

# Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022-25

# What is a PNA?

- Part of the 'market entry system' for pharmacies.
  - A pharmacy can only be opened if a need for it can be demonstrated
  - The market is regulated by NHS England, which also funds the medical services part of the pharmacy.
- Because NHSE has a conflict of interests the Health and Wellbeing Board is required to provide an independent, factual view on the provision, over the following three years, by
  - Location
  - Contracted opening hours
  - Services such as flu vaccination.

**[NB Pharmacy commissioning will be the responsibility of the Integrated Care Board from April 2023.]**

- Due for September 2022 – delayed from April 2021 by Covid-19.

# What it isn't..

- A review of the quality of pharmacies
  - Speed of service or attitudes of staff are not covered
  - If pharmacies cannot open for the contracted hours (typically because of staff shortage) then that is a matter for contract managers at NHSE.
- An assessment of choice of pharmacy provider
- An assessment of very local conditions, such as road crossings.
- A guarantee of perfect access

# How it is written

- By a working group delegated by HWB in October 2021, and made up of the principal stakeholders:
  - Local Medical Committee
  - Local Pharmaceutical Committee
  - Healthwatch
  - SCC Communications (consultation)
  - NHS England
  - SCC Public Health
  - pharmacy profiles and graphs from Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

# Findings

- Pharmacies' location and contracted hours broadly reflect demand and provide a reasonable level of service.
- The steering group is consulting on two improvements:
  - Wider commissioning of Hepatitis C antibody testing service (which is, we understand, already in preparation).
  - The commissioning of an existing pharmacy in Chard to provide Sunday opening.
- [There is a long-standing gap in provision for Monkton Heathfield, identified in 2016 outside the PNA process. The licence awarded to Day Lewis has lapsed and no commercial provider has sought to apply.]

# Findings

- **Outside the scope of the PNA, we have found:**
  - Considerable reduction in opening hours at the moment
  - Largely caused by staffing difficulties
  - This is having knock-on effects on the promptness of service
- A further pharmacy – Lloyds at the Clink in Bridgwater – is closing in August
- The pharmacy system is experiencing pressures similar to the wider health service.

# Recommendations

**that the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:**

- **1. Endorse the draft**
- **2. Comment, if appropriate, on provision in Chard, or Hepatitis C Antibody testing, or both.**
- **3. Delegate endorsement of the final draft of the report to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, assuming only minor changes from the consultation draft.**