Have your say on local pharmacies (chemists) and dispensing doctors in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

**Accompanying notes to**

**online questionnaire**



**What is the purpose of the consultation?**

We, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), want to know your thoughts about pharmaceutical services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and if the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) covers what is important to you regarding the pharmacy services you need and use.

We want to know how easy it is for you to get and use your medicines or medical equipment safely and how easy is it to access the services you need or want from pharmacies.

We are looking at whether we have enough providers of pharmaceutical services for the population of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Pharmaceutical services include filling prescriptions, selling medicines that don’t need to be prescribed by a doctor, giving advice about medicines, supporting people to quit smoking, and other services. These services can also supply appliances.

We have written a report called a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) based on information about local health needs and existing services and results of a survey with local pharmacies and GP dispensaries. This needs assessment will be used by NHS England when making decisions on applications to open new pharmacies and commissioning services from new and existing pharmacies.

Please read the short summary and give us your feedback using the online questionnaire (available at [www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA](http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA)). More detail is available in the full draft PNA document also available online at [www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA](http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/PNA).

**Any queries**

If you are unable to complete the questionnaire because you have special needs (for example, problems with vision or language) and there is no one that can help you complete the questionnaire, please call 01223 703259 Monday-Friday between 9am-5pm and leave your contact details. We will then contact you within 7 working days and will work with you to help you respond to the consultation.

If you have other queries about this consultation, please email [pna@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:pna@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and we will respond to your email within 7 working days.

**Timeline for the consultation**

This consultation will run from 6th June to 5th August. This is the time you have to comment on the draft of the PNA.

We will revise the draft PNA based on the feedback we get, and we will present a report to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board in September. We plan to publish the final PNA by the start of October 2022**.**

**We do ask for some information about you so that we can understand more about your experiences and to make sure we hear from people of all backgrounds and across all of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We do not ask for your name or contact information. Please do not provide any information which may identify you in any comments or answer. All information processed is in accordance with data protection legislation such as the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.**

**Summary of Key Findings from the draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for 2022 : Local pharmaceutical services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

**Current provision of local pharmaceutical services**

*Key message: Currently there is enough pharmaceutical service provision across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, however, there has been a reduction in the opening hours of many pharmacies.* This PNA recommends that no new NHS pharmaceutical service providers are needed across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at present. Currently there are 148 pharmacies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 40 Dispensing doctors. The latest available data indicates there are approximately 18.7 pharmaceutical service providers (community pharmacies) per 100,000 people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which is similar to the East of England average (19.4 per 100,000) and slightly below the England average (20.6 per 100,000).

There appears to be adequate 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. 16 pharmacies are commissioned by NHS England to open for 100 hours a week and the out-of-hours provider, Herts Urgent Care, is required to arrange medications when clinically necessary until a community pharmacy opens.

We recognise that this may change during the next three years. The local population is forecast to increase substantially in the coming years with an average expected increase of approximately 65,400 people between 2021 and 2026. 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.

All pharmacies and dispensing GP practices in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were asked to complete a questionnaire describing their service provision. 59 of 148 (40%) community pharmacies and 15 of 40 (38%) dispensing GP practices in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough responded to the questionnaire.

**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.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 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.

**Glossary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Health and Wellbeing Board** | Health and wellbeing boards were established by The Health and Social Care Act 2012, and are forums where leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. |
| **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment** | A report which identifies the current needs for pharmaceutical services in a given area |
| **Pharmaceutical Services** | Services provided by community pharmacies such as dispensing of prescriptions, advice on medicines, support for quitting smoking etc. There are also dispensing services provided by GP practices. Dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) supply appliances for example to support stoma or incontinence care. Pharmaceutical providers are therefore community pharmacies, dispensing doctors or DACs. |
| **Community Pharmacies** | Pharmacies located in a variety of community locations that dispense prescriptions and provide an increasing range of clinical services within the NHS and as private services. |
| **Dispensing Appliance Contractors** | Suppliers of incontinence and stoma devices |
| **Dispensing doctor** | A GP practice that dispenses medicines |