

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
13 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 10.00 a.m.**

HERTFORDSHIRE PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The report describes the background and legislative framework to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).
- 1.2 The report describes the current situation regarding the PNA in Hertfordshire.
- 1.3 The report describes the need to revise the PNA with plans for its delivery and seeks support in this approach.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The PNA is the key document for NHS England (Hertfordshire & South Midlands) to inform decisions on applications to open new pharmacies and the commissioning of enhanced services from pharmacies.
- 2.2 The Hertfordshire PNA (published January 2011) is extant with the subsequent updating of maps giving locations of all pharmacies (some have opened / closed since initial publication).
- 2.3 Responsibilities for the development and updating of PNA transferred from Primary Care Trusts to Health and Wellbeing Boards on 1 April 2013. It is a statutory duty for Health and Wellbeing Boards to produce their first PNA by 1 April 2015.
- 2.4 Advice from colleagues (Central Eastern Commissioning Support Unit (Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team), Primary Care Commissioning, and Ealing Council indicate estimated timescales and costs of production to be between 9-12 months at a cost of £40,000 - £60,000.

- 2.5 HCC Contract Regulations policy¹ states that “for Contracts with an estimated value of up to £75,000 the Quotation procedure shall be used (and that at least three written estimates are required for a contract between £10,001 and £75,000).
- 2.6 Four suitably qualified contractors who could undertake the PNA have been identified and the plan is to contact them to seek quotations.

3. Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board should:

- i) note the contents of this report
- ii) agree to the process of seeking a contractor to undertake this work.

¹ <http://compass.hertsc.gov.uk/compdocs/compadobe/c/contregsdec11pint>

4. Background

A) Introduction and legislative background²

If a person wants to provide NHS “pharmaceutical services” they are required to apply to the relevant NHS England area team who compile and maintain a “pharmaceutical list³”. The person must prove that they are able to meet the pharmaceutical need as set out in the relevant local PNA. Exceptions to this include applications for needs not foreseen in the PNA or to provide pharmaceutical services on distance selling (internet or mail order) basis.

“Pharmaceutical services” in relation to PNA includes:

- “essential services” which every community pharmacy providing NHS pharmaceutical services must provide including dispensing of medicines, promotion of healthy lifestyles and support for self care;
- “advanced services” are provided subject to accreditation including Medicines Use Reviews and Appliance Use Reviews; and
- “locally commissioned services (known as enhanced services) e.g. anti-coagulation monitoring, the provision of advice and support to residents and staff in care homes in connection with drugs and appliances, on demand availability of specialist drugs, and out-of-hours services which are commissioned by NHS England.

It can be seen that the PNA is a key documents for the NHS England area team as it will inform its decisions on applications to open new pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractor premises and will also inform the commissioning of enhanced services from pharmacies. Decisions on applications to open new premises may be appealed to the NHS Litigation Authority’s Family Health Services Appeal Unit (FHSAU), and may also be challenged via the courts⁴.

In April 2013 responsibilities for the development and updating of PNA transferred from Primary Care Trusts to Health and Wellbeing Boards who will be required to produce their first PNA by 1 April 2015. They are also required to publish a revised assessment within three years of publication of their first assessment.

² Pharmaceutical needs assessments – information pack for local authority Health and Wellbeing Boards. Department of Health. May 2013.

³ List includes pharmacy contractors, dispensing appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and local pharmaceutical services contractors.

⁴ <http://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/article/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments-right-service-right-place>

B). Current situation in Hertfordshire

The current Hertfordshire PNA was produced by Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust Medicines Management team and published in January 2011 with subsequent publication of updates to maps giving the location of all pharmacies at 31 March 2013 (some have opened / closed since publication of the main document). All documents are available on a publically accessible website:

Hertfordshire PNA Summary (May 2013 - 2 sides of A4)

<http://atlas.hertsliis.org/IAS/Custom/Resources/PharmaceuticalSummaryPDF.pdf>

Hertfordshire PNA Version 1 (January 2011)

<http://atlas.hertsliis.org/IAS/Custom/Resources/PharmaceuticalDetailedPDF.pdf>

Updated Hertfordshire PNA pharmacies maps (March 2013)

<http://atlas.hertsliis.org/IAS/Custom/Resources/PharmaceuticalMapsPDF.pdf>