identified any gaps in general access to community pharmacies in the present situation in Oxfordshire and in the expected situation in Oxfordshire to 2025, that is during the lifetime of the current PNA.

(iii) Note that NHS Resolution has adjudicated that a new pharmacy can be opened in Upper Heyford in Cherwell.

(iv) Special note should be made of the situation in the centre of Oxford City, where there is at present one large pharmacy. The public has identified a need for service improvement and extra choice. A second pharmacy in central Oxford could provide this.

(v) Note that the Valley Park housing development, west of Didcot, part of the Didcot conurbation and in Vale of White Horse, may have a future need, after building is completed and as the community matures, but beyond the lifetime of the current PNA.

(vi) Adopt all the Recommendations of the Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022.

Executive Summary

The PNA 2022 is a statutory report that assesses the needs for community pharmaceutical services in Oxfordshire in the period April 2022 to March 2025 inclusive. The PNA 2022 was developed by a multi-partner Steering Group, using data from NHS England and from the Planning Team at Oxfordshire County Council, and employing Geographical Information Systems such as NHS SHAPE. A public consultation on a draft of the PNA took place from 8th November 2021 to 9th January 2022.

There are 105 community pharmacies in Oxfordshire included in the PNA, distributed throughout the county. 2 of these 105 community pharmacies are distance-selling, internet-based pharmacies, without physical premises for customers to visit.

In addition, there is 1 Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) in Oxfordshire based in West Oxfordshire. 26 General Practices in Oxfordshire are recognised as Dispensing GPs.

The PNA has not identified any gaps in general access to community pharmacies at the present time, and new pharmacies have been given permission to open in Upper Heyford and in north Didcot in 2022. However, the need for service improvement and extra choice could be met by a second pharmacy in Oxford City centre

The PNA has not identified any gaps in general access to community pharmacies in the period to 2025, but there may be a future need in the Valley Park development in Vale of White Horse, and part of the Didcot conurbation, beyond the lifetime of the present PNA.

Respondents to the public consultation felt that more attention could have been paid to experiences in local pharmacies and to other practical issues such as disabled access. There was also strong support from a number of respondents for a second pharmacy in Oxford City centre.

Exempt Information

2. There is no exempt information.

The Oxfordshire PNA 2022

Background

3. The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory report that is required to be produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) every three years or more frequently. The PNA is the means by which the community pharmaceutical services in a Health and Wellbeing Board area are reviewed and evaluations are made as to whether or not these services are adequately meeting the needs of the population. The PNA should inform the commissioning of essential, enhanced and advanced services from community pharmacies by NHS England, and the commissioning of services from pharmacies by the Public Health department of the local authority and by other local commissioners such as the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Steering Group

4. Under the aegis of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, a PNA Steering Group was convened in May 2021. The membership was comprised of key stakeholders in the local health and care community. The membership thus included representatives of NHS England South East, Oxfordshire CCG, Pharmacy Thames Valley and Oxfordshire Public Health. The remit of the Steering Group was to oversee the creation of the PNA, in accordance with the regulatory framework, and with due regard for the landscape of health and care services in Oxfordshire, and other local considerations. The scope of the PNA was the population of Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, for three years (from April 2022 to the end of March 2025). The work of the Steering Group was informed and supported by a wider group of partners including Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the OCC data visualisation team, the public engagement team and partners who promoted or engaged with the local consultation.

Methods

5. An overall assessment of the health and well-being of Oxfordshire was completed, together with consideration of new housing (new build) and population growth. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) including NHS SHAPE software were then used to plot the location of pharmacies and of dispensing GPs in Oxfordshire and to estimate access to these by driving times, driving distances, walking times and public transport times. This is described in the PNA as 'general access'. Data on advanced services were derived from the NHS Business Authority website. Supplementary data on locally commissioned services were provided by commissioners at Oxfordshire CCG and Oxfordshire County Council Public Health Team.

The following criteria were agreed by the Steering Group, as the main ones for the 'Gap Analysis', that is, for assessing the meeting of the health needs of the

population by pharmaceutical services, for identifying where better access and general improvements might be required:

- All parts of the population should have access to a physical community pharmacy.
- In rural areas the population should be within 20 minutes' driving time or within a 5 miles radius of at least one community pharmacy. If neither criteria is met then this might be given consideration as a gap.
- In the main urban areas (in Oxford City, Banbury, Bicester, Abingdon, Didcot, Witney), the population should be within 20 minutes' walking time or 20 minutes' public transport time of a provider. If neither criteria is met then this might be given consideration as a gap.
- Areas of low car ownership in villages (where 15% or more of households are without cars) should be identified and examined for acceptable public transport access on weekdays (within 20 minutes' public transport travel time).
- The prospective needs of new build areas should be identified and considered in locations where the construction of 200 or more dwellings is planned in the period April 2019 to March 2025.
- This projection of gaps in general access for new build areas in each locality should, as far as possible, apply the criterion of 20 minutes' drivetime in rural areas and the criterion of 20 minutes' public transport time in urban areas, in the attempt to predict the emergence of gaps in pharmaceutical services in the future (i.e. by the end of March 2025).

