
Changes to Pharmaceutical Services

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 2 May 2024

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Report Sponsor: John Ashton

Item for: Information



1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides details of recent and planned changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire and advises the Health and Wellbeing Board on the implications for the West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

2. Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (a) Note the decisions made by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee on 17 April 2024; and
- (b) Note the recent changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire;

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to keep its Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) under review in the light of any notifications of changes in provision of pharmaceutical services within the district.
- 3.2 A notification was received from Primary Care Support England (PCSE) on 13 March 2024 advising of an application from Bolcer Ltd for a new pharmacy at the at Gaywood Drive Shops, Newbury, RG14 2PR, which offered unforeseen benefits. As part of this notification, it was stated that NHS Commissioning intended to consider this application together and in relation to the unforeseen benefits application submitted by LP SD One Hundred Seven Ltd for a new pharmacy at the Kingsland Centre, Thatcham, RG 19 3HN. The latter had been considered previously by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee, but the consultation period had been reset so the two applications could be considered together.
- 3.3 As a statutory consultee, the Health and Wellbeing Board was invited to submit comments on the above applications within 45 days of the notification date.
- 3.4 Both applications were considered by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee on 17 April 2024 and responses were submitted to PCSE on 23 April 2024.

4. Supporting Information

Background

- 4.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established health and wellbeing boards and made them responsible for developing and updating PNAs from 1 April 2013. The NHS Act 2006, amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, sets out the requirement for health and wellbeing boards to develop and update PNAs. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, as amended, set out the minimum information that must be contained within a PNA and outline the process that must be followed in its development.
- 4.2 PNAs are used and referred to by those wishing to open a new pharmacy or dispensing appliance contractor premises. They are used by NHS England and NHS Improvement to determine applications, and NHS Resolution refers to them when applications go to appeal.
- 4.3 Following publication of a PNA, health and wellbeing boards must assess the impacts of any changes in provision of pharmaceutical services in their area and determine whether the changes warrant refreshing the PNA, or publishing a supplementary statement to the existing PNA, in accordance with national guidance and legislation, or if no action is required because the changes do not create a gap in provision.
- 4.4 Any application for a new pharmacy in a location where a gap in provision has not been identified is known as an 'unforeseen benefits application', because it was not included within the PNA and no significant gap in provision has been published.

Unforeseen Benefits Applications – Gaywood Drive Shops, Newbury, and Kingsland Centre, Thatcham

- 4.5 A notification was received on 13 March 2024 from Primary Care Support England (which administers applications on behalf of NHS England), advising of an unforeseen benefits application by Bolcer Ltd for a new pharmacy at Gaywood Drive shops in Newbury. PCSE advised that this should be considered alongside the unforeseen benefits application by LP SD One Hundred Seven Ltd for a new pharmacy at the Kingsland Centre, Thatcham. As a statutory consultee, the Health and Wellbeing Board was invited to submit comments on both applications within 45 days of the notification date (i.e., by 26 April 2024). Copies of the applications are included in Appendices A and B.
- 4.6 Given that the deadline for comments was before the next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the matter was referred to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee for consideration on 17 April 2024. The Sub-Committee resolved to write to PCSE in support of both applications. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix C.

Changes to Opening Hours

- 4.7 On 4 January 2024, the South East Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry Commissioning Hub sent notification of changes to pharmaceutical services that had occurred across the region in March 2024. These included changes to the opening hours for Halo Pharmacy, 3-5 Crown Mead, Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3JW. The changes are shown below.

Boots Pharmacy	Previous Opening Hours	New Opening Hours
Monday	09:00 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:30
Tuesday	09:00 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:30
Wednesday	09:00 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:30
Thursday	09:00 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:30
Friday	09:00 – 18:30	08:30 – 18:30
Saturday	09:00 – 17:30	09:00 – 17:30
Sunday	Closed	Closed

4.8 In summary, the change is that the pharmacy now opens from 08.30 instead of 09:00 Monday to Friday. For the purposes of the PNA, 8am to 6pm is considered to be normal working hours. Any pharmacy that opens before 8am is deemed to have early morning opening and those open after 6pm are deemed to have late evening opening. Halo will continue to operate within normal working hours following the change. Therefore, there are no implications for the PNA.

5. Options Considered

None – the report is provided for information only.

6. Proposal(s)

6.1 It is proposed that the Board should simply note the decisions made by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee on 17 April 2024, and note the recent changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire.

7. Conclusion(s)

The changes in pharmaceutical services have been assessed in accordance with national guidance and relevant legislation.

8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 Healthwatch West Berkshire was consulted on the proposals for the two new pharmacies.

8.2 Local ward councillors have been informed of the changes to pharmaceutical services outlined in this report.

9. Appendices

Appendix A - Notification re Unforeseen Benefits Application for Gaywood Drive Shops, Newbury

Appendix B – Notification re Unforeseen Benefits Application for Kingsland Centre, Thatcham

Appendix C – Letter to PCSE regarding the Unforeseen Benefits Applications for Gaywood Drive Shops, Newbury, and Kingsland Centre, Thatcham.

Background Papers:

[West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-2025](#)

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments: Information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards, DHSC, October 2021](#)

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Sub-Committee Agenda and Minutes, 17 April 2024](#)

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by ensuring that there are sufficient pharmaceutical services in the District to meet the needs of the local population.
