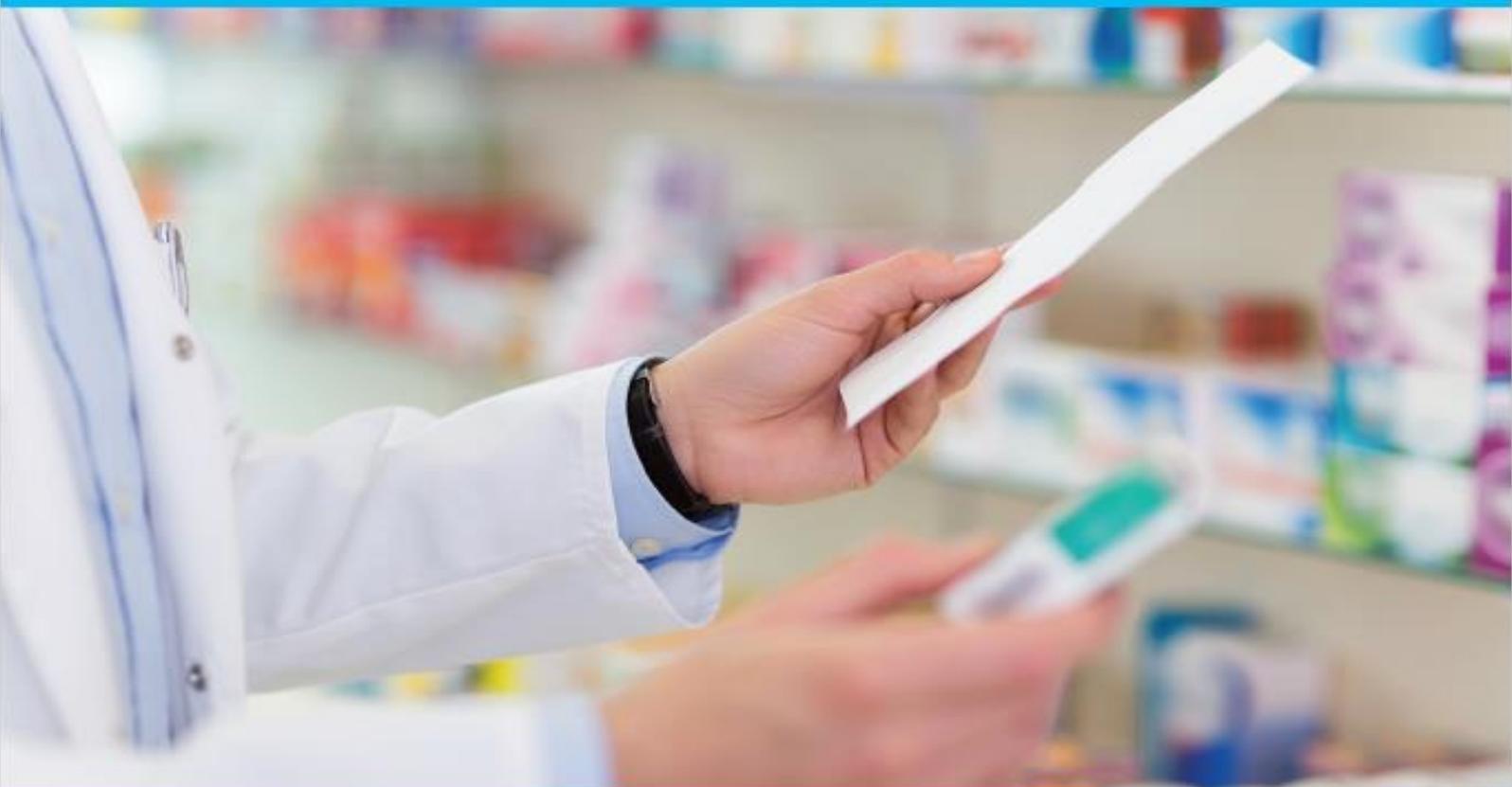


Milton Keynes Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2018-2021

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

3.1 Introduction

It is a statutory requirement for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) to carry out a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) every 3 years.

The aim of the Milton Keynes PNA is to describe the current pharmaceutical services, systematically identify any potential gaps in provision that could be met by providing more pharmacy services and seeks to understand future community pharmacy needs.

The PNA will be used by NHS England when making decisions on applications to open new pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractor premises, or applications from current pharmaceutical providers to change existing regulatory requirements.

In the process of developing the PNA, the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including the public, were gathered to identify issues that affect the commissioning of pharmaceutical services and to highlight local health needs and priorities.