Consultation

6. The Steering Group initiated a public consultation process that took place from November 2021 to early January 2022. The draft PNA, together with a survey questionnaire, was posted on-line. Statutory parties consulted included 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, Oxfordshire CCG, and neighbouring HWBs. Those on the pharmaceutical and doctor dispensing lists were also invited to respond, as were local voluntary groups, patient groups and members of the public.

What did we learn from the public consultation on the PNA?

7. In total, 1,000 people visited the consultation webpages between November 8th 2021 and January 9th 2022. 136 people returned feedback forms on the draft PNA, the majority of them doing this on-line. Four individuals and one organisation submitted emails. The respondents felt that the real-life experiences of people in using pharmacies should have had a greater role in the PNA, although the consultation and the Healthwatch survey had given opportunities for the public voice to be heard in this respect. Older people tended to judge the PNA more favourably than younger people. There was criticism of the use of on-line methods, and the authors recognised that participation by post in future PNAs should be made easier. Respondents felt that pharmaceutical services were not growing in step with the population. About two thirds of people expressed strong views about pharmacy services in the centre of Oxford and felt that a second pharmacy would improve matters.

Are pharmacy services meeting people's needs in Oxfordshire? Current Situation

8. **Overview:** The population of the county of Oxfordshire is continuing to grow. In total, 36,610 new homes are envisaged in Oxfordshire for the period April 2019 to March 2025. In turn, local population projections suggest that the population of Oxfordshire will grow to 769,784 people by 2025, that is by 10.7% from 2019.

There are 105 community pharmacies in Oxfordshire included in the PNA. 23 are in Cherwell, 27 are in Oxford City, 19 are in South Oxfordshire, 18 are in Vale of White Horse (plus one community pharmacy in Vale that contractually relates to BANES-Swindon-Wilts CCG and NHS South West), 18 are in West Oxfordshire.

10 of these 105 community pharmacies are 100 hour pharmacies, open for extended hours. 2 of these 105 community pharmacies are distance-selling, internet-based pharmacies, without physical premises for customers to visit.

In addition, there is 1 Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) in Oxfordshire based in West Oxfordshire.

26 General Practices in Oxfordshire are recognised as Dispensing GPs. Of the Dispensing GPs, 9 are in Cherwell, 0 are in Oxford City, 7 are in South Oxfordshire, 2 are in Vale of White Horse and 8 are in West Oxfordshire. In addition there is a non-Oxfordshire CCG dispensing GP in Shrivenham.

50 community pharmacies outside Oxfordshire are within 2 miles of the county border, (Shrivenham being included in this count).

Oxfordshire as a whole: Community Pharmacies are providing essential services to all parts of Oxfordshire, according to the main criteria adopted for the gap analysis. Possible exceptions are as follows:

Cherwell: there are no apparent exceptions.

Oxford City: Special Note: In the present PNA for 2022 to 2025, data from NHS England and NHS Shape do not indicate a gap in services in Oxford City centre in terms of geographical coverage and general access. However, although the single pharmacy in the centre of Oxford is a large pharmacy, it is serving a busy regional shopping centre and one that is used by a large university and tourist population. The public have expressed a need for service improvement and extra choice and a second pharmacy could meet this need.

South Oxfordshire: A possible exception is the Tweed Drive and Prestwick Burn area in the north east of Didcot, but this is a small area just outside 20 minutes' public transport time of a pharmacy; also a new pharmacy has permission to open nearby in north Didcot by Autumn 2022, so this area is not considered to have gap status. A number of people responding in the public consultation referred to closures of pharmacies in the recent past, but the overall geographical coverage by pharmacies in Didcot (with the north Didcot pharmacy included) is acceptable.

Vale of White Horse: A possible exception is a small, sparsely populated area to the south west of Shrivenham, but this is within easy access of the community pharmacy in Shrivenham, so is not considered to have gap status.

West Oxfordshire: There are no apparent exceptions.

Are pharmacy services meeting people's needs in Oxfordshire? Future Situation 2022 to 2025

9. **Expected Situation is as follows:**

Oxfordshire: New build plans suggest that most new housing areas in Oxfordshire in the period up to 2025 would meet the criteria of general access. Areas which warrant further consideration are as follows:

Cherwell: South of Saltway East in Banbury is a possible exception. However, this area is only just outside current public transport provision. It is therefore not considered to have gap status. Graven Hill in Bicester is a possible exception. However, this area is only just outside current public transport provision. It is therefore not considered to have gap status. North West Bicester Phase 2 is a

possible exception. However, this area is only just outside current public transport provision. It is therefore not considered to have gap status.

