

Agenda Item 8

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of Derek Ward, Director of Public Health, Lincolnshire County Council

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	21 July 2021
Subject:	Lincolnshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

Summary:

Completion of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory duty for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to undertake at least every 3 years. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the requirement to republish an updated PNA by 31 March 2021 was suspended. The HWB is now required to publish the PNA by 31 March 2022.

The production of the 2022 PNA for Lincolnshire has commenced, and a draft PNA is being prepared to go out for consultation between October and December 2021.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is requested to:

- (1) note that the process to produce a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment by 31 March 2022 has commenced;
- (2) receive the project plan timeline from the Lincolnshire PNA Steering Group on the production of the Lincolnshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022; and
- (3) initiate a working group to comment on the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment during the statutory 60-day public consultation.

1. Background

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a report of the present and future needs for pharmaceutical services. It is used to identify any gaps in current services or improvements that could be made in future pharmaceutical service provision. To prepare the report data is gathered from pharmacy contractors, dispensing GP practices, pharmacy users and residents, and from a range of other sources (commissioners, planners and others). The report also includes evidence and a range of maps that are produced from data collected as part of the PNA process.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for developing and updating PNAs to Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs). The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 sets out the legislative basis for developing and updating PNAs.

Due to the pandemic, in June 2020 the Department of Health and Social Care suspended the statutory duty to produce a revised PNA by 31 March 2021. HWBs are now required to publish an updated assessment by 31 March 2022. Lincolnshire's current PNA, which was published in 2018, is available to view on the [Lincolnshire Research Observatory](#).

Lincolnshire County Council Public Health Division is facilitating the process to prepare a revised assessment with external pharmaceutical expert resource being provided by the University of Lincoln. A PNA Steering Group (SG) has been convened to support the development of the PNA. The Steering Group has membership from the key stakeholders – community pharmacies (represented by the Local Pharmaceutical Committee), health services (represented by NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and the Local Medical Committee) and residents (represented by Healthwatch Lincolnshire). The PNA SG held its first meeting on 8 June 2021. At this meeting the Terms of Reference were agreed along with the Project Plan shown in Appendix A.

The PNA SG is currently undertaking several pre consultation engagement activities to help inform the drafting of the PNA document. Surveys are currently being undertaken with local community pharmacies and GP dispensing practices to ascertain current commissioning and provision of services. In addition, Healthwatch Lincolnshire is gathering the views of patients, service users and the public to seek their opinion on current pharmaceutical services.

The intention is to present the draft PNA to the HWB on 28 September 2021 for the Board to consider it prior to undertaking the statutory 60-day consultation exercise during October to December. The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is invited to initiate a working group during this time in order to feed into the consultation process on the draft PNA.

2. Consultation

A 60-day consultation is a mandatory component of the PNA process. The consultation follows the period of engagement and data gathering on health needs, service provision and views of residents on the existing levels of pharmacy provision. The proposed consultation will be on the findings of the draft PNA, approved by the HWB at its meeting in September.

It is anticipated that the consultation questions will broadly cover the following:

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the assessment? (The findings on whether there are gaps or not in pharmaceutical provision)
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the other conclusions contained within the draft PNA
- In your opinion, how accurately does the draft PNA reflect each of the following?
 - current provision of pharmaceutical services
 - current pharmaceutical needs of Lincolnshire's population
 - future pharmaceutical needs of Lincolnshire's population over the next three years
- Any other comments
- We will also collect some (optional) basic data about the respondent (in line with LCC guidance).

The Pharmaceutical Regulations mandate that the consultation must be for a minimum of 60 days. The planned dates for the consultation are from 4 October 2021 to 3 December 2021.

The regulations also list a range of stakeholders who must be consulted. A stakeholder list has been developed, in conjunction with the PNA SG, and used to help distribute the questionnaire. In addition to approving the draft PNA for consultation, the Board will also approve the consultation plan.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and will be used to identify any vulnerable groups which may need to be targeted. The consultation will be an online survey on the Council's website and communicated through:

- Traditional and social media communications
- Newsletters and partner's communication networks
- Presentations – Healthwatch Lincolnshire have offered to host a Webinar
- Paper copies of the consultation will be available on request.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The PNA is undertaken in the context of the health, care and wellbeing needs of the local population, as defined in the Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA, as well as defining the needs of the local population, also identifies a strategic direction of service delivery to meet those needs, and commissioning priorities to improve the public's health and reduce inequalities. The PNA should therefore be read alongside the JSNA.

Regulation 9 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations requires, when carrying out assessments for the purpose of publishing PNAs, to have regard of:

- the number of people in its area who require pharmaceutical services
- the demography of its area
- the risks to the health or wellbeing of people in its area

4. Conclusion

The draft PNA 2022 is currently being produced by the PNA SG. The draft PNA will be considered by the HWB for approval from consultation. Pending approval, it will be made available for the 60-day statutory consultation in early October 2022. The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is being invited to convene a working group as part of this process.

The results of the consultation will be considered by the PNA SG in January 2022 and the final PNA document will be presented to this committee and the HWB in February and March 2022 respectively. The final PNA must be published by 31 March 2022.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire 2022 PNA Project Plan

6. Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/349/contents/made
---	---

This report was written by Alison Christie, Programme Manager, who can be contacted on alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX A - LINCOLNSHIRE 2022 PNA PROJECT PLAN

	Owner	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
Stage 1	Project Start/PH internal Working Group meets	AC	18									
Stage 1	First Steering Group Meeting	AC		8								
Stage 1	Produce Communication & Engagement Plan and complete initial EIA	AC										
Stage 1	Deadline for HWB papers	AC		1								
Stage 1	HWB meeting to receive paper on process & timescales	AG/AC		22								
Stage 1	HSC meeting to receive paper on process & timescales – for information	AC			TBC							
Stage 2	Data collation including questionnaires											
Stage 2	Second Steering Group Meeting to agree and lock down the data				TBC							
Stage 3	Complete draft PNA including recommendations				13							
Stage 3	Circulate draft PNA to Steering Group and NHSE				16							
Stage 3	Third Steering Group Meeting -agree draft PNA				TBC							
Stage 3	Prepare consultation – documentation, correspondence to statutory consultees, webpages	AC										
Stage 3	Deadline for HWB papers	AC					6					
Stage 3	HWB meeting to agree Draft PNA for consultation	AG/AC					28					
Stage 3	Statutory Consultation Exercise (61 days)							4		3		
Stage 3	Deadline for HSC papers	AC							TBC			
Stage 3	HSC meeting to review draft & input into consultation	AG/AC							TBC			
Stage 4	HWB meeting to provide a verbal update on the consultation exercise/key headlines	AG/AC								7		
Stage 4	Produce consultation report and draft final PNA											
Stage 4	Circulate draft Final PNA to Steering Group											
Stage 4	Fourth Steering Group Meeting -agree final PNA										TBC	
Stage 4	Deadline for HSC papers	AC										TBC
Stage 4	HSC meeting to final draft & provide scrutiny comments to HWB	AG/AC										TBC
Stage 4	Deadline for HWB papers	AC										7
Stage 4	HWB meeting to agree draft Final PNA for publication	AG/AC										29
Stage 4	Convene steering group (if needed) to receive/inform comments from HWB	AG										30
Stage 4	Amend final PNA for feedback from HWB	AG										30
Stage 4	Upload Final PNA onto Council or Observatory (TBC) website, and make 'live'	AC										31

This page is intentionally left blank