

# Rotherham Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Supplementary Update

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## Introduction to pharmaceutical needs assessment

The purpose of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is to assess and set out how the provision of pharmaceutical services can meet the health needs of the population of a Health and Wellbeing Board's area for a period of up to three years. The original PNA was published in 2022 covering 2022-2025, this can be found here [rotherham-pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-2022-to-2025](https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/).

PNAs are primarily used to make commissioning and development decisions. Under the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, a person who wishes to provide pharmaceutical services must apply to NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) to be included in the relevant pharmaceutical list by proving they are able to meet a need for, or improvements or better access to, pharmaceutical services as set out in the relevant PNA. There are exceptions to this, such as applications for benefits not foreseen in the pharmaceutical needs assessment or to provide pharmaceutical services on a distance-selling (internet or mail order only) basis. The PNA and this associated supplementary update are designed to contribute to, and become an integral part of, the Rotherham JSNA – available for review at <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/data/>.

As agreed at Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WbB), there was agreement to hold a steering group annually to review any emerging needs or changes to provision and make recommendation to H&WbB, and that NHSE/I will continue to send notification of closures to RMBC public health team. The steering group meeting occurred 05/10/2023 and coupled with associated notifications, it was deemed that this supplementary update was required to notify the Health and Wellbeing Board of pharmacy changes.

The purpose of this briefing is to review the current PNA to determine if there are any gaps in provision due to changes that have arisen since the PNA was conducted in October 2022 noting that loss of opening hours does not necessarily create a gap in service if there is an alternative provision that patients can access.

## Current provision of pharmaceutical services

### Premises at which pharmaceutical services are provided.

As of January 2023, there were 64 Pharmacies including 7 distance selling pharmacies. As of November 2023, there were 61 Pharmacies including 6 distance selling pharmacy (figures 1 and 2, and table 1).

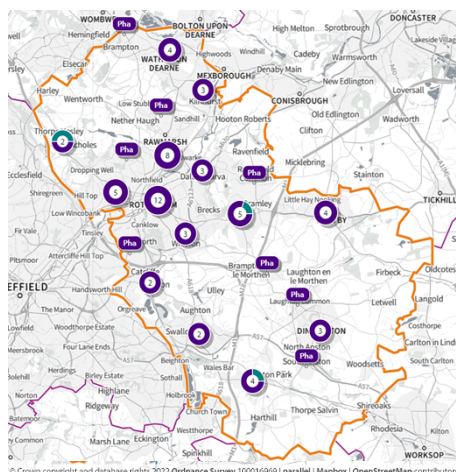


Figure 1: premises at which pharmaceutical services were provided at the time of the 2022 PNA.

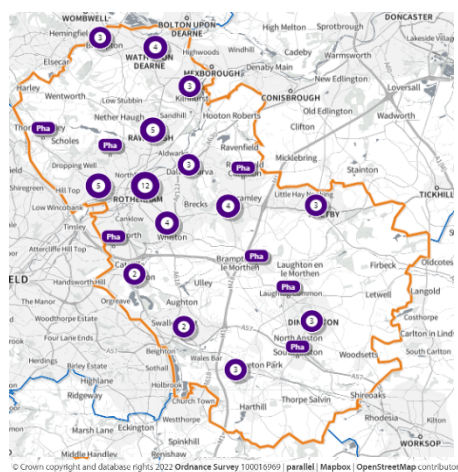



Figure 2: premises at which pharmaceutical services were provided November 2023.

## Key

 Single Pharmacy

 Multiple pharmacies located too close together to be able to display separately without increasing the resolution

This comprises of fifty 40-hour pharmacies, four 100-hour pharmacies, six distance selling premises, and one dispensing appliance contractor (table 1).

01/01/2023					16/10/2023				
40-hour	100-hour	DSP	DAC	Total	40-hour	100-hour	DSP	DAC	Total
51	5	7	1	64	50	4	6	1	61

Table 1: Pharmacy type as of January 2023 and October 2023.

