

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENTS FOR BERKSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Introduction and Background

From 1st April 2013 every Health and Wellbeing Board has been given a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area. This is called the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).

The [National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#) requires each Health and Wellbeing Board to make a revised assessment as soon as is reasonably practicable after identifying significant changes to the need for pharmaceutical services locally or within 3 years of its previous publication. This timescale was extended by the Department of Health and Social Care in March 2021, due to ongoing Covid-19 pressures across all sectors, and the requirement to publish renewed PNAs was suspended until 1st October 2022.

Berkshire's six Health and Wellbeing Boards all published their latest PNAs on 1st April 2018. All of these PNAs will need to be refreshed by 1st October 2022 in accordance with the national regulations.

Plans and timescales for Berkshire's 2022 PNAs

The Directors of Public Health for Berkshire East and Berkshire West agreed that the production of the 6 Berkshire PNAs should be commissioned out to an external provider; this was largely due to capacity in the teams being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Three companies were asked to provide quotes for this work and these were each scored on a 40% cost: 60% quality matrix. Healthy Dialogues was the successful bidder for this work and has been appointed to complete the 6 PNAs for Berkshire.

Healthy Dialogues has provided a robust project plan for how the PNAs will be carried out over the next year and has identified clear workstreams that meet the national requirements. An overarching Steering Group has now been established that includes representatives from the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), NHS England Area Team, voluntary sector groups such as Healthwatch, communications leads and other stakeholders identified locally. This group is chaired by the Berkshire East Public Health Hub who will oversee the PNA development on behalf of the six Berkshire local authorities. The Hub will also have regular project assurance meetings with Healthy Dialogues.

Healthy Dialogues aim to present the first draft of the PNA reports to the Steering Group in April 2022. These reports will then be disseminated for public consultation in May 2022 to fulfil the statutory 60-day consultation period. Once this consultation period has elapsed, the responses will be summarised and fed into the final drafts of each of the PNAs to be presented to the Steering Group in July 2022. The final draft of the PNA will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Boards by September 2022. The PNA steering group will include appropriate representation from HWBB members to ensure input throughout the process. Should any issues arise in the production of the PNA, these will be raised with the appropriate HWBB / boards in a timely manner.

The Berkshire East Hub will provide two progress reports to each of the Health and Wellbeing Boards to update on the delivery.

For more information about the process for Berkshire's 6 PNAs please contact the Berkshire East Public Health Hub at ph.information@bracknell-forest.gov.uk.