

Summary of Key Findings from the draft Cambridgeshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for 2017

Local pharmaceutical services

- Cambridgeshire is well provided for by pharmaceutical service providers. This PNA recommends that no new NHS pharmaceutical service providers are needed across Cambridgeshire at present.
- There are 110 pharmacies across Cambridgeshire and 43 dispensing GP practices. This works out at 23 pharmaceutical service providers per 100,000 people in Cambridgeshire, which is the same as the England average. The East of England average is only slightly higher at 24 per 100,000. There is also adequate access for the dispensing of appliances.
- We recognise that this may change during the next 3 years. The local population is forecast to increase substantially in the coming years. Several large-scale housing developments are in progress and a number of factors may influence the potential need for additional pharmaceutical service providers. The Health and Wellbeing Board partners will monitor the development of major housing sites and produce additional information to this PNA when necessary, to ensure that appropriate information is available to determine whether additional pharmacies might be required.
- 85% of pharmacies and 79% of dispensing GP surgeries responded to our PNA questionnaire about service provision. Of those responding all considered provision to be either 'excellent' 'good' or 'adequate' across the county.
- There appears to be good coverage in terms of opening hours for most days of the week. The extended opening hours of some community pharmacies are valued and should be maintained. 26 pharmacies are commissioned by NHS England to open for 100 hours a week and the out of hours provider, Urgent Care Herts is required to arrange medications when clinically necessary until a community pharmacy opens.
- Many pharmacies (96%) and dispensing GP practices (62%) reported that they offer some kind of home delivery service which can help to provide medications to those who do not have access to a car or who are unable to use public transport. This was substantially more than in 2014. Many pharmacies and dispensing surgeries also report they have wheelchair access.

The role of pharmacy in improving the health and wellbeing of the local population

- Providers of pharmaceutical services have an important role to play in improving the health of local people. They are easily accessible and are often the first point of contact, including for those who might otherwise not access health services.
- Community pharmacies can contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local population in a number of ways, including providing information and brief advice, providing on-going support for behaviour change, motivational interviewing, and signposting to other services.
- As part of their national NHS contract, all pharmacies offer services to support individuals to understand their medicine and ensure they take them safely. 78 community pharmacies (84%) reported that they offer flu vaccinations to those at risk under the NHS Seasonal Flu vaccination programme, commissioned by NHS England. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group also employs some pharmacists too work locally to support the administering of medicine in care homes.

- Many pharmacies are commissioned (paid) by Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health department to play a role in supporting particular healthy behaviours. These include helping people to give up smoking, sexual health testing and advice and specialist drug and alcohol treatment and support:
 - Stop smoking activities in community pharmacies in Cambridgeshire have decreased since 2014, and there are still many community pharmacies that do not provide a smoking cessation service. There is potential for further development in this area.
 - All pharmacies in Cambridgeshire have been offered the opportunity to deliver the Community Pharmacy Chlamydia Screening and Treatment service. Only 26 pharmacies are signed up to the chlamydia screening programme so there is also opportunity to expand this across Cambridgeshire. Chlamydia screening is offered when Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is provided, since those requiring such contraception may also be at risk of infection.
 - Pharmacies in Cambridgeshire have the opportunity to receive training and provide emergency hormonal contraception – 28 pharmacies are currently commissioned to do this.
 - 34 pharmacies have also been sub-contracted by the Cambridgeshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team provider Inclusion to provide specialist drug and alcohol treatment and support. This includes access to sterile needs and syringes and supervising the administration of some drugs to reduce drug dependence and misuse.
 - All pharmacies support six Public Health campaigns every year which involves putting up posters and offering information, as part of their NHS contract. Opportunistic alcohol screening and providing brief advice on reducing alcohol consumption is another area where pharmacies could potentially contribute to improving the health of the local population in future. Also, many pharmacies currently offer weight management advice and advice on physical activity.
- Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board consider community pharmacies a key public health resource and recognise that they offer potential opportunities to commission health improvement initiatives and work closely with partners to promote health and wellbeing. Pharmacies are encouraged to bid for local health improvement contracts to provide services. Commissioners are recommended to commission service initiatives in pharmacies around the best possible evidence and to evaluate any locally implemented services, ideally using an evaluation framework that is planned before implementation.
- The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) recommends that pharmacists collaborate with each other and with other healthcare professions, to develop models of care which enable commissioners to deliver joined-up, patient-centred health and social care. This could be particularly important for frail older people and those with multiple or long-term conditions. At a local level, the Health and Wellbeing Board should encourage the involvement of pharmacies and pharmacy teams in developing local plans and systems of integrated working.