### Definitions:

40-hour – Pharmacies that have 40 core opening hours per week. The contractor may choose to open the pharmacy for more than 40 hours; these are known as supplementary opening hours and can be removed by the contractor with five weeks' notice.

100-hour – Pharmacies that were subject to a 100-hour condition although they may now be opening fewer than 100 hours per week following changes to the pharmaceutical regulations which came into effect on 25 May 2023.

DSP – Distance Selling Pharmacy. There are specific conditions that apply to this type of pharmacy. A DSP must not provide essential services to a person who is present at the pharmacy, or in the vicinity of it. The pharmacy procedures for the premises must be such as to secure the uninterrupted provision of essential services, during the opening hours of the premises, to persons anywhere in England who request those services, and the safe and effective provision of essential services without face-to-face contact between any person receiving the services, whether on their own or on someone else's behalf, and the applicant or the applicant's staff.

DAC – Dispensing Appliance Contractor

### Pharmaceutical service providers per 100,000 people

For the purposes of determining whether the number of pharmacies in Rotherham is sufficient for the population size of Rotherham and whether there is sufficient choice, it was determined that the total number of pharmacies per head of population should be comparable with, or better than, the national average. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) no longer publishes regular national figures, but a 2019 publication comparing the availability of pharmaceutical services across Europe found that there was an average of 21.3 community pharmacies per 100,000 people in the UK as of 2017. This figure was used as a benchmark.

From January 2023 to November 2023, assuming no change in population, there was a reduction from 24.1 pharmacies per 100,000 population, to 22.9 pharmacies per 100,000 population. This remains above the benchmark of 21.3 per 100,000 (table 2).

Time period	Population*	Total Community pharmacies	Community pharmacies per 100,000 population
January 2023	265,807	64	24.1
November 2023	265,807	61	22.9

Table 2: Community pharmacies per 100,000 population.

\*Based on 2021 Census population and assuming no change in population.

### Total reduction in community pharmacy opening hours

There has been a reduction in opening hours of 281.25 hours per week. The loss of opening hours has resulted from the below changes (table 3):

- Three permanent closures (Rotherham Direct Pharmacy, Maltby Pharmacy, and Superdrug Pharmacy).
- Reductions to the core opening hours of four 100-hour pharmacies (Rawmarsh Pharmacy, Dinnington Pharmacy, Wickersley Pharmacy, and Tesco Pharmacy).
- Reductions to the supplementary opening hours of five 40-hour pharmacies (Pickfords Pharmacy, Well, North Anston Pharmacy, Superdrug Pharmacy (since closed), and Weldricks Pharmacy).

Total opening hours per week (01/01/2023)	Total opening hours per week (16/10/2023)	Reduction in opening hours per week
3291.41	3010.16	281.25

Table 3: Opening hours reduction for Rotherham pharmacies.

### Opening times

There are now no pharmacies open later than 21:00 Monday-Friday in Rotherham, previously there were five. There are now no pharmacies open later than 21:00 Saturday in Rotherham, previously there were five. There is a reduction of one pharmacy open on a Sunday with eight remaining open, however previously there were nine (table 4). A details list is provided in table 5.

Opening times	01/01/2023	06/11/2023	Narrative
Later than 21:00 Monday to Friday	5	0	There are now no pharmacies open later than 21:00 Monday-Friday in Rotherham
Later than 21:00 on Saturday	5	0	There are now no pharmacies open later than 21:00 Saturday in Rotherham
Open on a Sunday	9	8	There is a reduction of one pharmacy open on a Sunday.

Table 4: Out-of-hours opening hours for Rotherham pharmacies.

