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# Pan-Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022

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## Foreword

Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire's Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) have responsibility for the on-going review, development and publication of the pan-Lancashire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA).

This is a statutory document, by virtue of the National Health Services (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The content of the PNA must be considered by those responsible for the approval of pharmacy contract applications at NHS England as well as those commissioning other related health services for our local population. From a primary care perspective, this includes both the successors of Clinical Commissioning Groups as well as local authorities, looking to commission and develop local services from pharmacy contractors, general practice, dental, and optometry.

This is our third formal PNA, across pan-Lancashire, which outlines the pharmaceutical services available to our population and makes a number of key recommendations covering the period 2022 through to 2025.

This document will assist all commissioning partners when reviewing our commissioning arrangements for community pharmacy, recognising the pivotal role that our community pharmacy colleagues have in helping us all to develop and deliver the best possible pharmaceutical services for our local communities across Lancashire.

We commend this report to you, and we look forward to your continuing involvement.



**Councillor Damian Talbot**

Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing  
Chair of Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board



**Councillor Jo Farrell**

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Community Health and Wellbeing  
Chair of Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board



**County Councillor Michael Green**

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at Lancashire County Council  
Chair of Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board



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Lancashire Health  
and Wellbeing Board

## Acknowledgements

Name	Organisation
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Stephen Boydell	Blackpool Council
Elise Carroll	Blackburn with Darwen Council
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The three health and wellbeing boards across pan-Lancashire would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the stakeholders and members of the public and thank them for their participation in the consultation and development of the pharmaceutical needs assessment.

## Executive summary

The three health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) across pan-Lancashire (Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire County Council) have a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of the needs for pharmaceutical services of the population in its area. This is referred to as a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) and needs to be published before 1 October 2022.

This PNA describes the needs of the citizens of the pan-Lancashire area for pharmacy services.

This PNA includes information on

- pharmacies across pan-Lancashire and the services they currently provide
- maps of providers of pharmaceutical services across the pan-Lancashire area
- pharmaceutical contractors in neighbouring HWB areas
- potential gaps in provision and likely future needs for the population of pan-Lancashire
- opportunities for existing pharmacies to provide local public health services

Decisions on whether to open new pharmacies are made by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I). When making the decision, NHSE/I is required to refer to the local PNA. As these decisions may be appealed or challenged via the courts, it is important that PNAs, both in their content and in the process of their construction, comply with regulations and that mechanisms are established to keep the PNA up to date. In accordance with these regulations, the PNA will be updated every three years. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the requirement to publish a PNA was deferred to October 2022.

## 1. Context

The PNA for the pan-Lancashire area is undertaken in the context of the needs of the local population. The health and wellbeing needs of the local population are described in the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs). The PNA does not duplicate these detailed descriptions of health needs and should be read in conjunction with the three JSNAs across pan-Lancashire.

Deprivation in Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and many parts of Lancashire County Council is higher than the national average and approximately 30%, 20% and 18% of children live in poverty, respectively. In all three local authorities, life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average.

To ensure that pharmaceutical services are commissioned in line with population need, the health and wellbeing boards and their partners will monitor the development of major housing sites, and will provide supplementary statements, if necessary, in accordance with regulations.

## 2. Process

This PNA was undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in regulations 3-9 Schedule 1 of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013.

Undertaking the PNA, the pan-Lancashire steering group sought the views of stakeholders to identify issues that affect the commissioning of pharmaceutical services and to meet local health needs and priorities. A survey was administered as part of this PNA, targeting pharmacies, to collect information on the services they provide. In addition, a consultation with pharmacy users was undertaken by Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen, Healthwatch Blackpool and Healthwatch Lancashire.

A 60-day public consultation was undertaken to seek the views of members of the public and other stakeholders, on whether they agree with the contents of this PNA and whether it addresses issues that they consider relevant to the provision of pharmaceutical services. The feedback was gathered and logged, and all necessary changes made to the PNA document.

