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Joanna Reeve
Policy Officer

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Dear Joanna

Thank for your request for “a summary of the impact of the changes to the definition of how many pharmacies are required including predicted numbers of how many would close in West Berkshire.”

The number of pharmacies

NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013 require the Health and Wellbeing Boards (linked to Local Authorities) to publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), one of the key aims of this document is to identify any gaps in pharmaceutical provision in a Health and Wellbeing Board area. The PNA's were extensively revised and new PNA's published in 2015, this review was led by the Public Health teams in the Local Authorities. The PNA's are due to be reviewed, revised and a new version published by April 2018. The current PNA is published on the Berkshire West Council website. A supplementary statement of all changes to pharmaceutical provision over the last 12 months is due to be published soon. This statement gives details of any new pharmacies, changes to hours and changes of locations in the last 12 months and should be published on the Local Authority website next to the PNA.

New pharmacies open in an area following an application and consultation process which is set out in the *NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulation 2013*. These Regulations were laid before parliament in February 2013 and came into effect 1st April 2013. This process is sometimes referred to as “Control of Entry”. Please see link to the regulations: [NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013](#)

Under the Regulations and NHS England policies each local area has a Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee (PSRC) which considers all applications made under the Regulations. Before any application is considered by the PSRC there are two consultation periods when interested parties (as defined in the Regulations and includes Health and Wellbeing Boards) are able to make representations regarding the applications. The Applicant is then given the opportunity to respond to the representations, this is followed by a further 14 day consultation where the applicant's responses to the initial representations are

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considered by the interested parties and further representations may be made. A site visit is often carried out and this together with the application, the representations from the interested parties, details of other local community pharmacies and GP practices (opening times, location and distance from the proposed site) are considered by the PSRC according to the regulations that apply to each different type of application and make their decision. The PSRC also refers to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for that location. The applicant and those who have made representations have the right to appeal within 28 days. Appeals relating to the decision made by the PSRC are heard by the NHS Family Health Services Appeal Unit (NHS FHSAU).

The Future of Community Pharmacy

NHS England is currently undertaking a public consultation on the future of community pharmacy. This closes on 24th May 2016. The Department of Health is in discussions with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and consulting with the pharmacy sector and with patient and public organisations over the coming months. The full suite of supporting information for the consultation is available at;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-community-pharmacy-at-the-heart-of-the-nhs>

The aim is to put community pharmacy at the heart of the NHS. In an open letter to the pharmacy sector dated 17 December 2015, Alistair Burt, the Minister of State for Care Services and Keith Ridge, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, NHS England, acknowledged the important role pharmacists already play in keeping the public and patients well and pointed to the opportunity to build on this.

There is real potential for far greater use of pharmacists in England: in prevention of ill health; support for health living; support for self-care for minor illnesses and long term conditions; medication reviews in care homes; and as part of more integrated local care models.

To do this we need a clinically-focused pharmacy service that is better integrated with primary care and public health in line with the NHS Five Year Forward View. This will help relieve the pressure on GPs and A&Es, ensure better use of medicines and better patient outcomes, and contribute to delivering convenient health and care services.

I hope this information is helpful to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Yours sincerely



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