3.2 Pharmaceutical Services

There are currently 47 community pharmacies in Milton Keynes, including two distance selling pharmacies (these dispense prescriptions to individuals indirectly, such as via a courier).

For the purpose of pharmaceutical needs assessments the four main categories of pharmaceutical services can be summarised as:

1. Essential Services

These are services that every community pharmacy providing NHS pharmaceutical services must provide and are set out in their terms of service. These include: the dispensing of medicines and appliances, disposal of unwanted medicines, repeat prescriptions, signposting, clinical governance, promotion of healthy lifestyles and support for self-care.

2. Advanced Services

These are services community pharmacy contractors and dispensing appliance contractors can provide subject to accreditation as necessary.

3. Enhanced Services

These are services commissioned directly by NHS England. These could include for example anti-coagulation monitoring and the provision of advice and support to residents and staff in care homes in connection with drugs and appliances.

4. Locally Commissioned Services

These are services community pharmacy contractors could potentially be commissioned to provide by other commissioning organisations for example local authority public health teams.

3.3 Key Recommendation and Findings

Recommendation

There are currently a sufficient number of community pharmacies providing essential and advanced services in Milton Keynes.

Findings

This recommendation is based on the following indicators used in assessing the level of adequacy of pharmaceutical service provision in comparison to national statistics (as described in the regulations). The findings were:

- The current number of community pharmacies in Milton Keynes registered to provide pharmaceutical services under the NHS pharmacy contract was 47 (in 2014) and 47 (in 2017).
- The number of pharmacies per 100,000 population has remained the same since the last PNA (2015) at 18 pharmacies per 100,000.
- The average number of prescription items dispensed per pharmacy per month in Milton Keynes was 6,993, which is very similar to the national average of 7,096.
- With the exception of residents living in the least dense quintile (35 to 1267 people per km²) in Milton Keynes, all residents can access a pharmacy within one mile of their home. All residents can access a pharmacy within a five mile radius.
- The maps and data contained in this document show that the services which are commissioned in addition to the NHS pharmaceutical contract meet identified health needs.

Based on these findings, as per NHS England guidelines (page 35), the level of provision of pharmaceutical services in Milton Keynes is deemed to be adequate for the population.

A public, stakeholder and community pharmacy consultation was undertaken during 2017 to seek views on the draft PNA and whether it addresses issues that they consider relevant to the provision of pharmaceutical services

3.4 Opportunities to enhance local community pharmacy services

A gap analysis was undertaken as part of the PNA (page 95), the key opportunities identified are summarised below.

To secure improvement in the health of Milton Keynes residents, the provision of pharmaceutical services and their integration into wider partnerships and care pathways can be improved by engaging in the following areas highlighted by this PNA:

- Community pharmacies should seek to achieve Healthy Living Pharmacy accreditation;
- Community pharmacy teams should promote healthy life style messages and participate in national and local health campaigns;
- The provision of a “111 directory of services” in Milton Keynes as a single point of access would enable community pharmacists to signpost residents to local services effectively;
- Community pharmacies should increase uptake of their commissioned health enhanced/advanced health services;
- Community pharmacy teams could be upskilled to recognise early symptoms of poor mental health and signpost appropriately;
- Community pharmacies could offer proactive Medicines Use Review and New Medicine Services. These are two important aspects of pharmaceutical services through which community pharmacists can provide support for self-care and promote independence and the safe administration of medicines, especially for people with long term conditions, including people with mental health problems;
- GPs and pharmacists should make more use of Repeat Dispensing services where appropriate, to reduce the need for patients to visit their surgery to collect repeat prescriptions;
- Future service considerations could include language access services and the provision of Easy Read formats of health information and services to support our multi-cultured population and people with learning disabilities;
- Older people in care homes would benefit from increased clinical pharmacy support and direct access to a pharmacist, as well as pharmacists’ input in staff training on medicines issues if commissioned locally;
- Establish robust communication systems between health services to ensure patient safety and reduce waste.

3.5 Conclusion

Overall, the level of pharmaceutical service (as described in the regulations) currently provided across Milton Keynes meets the health needs of the population and provision of pharmaceutical services is good in our areas of deprivation.

Community pharmacies are valued community assets and are easy to access. They should be considered core in all strategies aimed at addressing health inequalities.

The PNA will be reviewed during 2020 and republished in April 2021 unless there are significant changes to local need or provision in the interim.

The full PNA report can be found:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/2016-2017-joint-strategic-needs-assessment/pharmaceutical-needs-assessments>



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01908 691691

Milton Keynes Council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