

	<b>Brent Health and Wellbeing Board</b> 20 November 2025
	<b>Report from the Director of Public Health</b>
	<b>Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure</b>
<b>Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jodie T. Rojas Agudelo Public Health Strategist Jodie.rojas-agudelo@brent.gov.uk

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The report informs the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress with the Brent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).
- 1.2. The Brent PNA found that the borough currently has adequate pharmacy provision, with 80 community pharmacies including nine distance-selling pharmacies ensuring good access across all localities. A number of pharmacies are delivering advanced and enhanced services including seasonal influenza vaccinations, pharmacy contraception, COVID vaccination service etc. Most residents live within a reasonable travel distance to a pharmacy, and weekend/evening availability is generally sufficient. Recommendations include maintaining current coverage, improving awareness of advanced and enhanced services, monitoring future demand and improving public engagement and targeted services for vulnerable groups.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

### 2.1 The Board is asked to:

- Note that the production of the Brent PNA was overseen by the steering group and was consulted upon.

- Note that the Brent PNA was published before 1 October 2025.
- Note the roles of NHS England, North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Brent Council in maintaining the PNA.
- Agree the process for keeping the Brent PNA up to date by:
  - Delegating to the Director of Public Health (“DPH”), or the DPH’s nominee, the decision as to whether a revision of the PNA is required.

### **3.0 Detail**

#### **Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

- 3.1 Pharmacies are a key provider of services in local communities and therefore contribute to several of the priorities in the Borough plan, including a healthier brent, and thriving communities.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is to consider the provision of pharmacies and to identify any gaps in their provision. Pharmaceutical services do not include all services which could be provided from Community Pharmacies and the PNA does not preclude local decisions about other services which may be locally commissioned or provided but it does not govern such decisions. PNAs are used by the NHS to make decisions on which NHS funded pharmaceutical services need to be provided by local community pharmacies. PNAs are also used in decisions as to whether new pharmacies are needed in response to applications by businesses.

### **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1 At the October 2024 meeting the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to establish a PNA Steering Group to which it delegated the task of overseeing the conduct, consultation and publication of the revised Brent PNA.
- 3.2.2 PNAs are used by the NHS and Local Authorities to make decisions on which NHS funded services need to be provided by local community pharmacies. PNAs are also used in decisions as to whether new pharmacies are needed in response to applications by businesses. NHS England has the responsibility to commission pharmaceutical services making decisions based upon PNAs.
- 3.2.3 The Council engaged the pharmaceutical consultancy Soar Beyond through a direct award to undertake the development of the PNA and thereafter to support the Health and Wellbeing Board in keeping the PNA up to date.
- 3.2.4 The PNA Steering Group, chaired by the DPH’s nominee with input from the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) and Healthwatch, agreed a draft PNA in 2025. This was consulted upon according to the regulations. The Steering Group have considered responses to consultation and agreed revisions to the text of the PNA. The final PNA was published on the Brent Council Website on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in accordance with the Regulations.

- 3.2.5 The Regulations require PNAs to be reviewed following publication to take into account any significant events / changes which impact on the need for pharmaceutical services in the Brent area. These changes may be such as to require a revision of the PNA sooner than the standard three years; for example, as a result of demographic change, or if the current provision of pharmaceutical services change by closure if a pharmacy closes. However, a full revision of the PNA is only required should this be a proportionate response to those changes.
- 3.2.6 The PNA includes key data such as Brent's population demographics, the number and distribution of pharmacies across the borough, service provision details, and insights gathered from public and stakeholder surveys.
- 3.2.7 Changes in pharmaceutical services may result from a pharmacy changing its opening hours, ownership or location. Such changes would be agreed by NHS England and should be notified to the HWB. Changes may also result from commissioning decisions by the ICB, the local authority or NHS England.
- 3.2.8 If a change in the provision of pharmaceutical services occurs which is not deemed to merit a full revision of the PNA, the HWB may publish a supplementary statement, pending the publication of statement of revised PNA.
- 3.2.9 In order that the PNA is kept up to date the arrangements referred to in paragraphs 3.3.0 – 3.3.2 below will be put into place:
- 3.3.0 NHS England will provide information monthly on any changes to the pharmaceutical list for Brent. NHS England, Brent ICB and Brent Council Public Health will provide information on any changes to their commissioning that may result in a change in the need for pharmaceutical services
- 3.3.1 The DPH or the DPH's nominee will determine if a revision of the PNA should be considered or if the publication of a Supplementary Statement will suffice. If the former, the PNA Steering Group will be reconvened. If the latter, the Supplementary Statement will be published on the Brent Council website.
- 3.3.2 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process will be used to determine if there is a significant change to the need for pharmaceutical services. In this event, Brent Council will reconvene the PNA Steering Group.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 4.1 Consultation was undertaken in revising the PNA in accordance with section 8 of the 2013 Regulations which requires consultation with specific organisations and groups allowing them a minimum of 60 days to make their response to the consultation.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

- 5.1 The cost of revising and maintaining the PNA is met by the Council's public health grant.

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 The Health Act 2009 amended the NHS Act 2006 to introduce a new s128 A of the NHS Act 2006 dealing with the PNAs. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established HWBs. The Act also amends s128A NHS Act 2006 by transferring responsibility to develop and update PNAs from PCTs to HWBs.
- 6.2 128A NHS Act 2006 sets out requirements in relation to PNAs, namely
- (1) Each HWB must in accordance with the 2013 Regulations—
    - a. assess needs for pharmaceutical services in its area, and
    - b. publish a statement of its first assessment and of any revised assessment.
  - (2) The 2013 Regulations make provision—
    - a. as to information which must be contained in a statement;
    - b. as to the extent to which an assessment must take account of likely future needs;
    - c. specifying the date by which a HWB Board must publish the statement of its first assessment;
    - d. as to the circumstances in which a HWB must make a new assessment.
  - (3) The 2013 Regulations may in particular make provision—
    - a. as to the pharmaceutical services to which an assessment must relate;
    - b. requiring a HWB to consult specified persons about specified matters when making an assessment;
    - c. as to the manner in which an assessment is to be made;
    - d. as to matters to which a HWB must have regard when making an assessment.
- 6.3 Regulations 5 and 6 of the 2013 Regulations cover the date by which the HWB's first PNA must be published and the arrangements for revising the PNA. The local authority must ensure the PNA Steering Group and those it reports to are aware of and adhere to the requirements.

## **7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 7.1 The PNA includes an equality impact assessment.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 8.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse impacts on the Council's environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 Not applicable.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

Ruth du Plessis  
Director of Public Health