Special Note: NHS Resolution has now determined that Minerva Clinical Services may open a pharmacy in Upper Heyford in 2022.

Oxford City: There are not any areas which warrant further consideration, although the special note against Oxford City (above) should be referred to.

South Oxfordshire: An exception is Willowbrook Park in north east Didcot, which is just outside current public transport provision. A new pharmacy permitted to open by Autumn 2022 should also provide extra support to this area, so it is not considered to have gap status.

Vale of White Horse: An exception is the Valley Park development to the west of Didcot and within Vale of White Horse, but intended to form part of the Didcot conurbation. The development has an unusual layout in that it is adjacent three different settlements (Harwell, Milton and Didcot) while its southern part will extend south of Didcot. It is not clear how the public transport links will evolve and where the actual and preferred routes of travel will be.

Furthermore, capacity for about 2,000 extra people might not be met by existing pharmacies, although there are a number of pharmacies (in Milton and Didcot) that are relatively close to the new development. However, as the development of Valley Park is not yet completed, this area can only be regarded as having a possible future need, beyond the lifetime of the current PNA.

West Oxfordshire: An exception is development in West Witney (Downs Rd/Deer Park Rd area). This area is just outside current public transport provision. Therefore West Witney is not considered to have gap status.

Locally Commissioned Services: Services Commissioned by Oxfordshire Public Health and Oxfordshire CCG. (Illustrative Snapshot of services at 14.12.21).

10. **Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC or 'morning after pill' OPH).** EHC is available in 68 out of 105 pharmacies in Oxfordshire.

Needle Exchange service (SWOP. OPH): Needle and syringe programmes supply all equipment used to prepare and take illicit drugs. Needle Exchange service is available in 38 out of 105 pharmacies in Oxfordshire.

Supervised Consumption (OPH): In this scheme a substitute opioid regime is prescribed at an appropriate dose. Supervised Consumption is available in 76 out of 105 pharmacies in Oxfordshire.

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Service (OCCG): Treatment for Urinary Tract Infections is available in 47 out of 105 pharmacies in Oxfordshire.

Guaranteed supply of Palliative Care drugs scheme (OCCG): Pharmacy Contractors guarantee stocking an agreed selection of routine palliative care drugs. This particular service is available in 26 out of 105 pharmacies in Oxfordshire. Pharmacies outside the scheme can also dispense these medications.

Minor Ailments Scheme (OCCG): Patients are able to receive free supplies of specified Over the Counter (OTC) medications for minor ailments after consultation with a member of the pharmacy team. This service, targeted at people from relatively deprived backgrounds, is available from selected pharmacies in Banbury (4 pharmacies) and Oxford City (11 pharmacies).

11. Discussion

The PNA has been conducted with thoroughness, attention to local detail, collaboratively and with transparency. The technology used in the PNA is comprehensive, but has limitations. It does not in itself evaluate customer satisfaction. The Healthwatch Oxfordshire Survey complements the PNA in providing more detail of how service-users obtain medicines and travel to pharmacies, and of how these service users perceive community pharmaceutical services. Pharmacy users were also able to express opinions on pharmacy services as part of the public consultation on the draft PNA.

The findings of the PNA are broadly in line with key national research concerning pharmaceutical services. Although the findings of this PNA are transparent and robust, future PNA work would be strengthened by paying more attention to customer experiences in local pharmacies, although resources for such detailed work are at present limited.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

12. In line with the vision for thriving communities in Oxfordshire: there has been consultation on the PNA so that diverse residents are listened to; the intention of the PNA is to enhance the quality of life of residents. The provision of good general access to pharmacies is intended to help everyone have a good start in life and to provide help for everyone throughout life, especially people who are

in need and vulnerable. Likewise good pharmacy provision helps people lead healthy lives, as well as being part of a thriving local economy.

Financial Implications

13. The PNA does not carry any financial implications for Oxfordshire County Council.

Legal Implications

14. The publication of the PNA 2022 fulfils the obligations of the Health and Wellbeing Board under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and associated legislation.

Staff Implications

15. The PNA does not carry immediate implications for staff resources at Oxfordshire County Council, but staff from the Public Health Team and from Oxfordshire CCG should be ready to evaluate local commissioned services as part of the established commissioning cycle.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

16. The PNA was publicised in a public consultation for two months and members of the public were invited to respond. Socio-demographic details of the respondents were collected and analysed.

Sustainability Implications

17. This paper does not have any sustainability implications.

Risk Management

18. The report does not have major risk implications for Oxfordshire County Council, although it is a statutory requirement that the PNA must be published by October 2022. Publication is on target for publication by April 2022.

Consultations

19. All points of substance made by consultation respondents are recorded in the main report. However, pharmacies or pharmacy staff identified in the consultation responses are not named within the PNA itself.

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Annex: Draft Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

Background papers: Nil.

Other Documents: Nil

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