

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

– 14 MARCH 2024

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT & PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Report by Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director of Public Health &
Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to**
 1. Agree to transition the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) publication from 2025 onwards to an interactive digital format
 2. Approve the approach to 2024 JSNA publication to be focused on key thematic areas agreed by the Board
 3. Agree to the establishment of a JSNA steering group made up of partners represented on the Board to take forward the work
 4. Note the requirement to update the Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) by April 2025
 5. Agree to the establishment of a PNA Task and Finish group made up of partners represented on the Board to take forward the work
 6. Agree to the proposed timescale to undertake the work- including public consultation and for approval at the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2025

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The publication of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a statutory duty of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. The JSNA is an assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of Oxfordshire residents which could be met jointly by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) partners.¹

The [current JSNA](#) was agreed by the HWB and published on Oxfordshire Insight in June 2023, and has been shared widely with local partners, informing strategies across health and care services, most especially the [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).

In response to the evolving landscape of demographic, health and social care data dissemination and accessibility, a novel approach is being proposed for the

¹ [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)

development of the JSNA. This proposal aims to transition the traditional static JSNA into a dynamic and interactive digital format. This transformation could be undertaken during 2024/2025, and is envisioned to enhance usability, accessibility, and data visualisation for stakeholders involved in public health planning and decision-making processes.

In the meantime, it is proposed to undertake an update of selected sections of the JSNA during summer 2024 in order to maintain the relevance and accuracy of the JSNA. However, in order to be able to dedicate resources to focus on development of the digital JSNA, a full update would not be undertaken. Key components of this “lighter touch” 2024 update include:

- Life course summary “snake” infographic
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Mental health local data
- Gambling harms
- Inclusion health groups (including homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery)
- Local research

This list is not meant to be exhaustive and if partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board have specific requests of the 2024 JSNA that are important for the delivery of their 2024-25 business plans, there remains flexibility to amend this list. On reviewing the relevant legislation this proposed “lighter touch” approach for 2024 remains compliant with statutory requirements.²

It is proposed that both the 2024 JSNA update, and the transition to a digital product in 2025, will be directed by a steering group with representatives from partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board and any other relevant stakeholders, in order to ensure that it involves and reflects the needs of residents, patients and partners across Oxfordshire.

The main steps in developing the new Oxfordshire JSNA will be to:

- Establish JSNA steering group – April 2024
- Draft JSNA chapters peer reviewed - May 2024
- HWB approval and publication of JSNA - July 2024
- Initiation of collaborative development of the digital JSNA - July 2024
- Progress update to HWB - December 2024
- HWB approval and publication of digital JSNA (summer 2025)

² [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#); [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#); [Health and Care Act 2022](#)

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

What is the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

The publication of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a legal duty of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.³ It is a comprehensive assessment of the current and future pharmaceutical needs of the local population, and the extent to which current service provision meets these.⁴

The PNA covers:

- Community pharmacies (including distance selling pharmacies),
- Dispensing appliance contractors⁵, and
- Dispensing GPs.

The PNA is used by the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee (PSRC) in considering pharmacy applications. The PSRC is managed by the South East Pharmacy Optometry and Dentistry Commissioning Hub on behalf of all South East Integrated Care Boards. Decision-making membership includes ICB representative/s, a lay member and the Head of Primary Care (pharmacy lead).

The scope of the PNA is set out in national guidance/ legislation and is intentionally limited. The primary assessment is whether local residents are within 20 mins travel time (by car if in a rural area/ by foot or public transport if in an urban area) of a pharmacy service. It does not make a detailed assessment of every premises opening hours, waiting times for dispensing a prescription or other quality indicators, as these are the responsibility of the NHS commissioning body

The [previous Oxfordshire PNA](#) was published on 1 April 2022 and must be updated within three years (or sooner), i.e. by 31 March 2025.

Pharmacy provision in Oxfordshire and changes since the last PNA

As with many parts of the health and care system, there have been changes in the pharmacy landscape since 2022. The ICS has been established with the commissioning of pharmacies now delegated to ICBs from NHS England. Many pharmacies continue to offer additional services such as vaccination, smoking cessation support, oral contraception and the [Pharmacy First scheme](#) launched in Feb 2024.

Since the completion of the previous PNA in March 2022, there have been a number of changes in pharmacy provision including:

- Closure of Lloyds pharmacies based in Sainsbury's supermarkets, this affected 6 pharmacies in Oxfordshire.
- Closure of a pharmacy in Bicester town centre.

³ [The National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#)

⁴ [National Health Service Act 2006](#)

⁵ Dispensing Appliance Contractors dispense specified appliances such as stoma, catheter or incontinence appliances and are required to provide home delivery services, reasonable supplies of supplementary items such as disposable wipes, and access to expert clinical advice. DACs provide services nationally and serve large geographical areas. They may choose whether to offer an appliance usage review (AUR) service. Oxfordshire HWB area has one appliance contractor at present.

- Notification that two pharmacies are due to close at the end of March 2024, Cowley Pharmacy in Oxford and Boots Pharmacy in Thame.
- Change of ownership of 11 Lloyds pharmacies and 5 others.
- Opening of 2 new pharmacies, one each in Didcot and Bicester.
- Opening of a new distance selling pharmacy in Witney.
- Recent approval granted for a further 2 new pharmacies in Littlemore, Oxford and south of Banbury, each in response to the closure of a Lloyds in Sainsbury's in those areas.
- Approval given to a new pharmacy to open in central Oxford.

In June 2023, the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the publication of three Supplementary Statements to the PNA related to the closure of Lloyds pharmacies in Sainsbury's supermarkets in Littlemore, Oxford, Bicester and Witney.

We know that both population need and service provision are not static but continue to evolve. For example, market factors have led Boots to announce a national plan to reduce the number of premises in UK and housing growth or population changes can impact on the demand for services. The new PNA will capture these changes and will be kept under review during its 3-year life span.

Any proposed changes in pharmacies including closures, will continue to require advance notice of between 3 and 6 months (depending on opening hours).

Plan

The main steps in developing the new Oxfordshire PNA will be to:

1. Reconvene the **PNA Steering Group** including representatives of NHS England, BOB ICB, Pharmacy Thames Valley and Oxfordshire Public Health and discuss with other partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board, such as Healthwatch Oxfordshire and district councils, what input they could bring to this work.
2. **Collate data and carry out a gap analysis** (assessing the need for pharmacy services) which will evaluate access to physical community pharmacies in urban and rural areas and will include the prospective needs of new build areas.
3. Carry out a **public consultation**, which is expected to take place from November 2024 to January 2025. The PNA consultation documents will be circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board for comment before the draft is published.
4. **Sign-off and publication of the final PNA:** presenting the post-consultation version of the PNA to the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board for approval in March 2025.

NAME

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Annex: Nil.

Background papers: Nil.

[Other Documents:] Nil.

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