

West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 24 September 2025

Report Author: Gordon Oliver (Principal Policy Officer)

Report Sponsor: Dr Matt Pearce (Director of Public Health)

Item for: Decision



1. Purpose of the Report

To approve the West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028.

2. Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the statement of need for pharmaceutical services for the West Berkshire population to cover the period from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.

3. Implications

| Implication | Commentary |
|-------------------------|---|
| Financial: | There are no financial implications associated with this report. |
| Human Resource: | There are no HR implications associated with this report. |
| Legal: | The West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and fulfils the Health and Wellbeing Board's obligation to publish an updated assessment by 1 October 2025. |
| Risk Management: | As the pharmaceutical needs assessment is a key document for those wishing to open new pharmacy or dispensing appliance contractor premises, and is used by NHS England and NHS Improvement (and, on appeal, NHS Resolution) to determine such applications, there are serious implications for health and wellbeing boards that fail to meet their statutory duties. |
| Property: | N/A |
| Policy: | The Government's 10 Year Plan commits to increase the role of community pharmacy as part of the new Neighbourhood Health Service. |

West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

| | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Commentary |
|--|----------|---------|----------|--|
| Equalities Impact: | | | | |
| A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality? | | X | | The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment found that, overall, the people of West Berkshire enjoy a good level of health. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are higher than regional and national figures for both males and females. However, there is an inequality gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas of West Berkshire compared to those living in the least deprived areas. Provision of pharmacy services, including Pharmacy First, can help to address these inequalities. The PNA identifies a gap in provision of pharmaceutical services in Calcot, which, if filled, would help to address health inequalities in that area. However, the PNA in and of itself will not directly impact on those inequalities. |
| B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users? | | X | | An EIA was carried out as part of the PNA (see Chapter 6). No substantial differences or identified needs were found amongst protected characteristics groups in pharmacy usage. |
| Environmental Impact: | | X | | N/A |
| Health Impact: | | X | | Pharmaceutical services play a vital role in responding to individual patients' health needs. The PNA identifies a gap in provision of pharmaceutical services in Calcot, which, if filled, would help to respond to the health needs of local residents. However, the PNA in and of itself will not have any direct health impacts. |
| ICT Impact: | | X | | N/A |
| Digital Services Impact: | | X | | N/A |

West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Council Strategy Priorities: | | X | | Business as usual |
| Core Business: | | X | | Business as usual |
| Data Impact: | | X | | N/A |
| Consultation and Engagement: | <p>The following were consulted in preparing this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health• Finance• HR• Legal• Corporate Board• HWB Steering Group | | | |

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 Following conclusion of the stakeholder consultation, the attached final statement of need for pharmaceutical services is presented for approval.
- 4.2 The report highlights that the 16 pharmacies supported by 7 dispensing GPs in West Berkshire, and the 10 pharmacies in neighbouring areas that are within a mile of the district boundary, provide adequate community pharmacy services for the needs of West Berkshire's population.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Each Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of needs for pharmaceutical services for their population. This is called the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The purpose of the PNA is to:
- (1) Inform local plans for the commissioning of specific and specialised pharmaceutical services to meet the current and future health needs of the local population
 - (2) Support the decision-making process for applications for new pharmacies or changes of pharmacy premises and/or opening hours.
- 5.2 The PNA provides an overview of the demographics and the health and wellbeing needs of the West Berkshire population. It also captures the views of local residents and pharmacy service users. It assesses whether the current provision of pharmacies and the commissioned services they provide meet the needs of local residents and whether there will be any gaps in provision within the lifetime of the PNA.
- 5.3 Consultant, Healthy Dialogues, was appointed to prepare the PNA, reporting to a local Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders. The process was overseen by a

West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Steering Group. The process included:

- A review of the current and future demographics and health needs of the West Berkshire population.
- A survey of West Berkshire patients and the public on their use and expectations of pharmaceutical services and an equality impact assessment.
- An assessment of the commissioned Essential, Advanced, Enhanced and Locally Commissioned services and, services delivered by dispensing GPs in West Berkshire.

5.4 A consultation draft of the PNA was published for formal consultation between 14th May and 13th July 2025. Responses to the consultation were considered by the task group and steering group before final publication of the PNA.

5.5 There are currently 16 community pharmacies and 7 dispensing GPs in West Berkshire, with a further 10 community pharmacies located in neighbouring local authority areas within a mile of West Berkshire's boundary.

5.6 The PNA includes an assessment of whether the current and future pharmacy provision meets the health and wellbeing needs of the West Berkshire population. It also considers whether there are any gaps in the provision of pharmaceutical service either now, or within the lifetime of this document. A gap was identified in the Calcot area in relation to the provision of essential services. Also, the analysis found that the area would benefit from provision of Pharmacy First services.

6. Proposal(s)

The proposal is to approve the PNA as presented, which would ensure that the Board discharges its statutory requirements within the required timescale.

7. Options Considered

- (1) The Health and Wellbeing Board could approve the PNA as presented. This is the preferred option.
- (2) Alternatively, the Health and Wellbeing Board could choose not to approve the PNA and request further changes. This is not the preferred option, since it would incur delay and the Board would fail to comply with the statutory requirement to adopt an updated PNA by 1 October 2025.

8. Conclusion(s)

8.1 This PNA has concluded that overall, there is good access to essential, advanced and other NHS pharmaceutical services for residents of West Berkshire, but that a gap in the current and future provision of these services exists in the Calcot area. It is hoped that identification of such a gap will encourage providers to apply to open a pharmacy within the affected area.

9. Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2022 – 2025).

Background Papers:

None

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following 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 the pharmaceutical services needs of the West Berkshire population have been considered based on current and expected future needs, population health and accessibility to services.