ODS Code	Pharmacy Name	Contractor Name	Address	Postcode	Reason for reduction	Number of hours per week	Effective Date	Notes
FWM47	Rotherham Direct Pharmacy	Pharma-Clinic Ltd	Eastwood	S65 1QY	Permanent closure	40	03/05/2023	
FAA29	Maltby Pharmacy	The Maltby Partnership Ltd	Maltby	S66 8JD	Permanent closure	100	17/09/2023	
FYR33	Superdrug Pharmacy	Superdrug Stores Plc		S60 1QU	Permanent closure	51	14/10/2023	
FNL37	Rawmarsh Pharmacy	Corner Boys Ltd	Rawmarsh	S62 6LW	Reduction to core opening hours of 100-hour pharmacy	15	04/07/2023	Pharmacy has 79 core opening hours + 6 supplementary hours
FCQ19	Dinnington Pharmacy	Dinnington Partnership Ltd	Dinnington	S25 2EZ	Reduction to core opening hours of 100 hour pharmacy	21.5	17/08/2023	
FGM85	Wickersley Pharmacy	Morthen Road Ltd	2 Morthen Road	S66 1EU	Reduction to core opening hours of 100 hour pharmacy	17.75	29/08/2023	
FQN92	Tesco Pharmacy	Tesco Stores Limited	Wath-upon-Dearne	S63 7DA	Reduction to core opening hours of 100 hour pharmacy	22	29/08/2023	
FD752	Pickfords Pharmacy	Pickfords Pharmacy Ltd	Brampton	S73 0TW	Change of supplementary opening hours	2.5	27/02/2023	Remove supplementary opening hours Monday-Friday 17:30-18:00. Total reduction of 2.5 hours per week
FAN95	Well	Bestway National Chemists Ltd	Wickersley	S66 1AA	Change of supplementary opening hours	1	19/03/2023	Decrease opening hours on Saturday from 09:00-14:00 to 09:00-13:00. Total reduction of 1 hour per week.
FE454	North Anston Pharmacy	Avicenna Retail Ltd	North Anston	S25 4DB	Change of supplementary opening hours	4	03/04/2023	Remove supplementary opening hours Saturday 09:00-13:00. Total reduction of 4 hours per week. Pharmacy now closed on Saturdays.
FYR33	Superdrug Pharmacy	Superdrug Stores Plc		S60 1QU	Change of supplementary opening hours	2.5	19/06/2023	Remove supplementary opening hours Monday-Friday 08:30-09:00. Total reduction of 2.5 hours per week. *Please note, this pharmacy also closed following this change – row 4 of table*
FR709	Weldricks Pharmacy	H I Weldrick Ltd	Maltby	S66 8JE	Change of supplementary opening hours	4	18/09/2023	Decrease opening hours on Saturday from 09:00-17:00 to 09:00-13:00. Total reduction of 4 hours per week.

Table 5: Detailed changes to Rotherham pharmacies.

## 100-hour pharmacies

Under the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 (regulation 13(1)(b)), primary care trusts were required to grant applications for inclusion in a pharmaceutical list where the applicant undertook to provide pharmaceutical services for at least 100 hours per week. Such pharmacies became known as “100-hour pharmacies”.

Whilst the ability to apply to open a new 100-hour pharmacy was removed from the regulations with effect from 1 September 2012, the requirement on these pharmacies to continue to be open for 100 hours per week was carried into the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. NHS England could not vary or remove this “100 hours condition” (regulation 65(3)). With effect from 25 May 2023, the 2013 regulations have been amended so that a pharmacy contractor can now apply to the relevant Integrated Care Board (ICB) to reduce the total core opening hours of their 100-hour pharmacy. These applications must be granted where they meet the requirements of the regulations. The requirements are that the pharmacy will still have:

- at least 72 core opening hours per week;
- core opening hours between 5pm and 9pm Monday to Saturday;
- core opening hours on a Sunday between 11am and 4pm, if the pharmacy currently has core hours at these times. The contractor may introduce a rest break provided it is no longer than one hour, and starts at least three hours after the pharmacy opens and ends at least three hours before it closes, and
- the changes must not reduce the total number of core opening hours on a Sunday.