### 3. Findings

#### 3.1 Overarching role in improving health and well being

Providers of pharmaceutical services have an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire County Council citizens, and in particular

- are a vital first point of contact for key health care and public health services and can either provide the relevant service directly or signpost citizens to the most appropriate provider
- support population-level behaviour change through a range of approaches, such as providing information and brief advice, motivational interviewing, providing ongoing support for behaviour change and signposting to other services where appropriate
- play a key role for those who might otherwise not access health services
- have a crucial role in supporting urgent and emergency care services such that patients receive care in an appropriate setting, eg minor ailments scheme and support to self-care

#### 3.2 Overall pharmacy provision over the last four years

There are currently 352 community pharmacies (and four dispensing appliance contractors) overall across pan-Lancashire (February 2022), representing an 8.1% reduction in the number of providers, down from 383 since the last publication of the PNA in 2018. The corresponding figures across each local authority are

- Lancashire County Council (267 pharmacies in 2022, a reduction of 7.9% from 290 in 2018)
- Blackburn with Darwen (46 pharmacies in 2022, a reduction of 8.0% from 50 in 2018)
- Blackpool (39 pharmacies in 2022, a reduction of 7.1% from 42 in 2018)

The number of pharmaceutical service providers per head of population has also declined during the same period. The previous PNA showed that there were 26 pharmacies per 100,000 registered population, whereas the corresponding national figure for England was 21/100,000 and the average for the North was 24/100,000. In the pan-Lancashire area there are now 23 pharmaceutical service providers per 100,000 registered population, whilst the corresponding figures for both England (21/100,000) and the North of England (24/100,000) have remained the same.

### 3.3 Provision of pharmacy relative to both driving and walking time

The assessment of provision included drive/walk time analysis, analysis of pharmacies per head of population and examination of population density and demographic profiling. Across the three local authorities there is a good coverage of pharmacies and over 98% of the population has access to a pharmacy within a 20-minute drive (Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire County Council) or 15-minute walk time (Blackpool).

### 3.4 Extended hours provision

Many pharmacies are open long hours, with 47 across pan-Lancashire open for at least 100 hours.

### 3.5 Range of local authority and clinical commissioning group (CCG) commissioned services

There is a wide range of both local authority and CCG commissioned services available across pan-Lancashire, as listed below (correct as of February 2022), although there is some degree of variation between both local authorities and individual CCGs.

#### ***Pharmacy services commissioned by the three local authorities, as of February 2022, are listed below***

##### Blackburn with Darwen

- needle and syringe exchange service
- supervised consumption
- stop smoking service/nicotine replacement therapy
- emergency hormonal contraception

##### Blackpool

- needle and syringe exchange service (via provider)
- supervised consumption (via provider)

##### Lancashire County Council

- emergency hormonal contraception (including chlamydia testing)
- nicotine replacement therapy
- pharmacy stop smoking service
- needle exchange and supervised consumption via Change Grow Live (CGL) from the pharmacy
- NHS health checks (via a third-party provider who deliver a community model which includes pharmacies delivering NHS health checks)

#### ***Pharmacy services commissioned by practice based partnerships (PBPs) across pan-Lancashire, as of February 2022, are listed below***

PBP	Pharmacy services commissioned by PBPs
Bay Health and Care Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minor ailments scheme linked to Home Office hotels</li> <li>• paediatric minor ailments scheme</li> <li>• Just In Case drug supply service</li> <li>• antiviral supply in designated pharmacies for the influenza outbreaks in care homes</li> </ul>

Our Central Lancashire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minor ailments scheme</li> <li>• end of life drug supply service</li> <li>• stock holding of antiviral drugs for use in outbreaks of influenza</li> </ul>
Healthier Fylde Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just in Case Medicines, which is commissioned from several pharmacies across the Fylde Coast to ensure there is ease of access for patients at the end of their life</li> <li>• minor ailment scheme for asylum seekers – Blackpool has a hotel that is being used as a contingency site for asylum seekers (approximately 360 persons capacity) and two pharmacies currently deliver this service for these residents. There is a defined list of conditions that can be treated under the scheme and an extensive formulary</li> </ul>
Healthier Pennine Lancashire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the CCGs have supported primary care networks (PCNs) to work in close collaboration with community pharmacy to promote national schemes such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) NHS community pharmacy blood pressure checks service. The NHS community pharmacy blood pressure check service supports risk identification and prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD)</li> <li>b) the NHS community pharmacist consultation service (CPCS). Since 1 November 2020, general practices have been able to refer patients for a minor illness consultation via CPCS, once a local referral pathway has been agreed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pennine Lancashire CCGs have worked with GP practices to support sign up to the CPCS with a view to diverting demand and improving patients' experience</li> <li>• also commission community pharmacy to provide End of Life (EoL) medicines plus antivirals in case of out-of-season influenza outbreaks in care homes</li> <li>• also commission Patient Group Directions (PGDs) as part of CPCS in BwD – hoping to roll out across East Lancashire in the coming months</li> </ul>
West Lancashire Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stock holding and provision of specialist drugs – palliative care: in three pharmacies</li> <li>• stock holding of antivirals for out-of-season influenza outbreaks and avian flu: in one pharmacy</li> </ul>

