

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

# Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

---

SHROPSHIRE



## Executive Summary

### Introduction

The production and publication of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) became a statutory requirement in the Health Act 2009. Following the abolition of Primary Care Trusts (PCT) in 2013 this statutory responsibility was passed to Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) by virtue of the National Health Service (NHS) Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services (Amended) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 1st April 2013.

Each HWB is required to publish its own revised PNA for its area by 1st April 2018. In Shropshire, the HWB must describe the current pharmaceutical services in the county, systematically identify any gaps, unmet needs, and in consultation with stakeholders make recommendations on future development.

The PNA is a key document used by NHS England local area teams to make decisions on new applications for pharmacies and change of services or relocations by current pharmacies. It is also used by commissioners reviewing the health needs for services within their particular area, to identify if any of their services can be commissioned through community pharmacies.

Pharmacy has much more to offer than the safe and effective dispensing of medicines. It is increasingly expanding its provision of additional clinical services, becoming a persuasive force in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and reducing health inequalities. They are easily accessible and are often first point of contact, including for those who might otherwise not access health services.

Shropshire HWB considers community pharmacies to be a key public health resource and recognises that they offer potential opportunities to commission health improvement initiatives and work closely with partners to promote health and wellbeing. Indeed patient and public feedback has been key through the development of this PNA and one comment that is representative of many of the responses:

*“My local pharmacy provides an excellent service; always ready to help and offer advice. All staff are friendly and welcoming.”*

The consultation of the key findings and proposed recommendations is taking place from 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to 19<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The consultation is seeking the views of the statutory consultees, other stakeholders and members of the public on whether it addressed the issues that they consider relevant and important

### Local Context

Key demographic messages for Shropshire

- Shropshire is a diverse, large, predominately rural inland county with a wide range of land use, economic activities, employment and social conditions
- Shropshire’s population has been increasing at a faster rate (16.1%) than England (15.4%) as a whole since 1991. Much of this has been due to migration.
- Shropshire has a relatively high concentration of people in the older age groups. In 2013, about 50.5% of the County’s residents were aged 45 or over, compared to only 42.5% nationally.

- Shropshire, like most parts of the country, has an ageing population – Table 1, shows that by 2027 the current population aged 85 or over is expected to rise by 50% (10,600 to 15,900).
- There are significantly lower proportions of older people living in poverty in Shropshire compared to national figures. However, the proportion of older people living in poverty increased between 2007 and 2010. Areas in the wards of Monkmoor, Sundorne, Castlefields and Ditherington, Prees, Oswestry West have the highest proportions of older people living in poverty in Shropshire.
- In contrast the number of people aged 16-24 is projected to decrease by 2.5%, compared to a fall of 11% nationally. This age group accounts for 9.3% of the county's population compared to 12% for England.

### Access to pharmaceutical services

- There are currently 52 community pharmacies in Shropshire, located throughout the county in towns, market towns and larger villages.
- The pharmacies are close to GP practices providing choice and convenience for patients.
- Most pharmacies opening times generally mirror those of the GP practices, however most pharmacies also open for at least some of the day on a Saturday. There are 9 pharmacies open on a Sunday.
- Due to the rural nature of Shropshire, many localities are supported by GP practices that dispense to their patients (18). Dispensary opening hours reflect the opening times of the practice. Dispensing doctors offer services to help fulfil the pharmaceutical needs of the patients in these areas.
- There appears to be good access to most services commissioned by Public Health in Shropshire, such as emergency hormonal contraception and smoking cessation services.

### Current pharmaceutical provision

- The distribution of pharmacies per head-of-population is similar to the national average. However there seem to be some parts of the county where there is over provision.
- There appears to be less provision on Sundays in the South of the county.
- There are five 100-hour pharmacies which are located in Shrewsbury and the north of the county.
- Some advanced services AUR and SAC are only provided by a small number of pharmacies.
- The patient survey highlighted that communications about the specific services that community pharmacies provide and which pharmacies have signed up to provide them need to be more visible.