Additionally, the contractor must provide the ICB with at least five weeks’ notice of the proposed changes.

The four 100-hour pharmacies in Rotherham have reduced their opening hours following a valid application to the ICB and one 100-hour pharmacy has closed (Maltby Pharmacy (FAA29) closed on 17/09/2023) (table 6).

Total 100-hour pharmacies 16/10/2023	100-hour reduction application received with criteria met	100-hour pharmacies that have not applied to reduce core hours	Number of 100-hour pharmacies that have closed since 01/01/2023
4	4	0	1

Table 6: Changes to 100-hour pharmacies in Rotherham.

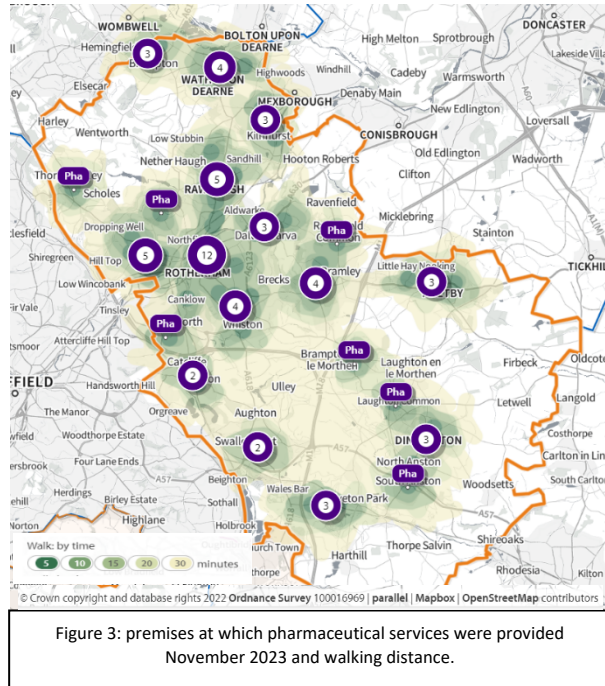
## Availability and access according to distance

For the purposes of determining whether residents require better access and towards identifying improvements for pharmaceutical services the proportion of the population within 15-minute walk of a provider pharmaceutical services was reviewed. This indicator was selected because rates of car ownership are not uniform across the population.

In analysing availability in the PNA, consideration was given to whether there is sufficient access to pharmaceutical services across the population as a whole and how access differs according to deprivation and age – both factors which are associated with poorer health.

There is no national guidance or definition of sufficient access, but where possible, comparisons were made with figures included in the 2022 PNA.

In November 2022, 85.9% of the population of Rotherham lived within a 15-minute walk of a Rotherham-based pharmaceutical service provider. Despite the closures of the three pharmacies, the included population as of November 2023 remains at 85.9%, due to proximity of other pharmacy provision (figure 3).



## The role of pharmacies in meeting the health needs of people in Rotherham for Public Health commissioned services

As sufficiency was deemed appropriate as of the PNA in November 2022, data has been collated covering the pharmacy closures to determine use of these.

During Jan-December 2022 at Rotherham pharmacies (based on postcode of the pharmacy), the total number of prescriptions dispensed (professional fees) was 7.1 million. Based on the contractor code of the three pharmacy closures, FWM47, FAA29, and FYR33, the three closed pharmacies' total number of prescriptions were 260,000. This contributed to 4% of total prescriptions during this time.

### Substance use services

As needle exchange and the supervised consumption of substance use medicines are commissioned by the Council, it was not envisaged that within the lifetime of the pharmaceutical needs assessment (2022-2025) there is, or will be, a need for either service to be commissioned as part of pharmaceutical services.

Data for pharmacy contracts was provided by 'We Are With You', the commissioned provider for drug and alcohol services in Rotherham.

As of December 2023, there were 60 pharmacy contracts: 49 of which dispense methadone, 39 of which provided supervised consumption in the month, and 11 offering needle exchange.