There is also an additional layer of complexity that not all pharmacies necessarily are in a position to take up the offer to provide additional commissioned services and this is demonstrated, by way of an illustrative example, for the percentage of pharmacies that have signed up to locally commissioned services (Local Improvement Service (LIS) to provide emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) without prescription. This ranges from 34/46 pharmacies (73.9%) for Blackburn with Darwen, 208/271 pharmacies (76.8%) for Lancashire, whilst for Blackpool this is significantly lower at 1/39 pharmacies (2.6%) as they utilise a different service model whereby this service is primarily provided through their Connect service. It is however important to acknowledge that underlying demographic need will go a significant way to explaining these variations, but nevertheless it still does underly the importance of continuing to monitor the provision of these services and this is reflected in the recommendations later in chapter four. Commissioners may determine that some services are not always required across all pharmacies to provide sufficient coverage.

### 3.6 Home delivery services

In pan-Lancashire, 84.6% of pharmacies deliver dispensed medicines free of charge on request (Blackburn with Darwen 88.5%, Blackpool 100.00% and Lancashire County Council 81.6%) (March 2022). These are provided free of charge by the pharmacy, there is no NHS commissioned delivery service.



### 3.7 Wheelchair access

More than 80% of pharmacies and dispensing surgeries have wheelchair access to their consultation area (Blackburn with Darwen 84.6%, Blackpool 87.5% and Lancashire County Council 83.5%) (March 2022).

### 3.8 User experience

According to the findings of the research report "*Views on Community Pharmacy Services, 2022*" produced by the three Healthwatch teams, out of the 209 respondents, the vast majority of people consulted rated their overall experience of accessing pharmacy services as excellent or good. The majority used the pharmacy to collect prescriptions and many also used the service for health care advice and over-the-counter medication.

## 4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Despite the modest decline in overall provision of pharmaceutical service across Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire County Council compared to 2018, the level of current provision is nevertheless deemed to remain sufficient, although this is a trend that needs to continue to be carefully monitored. Additional pharmacy provision is not required to secure improvements or better access to such services, at this time.
- 4.2 At present there is no need for additional pharmaceutical contracts, but should current provision significantly change in advance of the next PNA, particularly because of any new housing developments or any further future closure of existing pharmacy provision, then that position should be reconsidered. We acknowledge that there are some growing areas across pan-Lancashire, however, it is anticipated that current pharmaceutical service providers will be sufficient to meet local needs over the lifetime of this PNA.
- 4.3 The PNA steering group plans to meet twice a year to assess the need for supplementary statements, these will be published on the PNA webpages. This will include the ongoing assessment of sufficient provision including drive/walk time analysis, analysis of pharmacies per head of population and examination of population density and demographic profiling.
- 4.4 Although there is a wide range of both local authority and CCG commissioned services across Lancashire, it is recommended that all procurement rules and requirements are adhered to, and that all suitable options and models of delivery are considered when commissioning community-based services.
- 4.5 It is recommended that NHSE/I, the respective local authorities and CCGs continue to work with Lancashire Pharmaceutical Committee to explore how widening the role of community pharmacies further would benefit our local residents. As part of this, it is recommended that any development in commissioned services for community pharmacies utilise the best possible evidence and to also evaluate any new services, ideally using an evaluation framework that is planned before implementation.
- 4.6 The full range of services pharmacies provide may not always be fully known to citizens. There is an opportunity for all pharmacies, and social and healthcare agencies, to further publicise and promote pharmacy services.



- 4.7 From the feedback collected, it appears that overall, patients are satisfied with the service that their pharmacy provides. All pharmacies and healthcare agencies should be encouraged to publicise and promote pharmacy services and specifically to make more readily available and accessible information about out-of-hours provision that might be required for urgent/emergency care needs.
- 4.8 This newly revised 2022 PNA should form a pivotal role for any future development of pharmacy provision and in particular to help identify any need for additional pharmacies should current provision significantly change between now and the next planned PNA in three years' time.