

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025

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- The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a report that assesses the pharmaceutical needs of the local population as well as the location and provision of pharmaceutical services (1).
- The report identifies whether there are any unmet needs or gaps in service provision and produces recommendations to strengthen service provision.
- Local Authority Health & Wellbeing Boards have a statutory duty to produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for their area and to update this every 3 years.

- ***Essential services and clinical governance:*** provided by all pharmacy contractors and are commissioned by NHSE;
- ***Advanced services:*** which can be provided by all contractors once accreditation requirements have been met and are commissioned by NHSE;
- ***Locally commissioned (enhanced) services:*** commissioned by Local Authorities, ICB, and NHSE in response to the needs of the local population.

- *Services that are defined as being 'necessary' to meet the need for pharmaceutical services within the PNA. There is no definition of 'necessary' services within the regulations, the HWBB has complete freedom in this matter (1).*
- Steering group definition:
 - All essential services.
 - Advanced services included: Flu Vaccination Service, Hypertension Case-Finding Service, New Medicine Service, Pharmacy Contraception Service, and Pharmacy First Service.
 - Advanced services excluded: Appliance Use Review, Stoma Appliance Customisation, Lateral Flow Device Service, and Smoking Cessation service.

- PNA Steering Group convened
- Contractor and resident surveys conducted online to gather and assess relevant information on health needs and priorities
- Survey data analysed and underrepresented groups identified
- Draft report produced and agreed with PNA Steering Group
- **July 2025: *Draft report considered by Sandwell Health & Wellbeing Board***
- **August-September 2025:** Statutory 60-day consultation period, including additional engagement activities to increase public representation
- **December 2025:** Final report considered by Health & Wellbeing Board
- Final PNA published by end of **December 2025** (PNA due October 2025; extension required).

- There are enough pharmacies in the right locations, to meet the current and the future needs of people living in Sandwell.
- Every town in Sandwell has a pharmacy open early, late, and on weekends. However, there is still a demand for more pharmacies to be open on weekends.
- Pharmacies can offer a range of different services, but many people do not know which services their local pharmacy provides.
- The following services are widely available at pharmacies in Sandwell: flu vaccination, blood pressure checks, support with new medicines, Lateral Flow Device service, and Pharmacy First Service.
- There are no pharmacies that can give Emergency Hormonal Contraception (morning after pill) free of charge without a prescription in Tipton and Rowley Regis.
- Not many people use their pharmacy to access: Stop Smoking services, Stoma Appliance Customisation Service, and Appliance Use Review Service.
- Most pharmacies have wheelchair access, but fewer have hearing loops.
- Many people do not know what support is available to ensure everyone has equal access to pharmacies.

- Services provided by pharmacies should be widely promoted by pharmacies and other healthcare services.
- More pharmacies should offer the morning after pill free of charge, without a prescription, especially in Tipton and Rowley Regis
 - There is a discussion between providers and commissioners of pharmacy services for more local pharmacies to provide this service in Sandwell and for the national Pharmacy Contraception Service to also include the morning after pill.
- Pharmacies should be easily accessible to all (e.g. improving wheelchair accessibility, use of large print, use of 'Language Line') and the support available to ensure everyone has fair access should be widely promoted by pharmacies.

Future Sandwell PNAs should:

- Include local residents in the group working on the PNA
- Consider alternative methods of engagement at the initial consultation stage to ensure that we capture diverse views at an earlier stage of the process.
- Use datasets to obtain information on service sign-up and service activity, and contractors' survey for information on willingness to sign-up. This would help to avoid discrepancies between contractor surveys and datasets and shorten the contractor survey.

- Consultation process with professionals and public.
- Targeted engagement with residents from underrepresented groups in residents' survey- young people, males, ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+, full time parents, and carers.
- Variety of methods e.g. focus groups and assisted completion of surveys.
- Supported by voluntary organisations.

1. That the Board reviews and approves the draft Sandwell Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for consultation; and
2. that the Board approves the definition of 'necessary services' in section 3.8 for the purpose of assessing current service provision (already discussed at previous inquorate HWBB); and
3. that the Board approves an extension in the timeline of approval of the final PNA to HWBB December 2025. A revision to this timetable is needed in order to increase the response rate from contractors; accommodate good translation of the materials into our key languages; and extend community engagement activity.