

Consultation Summary on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

Every Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is required to produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). There is also a requirement to reassess and revise the PNA within three years of its previous publication. However, the HWB must make a revised assessment as soon as it is reasonably practicable after identifying any changes that have occurred since the previous assessment, which may have an effect on the needs of pharmaceutical services. Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Department of Health and Social Care postponed the requirement for all HWBs to publish until 1 October 2022.

This mapping of pharmaceutical services against local health needs provides Bexley HWB with a framework for the strategic development and commissioning of services. It will enable the local pharmacy service providers and commissioners to:

- Understand the pharmaceutical needs of the population
- Gain a clearer picture of pharmaceutical services currently provided
- Make appropriate decisions on applications for NHS pharmacy contracts
- Commission appropriate and accessible services from community pharmacies
- Clearly identify and address any local gaps in pharmaceutical services
- Target services to reduce health inequalities within local health communities

This draft PNA has been produced through the PNA Steering Group on behalf of Bexley HWB by London Borough of Bexley (LBB) with authoring support from Soar Beyond Ltd.

NHS pharmaceutical services in England

NHS pharmaceutical services are provided by contractors on the pharmaceutical list held by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I). Types of providers are:

- Community pharmacy contractors, including Distance-Selling Pharmacies (DSPs)
- Dispensing Appliance Contractors (DACs)
- Local Pharmaceutical Service (LPS) providers
- Dispensing doctors

Pharmaceutical service providers in Bexley

Bexley has 45 community pharmacies (as of March 2022) and one DSP for a population of 249,301. Using current population estimates, the number of community pharmacies per 100,000 population for Bexley is 18.0 (18.5 including the DSP).

Conclusions

Provision of current pharmaceutical services and locally commissioned services is well distributed, serving all the main population centres. There is excellent access to a range of services commissioned from pharmaceutical service providers. As part of this assessment no gaps have been identified in provision either now or in the future for pharmaceutical services deemed necessary by Bexley HWB.