For needle exchange, there was a reduction of one pharmacy providing this in October 2023; previous to this, there were twelve providing this service. The pharmacies offering this service are shown in figure 4.

For supervised consumption, the total from April 2022 to February 2023 were 1,971, and these were supported by the previous commissioned provider, 'Change Grow Live'. As the drug and alcohol service moved to a new provider, data for 'We Are With You' (new provider), is available from May 2023-December 2023. This shows 1,582 supervised consumptions during this time period and is in line with the previous year's figures.

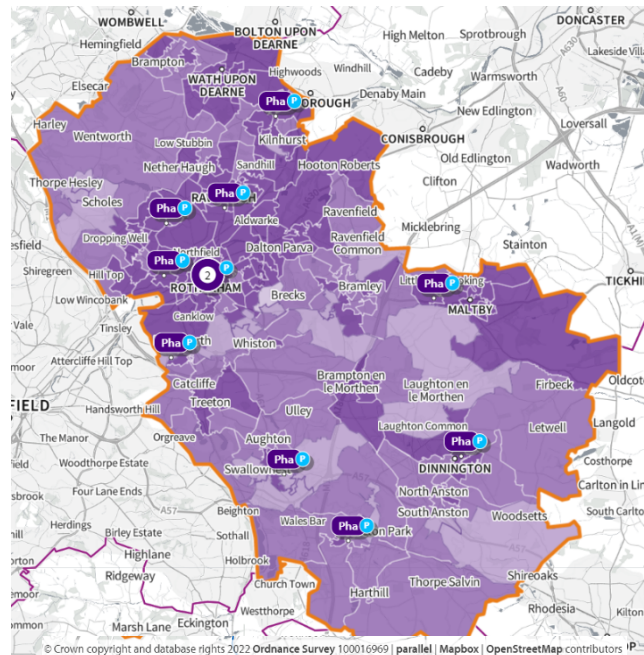


Figure 4: premises at which needle exchange is provided by Rotherham

### Sexual Health services

Emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) provision is commissioned by the Council and is available in selected pharmacies in Rotherham.

There were 29 pharmacies signed up to provide free EHC in Rotherham at the time of the PNA, however as of January 2023, this decreased to 28 pharmacies. Since then, this has reduced sharply to 15 pharmacies, most notably due to 5 'Well' pharmacies no longer signing up, in addition to 4 'Weldricks' pharmacies. Please note, all pharmacies can supply EHC (except for where a pharmacy chooses not to, for example on religious grounds) but only 15 provide free EHC (other pharmacies require this to be paid for by the customer). Limited information is available to the sexual health commissioned service as to why 'Well' and 'Weldricks' have not signed up however, it has been noted this may be impacted by resource issues in pharmacies.

In addition to pharmacies, free EHC is also available at the sexual health service at The Rotherham Foundation Trust open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 7.30pm, Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm.



Data shows that April 2022 to March 2023, there were 438 EHC given to women within community pharmacy settings. Data was not available for the 2022 PNA to determine number of EHC provided by each pharmacy however this is being monitored moving forward.

## Summary and recommendation

Since January 2023, data show that there have been reductions to the total number of community pharmacy opening hours in Rotherham. Since the PNA was conducted, there have been three pharmacy closures, four pharmacies with a reduction to 100-hour opening times, and five pharmacies with a reduction to 40-hour openings. There are now 22.9 pharmacies per 100,000 population; previously there were 24.1 per 100,000. Data available at the time of writing does not indicate a change in provision for supervised consumption or needle exchange, however, there has been a notable reduction of pharmacies providing free emergency hormonal contraception.

Notification of future pharmacy changes will be reviewed by the pharmaceutical needs assessment steering group members, chaired by the Public Health Intelligence Principal, and will be notified to the Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate.

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the reduction in out-of-hours pharmacy opening hours, and the reduction in pharmacies providing free emergency hormonal contraception.