


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>  23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	
<b>Report of:</b> Somen Banerjee, Director Public Health	<b>Classification:</b>  Unrestricted
<b>Report Title: Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2023</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Liam Crosby, Associate Director of Public Health
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

### Executive Summary

The purpose of the Tower Hamlets PNA is to assess and report on how the provision of pharmacy services can meet the health needs of the Tower Hamlet's population over the next three years. The PNA looks at what services are necessary to meet the needs of the local population; what provision is currently available, any gaps, and any issues with access to community pharmacy services.

This Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2023 was completed in 2022-23 with a steering group comprising of Public Health, PHAST, LBTH comms team, NEL London Pharmaceutical Committee and NEL ICS colleagues. It was finalised in early 2023-24.

The process for completing this PNA involved: Data and evidence review; Assessing the provision of pharmacy services; Public survey to review residents' experience of local pharmacies; Contractor survey to local pharmacists; 60 day Public consultation (February to March 2023).

The main findings of this PNA include:

- Since the previous Tower Hamlets PNA was published in 2018, no major changes to pharmaceutical provision have been observed and provision is generally good. There are 50 community pharmacies in Tower Hamlets (as of March 2023) for a population of 331,969. This is an average of 15 pharmacies per 100,000 population.
- All localities have at least one community pharmacy, however the number of pharmacies in each locality varies across the borough with the localities in the North having a higher numbers per resident compared to the rest of the borough.

- Overall access is good. For the majority of residents, the nearest pharmacy can be reached within 10 minutes of walking. There are two 100-hour pharmacies across the borough and five pharmacies provide Sunday opening.
- Since the 2018 PNA was published, both the resident population and GP registered population of Tower Hamlets borough has increased. Analysis of housing data shows that there are likely to be population increases in parts of the borough, particularly in the South East locality, with population projections showing an increase of 20.6% of population increase by 2032. As these developments take place there will be an increasing requirement for pharmacy services, although as a locality which is quite densely populated, current pharmacies are likely to remain accessible.
- Based on the latest information on the projected changes in population of the HWBB area within its geographical area over the next three years, alongside the latest information regarding building plans and expected additional population increases during this time, the HWBB has concluded that the current pharmacy services are adequate and have a good geographical spread, particularly covering those areas of higher population density
- Based on the review of building plans and population projections, there may be a need to review the level of pharmacy services in specific places in the borough in the period up to 2025
- No gaps have been identified in essential services that if provided either now or over the next three years would secure improvements, or better access, to essential services across the whole borough. Moreover, there is no gap in the provision of essential services during normal working hours or outside of working hours across the whole borough.
- Whether there is sufficient choice of pharmacy in Tower Hamlets has been reviewed, it was decided there was sufficient choice of pharmacy in Tower Hamlets. London boroughs have a greater choice of pharmacy provider compared to many other areas in England

### **Recommendations:**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the PNA.
2. Approve the PNA for publication.

### **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1. Approving the PNA will allow the HWBB to meet its statutory requirement to publish a PNA. It is a statutory requirement for a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) to be developed and published every three years (or earlier where significant changes have occurred) by each area covered by a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
- 1.2. This will enable appropriate regulation of any applications for new pharmaceutical services in the borough.
- 1.3. The HWB has already had opportunity to feed into this PNA, via formal consultation in Feb-March 2023.

#### **1.4. Reasons for late presentation to the HWBB**

The previous PNA had been produced in 2018. The commencement of this PNA was delayed due to the pandemic.

This PNA was completed in 2022-23, and finalised in early 2023-24. HWBB members were invited to take part in the formal consultation in February 2023.

Due to personnel changes, there was a delay in bringing this to the HWBB for final approval. Given the statutory nature of the PNA it is important to bring it to the HWBB for approval as soon as officers were aware of this delay.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1. The HWBB could choose not to approve this PNA, and require modifications to it.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1. The PNA 2023 is included as an Appendix.

## **4. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. Section 128A of the National Health Service Act 2006 (NHS Act 2006) requires each health and wellbeing board to assess the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and to publish a statement of its assessment. Termed a 'pharmaceutical needs assessment', the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, as amended (the 2013 regulations) set out the minimum information that must be contained within a pharmaceutical needs assessment and outline the process that must be followed in its development

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- INSERT LINK

### **Appendices**

- INSERT LINK

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### **List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**