



Although a formal committee of Brighton & Hove City Council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to NHS Sussex, the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults and Healthwatch.

Title:	Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Report update 2025
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2025
Report of:	Caroline Vass, Director of Public Health
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Wards Affected:	All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Executive Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory responsibility to publish a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) every three years. The PNA maps current pharmaceutical services, identifying gaps and exploring possible future needs. It's used by NHS England and Sussex Integrated Care Board to decide upon applications to open new pharmacies and informs the commissioning of pharmaceutical services.

The draft PNA was presented to the HWB at the previous meeting on the 22nd July, 2025. The consultation on the draft PNA ran from 27th May to 27th July 2025 and the survey was hosted on the Brighton & Hove "Your Voice" platform. Stakeholders were encouraged to read the draft and share it widely across organisations, including neighbouring HWBs like East and West Sussex.

Responses to the consultation included input from the public, a community group, a GP practice, and a pharmacy. All comments have been responded to in the final version of the document.

The 2025 PNA concludes that pharmaceutical services in Brighton & Hove are well



distributed and accessible, meeting the current and projected needs of the population. No gaps have been identified in the provision of Necessary Services during or outside normal working hours. Advanced and Enhanced Services are widely available, and locally commissioned services contribute to improved access and public health outcomes.

The Board are asked to agree the final report.

Glossary of Terms

DSP - Distance Selling Pharmacy

JSNA - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

PNA – Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

1. Decisions, recommendations and any options

- 1.1 That the Board approve Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment report 2025.

2. Relevant information

2.1 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) has been developed on behalf of the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in line with statutory requirements under the National Health Service (NHS) (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. The purpose of the PNA is to evaluate the current and future need for pharmaceutical services in Brighton & Hove, ensure services meet the needs of the local population, and support commissioning decisions. It provides a framework for determining the adequacy of pharmaceutical provision and informs decisions about future applications to the pharmaceutical list.

2.2 The PNA was prepared by Soar Beyond Ltd on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and overseen by a multi-stakeholder Steering Group. A structured process was undertaken, including:

- Comprehensive data gathering on pharmaceutical services and population health needs.
- Public engagement exercise to understand the views on pharmacy access and use. A total of 358 responses were received.
- Mapping of service provision across the city and analysis of service gaps.
- Public and stakeholder engagement, including a 60-day consultation.
- Consideration of local strategies and statutory duties, including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), NHS Long Term Plan, and the Brighton & Hove Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.3 Brighton & Hove has a population of 279,600 (mid-year estimate 2023) with diverse demographics and a growing proportion of older adults. Health

inequalities persist across the city. There are 51 community pharmacies, including one Distance Selling Pharmacy (DSP), equating to 18.2 pharmacies per 100,000 population, slightly above the England average (18.1).

2.4 Access to pharmacies is good across the city:

- 100% of residents who have access to a car can reach a pharmacy within 10 minutes.
- 98.1% of residents can walk to a pharmacy within 20 minutes.
- 100% of residents using public transport can reach a pharmacy within 20 minutes.

Pharmacy opening hours show:

- 35% of pharmacies open after 6 pm on weekdays.
- 71% of pharmacies open on Saturdays, offering good weekend access.
- 8% of pharmacies are open on Sundays, reflecting broader trends in weekend healthcare access.

2.5 Advanced Services such as Pharmacy First, New Medicine Service, Flu Vaccination Service and Hypertension Case-Finding are widely offered, with high uptake among providers. Enhanced Services, including COVID-19 vaccination, are also available. Locally commissioned services (e.g. emergency contraception, supervised consumption, smoking cessation) are provided across a wide pharmacy network.

2.6 No current or future gaps have been identified in the provision of Essential Services and there is good access to other services across Brighton & Hove.

2.7 The 2025 PNA concludes that pharmaceutical services in Brighton & Hove are well distributed and accessible, meeting the current and projected needs of the population. No gaps have been identified in the provision of Necessary Services during or outside normal working hours. Advanced and Enhanced Services are widely available, and locally commissioned services contribute to improved access and public health outcomes.

2.8 The current community pharmacy network in Brighton & Hove should be supported to strengthen service delivery, particularly through improved public awareness, enhanced uptake of Advanced Services in areas of need, and alignment with local health priorities.

2.9 The 'Your Voice' consultation exercise invited responses from organisations and community groups. Nine responses were received. Comments have been listed and responded to in Appendix G of the final document.

Next steps

2.10 The Health & Wellbeing Board will be asked to agree the final report.

2.11 The final PNA for Brighton & Hove will be published by 1st October 2025.

3. Important considerations and implications

Legal:

- 3.1 The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (“the Regulations”) set out the legislative basis and requirements of the Health and Wellbeing Board for developing and updating the PNA.

Lawyer consulted: Sandra O’Brien

Date: 3 September 2025

Finance:

- 3.2 There are no financial implications as a direct result of the recommendations of this report

Finance Officer consulted:

Date:

Equalities:

- 3.3 We have incorporated Equality Act 2010 requirements throughout the PNA document. During the PNA process we have taken into consideration protected characteristics and vulnerable groups at each stage of the process and details relating to how services affect different groups are detailed in the main report.

Sustainability:

- 3.4 A Sussex wide scheme within primary care has included the involvement of community pharmacies in the lower carbon inhaler scheme where patients are encouraged to change to the lower carbon inhaler devices. A number of pharmacies across the city also offer recycling facilities for medicine blister packaging. The Community Pharmacy and Public Health Forum intend to review sustainability initiatives and how they can support further sustainably measures in Brighton & Hove.

- 3.5 Health, social care, children’s services and public health:

This paper was prepared by the Public Health Team.

Supporting documents and information



Appendix1: Final PNA report

Appendix 2: Future opportunities specific to Brighton & Hove

