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| BRIEFING | TO: | Health and Wellbeing Board |
| | DATE: | 24 th September 2025 |
| | LEAD OFFICER | Lorna Quinn, Public Health Intelligence Principal |
| | TITLE: | Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment |
| Background | | |
| 1.1 | 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 draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has been updated to cover the period 2025-2028. | |
| 1.2 | 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/ . | |
| 1.3 | As agreed at Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WbB) upon publication of the 2022-2025 PNA, 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 this steering group will take responsibility to update the document every three years. | |
| 1.4 | The PNA has now been updated to cover the period 2025-2028. | |
| Key findings | | |
| 2.1 | Overall, access to pharmaceutical services in Rotherham is good. Most of the population live within easy access of a pharmacy and good physical access is supplemented by increasing growth in national online service provision. | |
| 2.2 | In consideration of all the information available at the time of writing, the Health and Wellbeing board concluded that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Based on the information presented in the report, the Rotherham health and wellbeing board is satisfied that there is sufficient choice with regard to obtaining pharmaceutical services in Rotherham.- The health and wellbeing board has identified that there would be need for pharmaceutical provision if one of the four 100-hour pharmacies reduced their opening hours to no longer cover evenings (17:00 onwards) or weekends (Saturday and Sunday). This would be because the geographical spread of the four pharmacies mean that a large proportion of the population would find it | |

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| | <p>difficult to access pharmaceutical provision during evenings and weekends. The health and wellbeing board would expect that either existing pharmacy contractors will adjust their opening hours to address such changes in the future or the integrated care board will direct pharmacies to open to meet any differences in opening hours. If there is a need to direct pharmacies to increase their hours, the location should be in a similar place to where there has been loss of hours, or within an area that is easily accessible on public transport, such as the town centre. The health and wellbeing board would expect the replacement pharmacy, or hours covered by other pharmacies, to cover the same hours and services as the current provision in this assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no new housing developments of significant size during the lifetime of the document, and the population projections are not predicted to increase to sufficient size to create unmet pharmaceutical need providing services remain as are at the time of writing. |
| 2.3 | <p>The health and wellbeing board has noted the number of pharmacies that have signed up to provide, and are providing, the advanced and enhanced services of Lateral Flow Device Tests Supply Service, New Medicine Service, Emergency Hormonal Contraception, Needle and Syringe Provision Needle Exchange, Palliative Care, Supervised Consumption, and Over The Counter Medication Labelling Scheme, and are satisfied that the current demand can and will be met by the existing providers.</p> |
| Key Actions and Relevant Timelines | |
| 3.1 | The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment covers the period 2025-2028. |
| 3.2 | The steering group will continue to meet annually or more frequently if required. |
| Implications for Health Inequalities | |
| 4.1 | <p>A section of the assessment focusses on the pharmaceutical needs of those most likely to experience inequalities and barriers to accessing care in Rotherham and the ways in which community pharmacy can address these needs. This includes consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living in the 20% most deprived communities (according to IMD, 2019) • Those with one or more protected characteristics defined within the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability; pregnancy and maternity; race which includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins; religion (including a lack of religion) or belief; sex; sexual orientation; gender re-assignment; marriage and civil partnership.) • Inclusion health groups, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asylum seekers and refugees ○ Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities ○ Homeless people and rough sleepers ○ People with drug or alcohol dependence ○ Those in contact with the criminal justice system ○ Sex workers |
| Recommendations | |
| 5.1 | To note the findings of the pharmaceutical needs assessment. |