

ICB Primary Care Commissioning Committee

Date of meeting	14 September 2023
Title of paper	NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Response to the Draft Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
Presented by	Nicola Feeney, Pharmacy Delivery Assurance Manager
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Agenda item	6c
Confidential	No

Executive summary		
<p>Cumbria County Council ceased to exist on 1st April 2023 and has been replaced by two new authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland Council; and • Westmorland and Furness Council. <p>These changes mean that both new Health and Wellbeing Bords have a legal duty to produce two new Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNA) for the two new authorities within this first year of being established (by March 2024).</p> <p>The ICB uses the PNA when determining routine applications to join the Pharmaceutical List and have therefore been asked to comment on the new PNAs as a recognised interested party.</p>		
Advise, Assure or Alert		
<p>Assure the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both PNA's have been read and considered and a response has been written on behalf of the ICB. 		
Recommendations		
<p>The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Note the contents of the report. 2.Approve the response as drafted. 		
Which Strategic Objective/s does the report contribute to		Tick
1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience	X
2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	
3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	
4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity	
5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets	X

6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies			
Implications				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks			X	
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?				
Financial Implications			X	
Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				
Meeting	Date		Outcomes	
Pharmaceutical Services Group	16 th August 2023		Response was supported	
Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
Not applicable				
Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			X	
Equality impact assessment completed			X	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			X	
Report authorised by:	Craig Harris, Chief of Strategy, Commissioning and Integration			

ICB Primary Care Commissioning Committee

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NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Response to the draft Cumberland, and Westmorland and Furness Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 128A of the National Health Service Act 2006 (NHS Act 2006) requires each Health and Wellbeing Board to assess the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and to publish a statement of its assessment.
- 1.2 Termed a 'pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA)', the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, as amended set out the minimum information that must be contained within a pharmaceutical needs assessment and outline the process that must be followed in its development. This information includes a clear statement about any current or future needs for pharmaceutical services and any need for additional provision to secure improvements or better access.
- 1.3 The main aim of a PNA is to assess if current pharmacy services are meeting the needs of the people of the local area. A PNA describes community pharmacy services currently being provided in a specific area, identifying where and when these are available; and it assesses current and future health needs of the local population.
- 1.4 Cumbria County Council ceased to exist on 1st April 2023 and has been replaced by two new authorities: Cumberland Council; and Westmorland and Furness Council. These changes mean that both new Health and Wellbeing Boards have a legal duty to produce two new Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments for the two new authorities within this first year of being established (by March 2024).
- 1.5 Both the Cumberland Health & Wellbeing Board and Westmorland & Furness Health & Wellbeing Board have produced draft local PNAs outlining services which will help to ensure residents have good access to local pharmacy services. The last PNA for the former Cumbria County Council was published in October 2022.
- 1.6 Links to copies of the PNA are below, and there has been no substantial changes in need when compared to the Cumbria County Council PNA:

<https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-2023-stakeholder-consultation/>

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- 1.7 Both PNAs state that there are no identified needs for additional pharmaceutical services. However, there is ambiguity in the terminology used to describe if any additional provision is required to secure improvements and better access. It is important that any lack of need, or indeed need, is described in a PNA is made clearly to ensure that the ICB clearly understands what commissioning decisions it may need to take.

2. Lancashire and South Cumbria Response

- 2.1 After considering each of the PNAs it is proposed that the ICB submits the following response to both Health and Wellbeing Boards:

This response is on behalf of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board. NHS LSC took on delegated responsibility for the commissioning of NHS pharmaceutical and local pharmaceutical services from NHS England on the 1 July 2022. The ICB will therefore be using the PNA in order to determine routine applications under the NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Regulations 2013, as amended.

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB have reviewed the whole document and would like to thank the Health and Wellbeing Board for writing a thorough PNA and giving the ICB the opportunity to review and comment.

There is a clear statement that at present the Health and Wellbeing Board have not identified any need for additional pharmaceutical services. The ICB are supportive of that statement. It would be useful, however, if a similar statement could be made to confirm that the Health and Wellbeing Board do not believe any additional provision is required to secure improvements or better access, noting that the ICB is only able to grant new pharmacy applications if the identified need is in relation to a defined list of pharmaceutical services. This will remove any potential ambiguity.

The response has been discussed at the August Pharmaceutical Services Group and was supported.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 In conclusion, the ICB is supportive of the conclusions made within the PNA but would welcome a strengthening of wording to remove any ambiguity.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is requested to:
1. Note the contents of the report.
 2. Approve the response as drafted.

Nicola Feeney

September 2023