

The Importance of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

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PNAs – a brief history

- Introduced in 2004/05
- The White Paper (April 2008)

Feedback from the NHS and others indicates that, currently, there is considerable variation in the scope, depth and breadth of PNAs. Many PCTs have already reviewed their PNAs following mergers in October 2006, while others plan to do so. It is clear, however, that not all PCTs have yet considered the need to either update or review their PNAs.

PNAs as part of WCC

- Guidance launched in January
- Identifies how PNAs should be integrated into PCTs' existing business and commissioning cycles
- Describes how PNAs fit within WCC

PNAs and WCC competencies

- Competency 2 – Work collaboratively with community partners to commission services that optimise health gains and reduce health inequalities
- Competency 4 – Collaborate with clinicians to inform strategy and drive quality, service design and resource utilisation
- Competency 5 – Manage knowledge and undertake robust and regular needs assessments that establish a full understanding of current and future local health needs and requirements
- Competency 7 – Effectively stimulate the market to meet demand and secure required clinical and health and wellbeing outcomes

The Health Bill

- New PCT duty to assess and publish PNAs
- PNAs to be the basis for deciding market entry (with compulsory and discretionary elements)
- 100 hour pharmacies – Minister has since announced that “these current arrangements should continue pending our longer-term strategic vision for NHS services to be commissioned against local needs”
- Regulations in effect April 2010 with first PNA in line with these in April 2011.

Current Support

- Developing PNAs – a practical guide
 - Published July 2009
- Guidance and Toolkit will be updated to be published as new Regulations come into effect April 2010

VISION FOR PHARMACY SERVICES

UNTAPPED
RESOURCE

WORK IN
PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHY LIVING
CENTRES

FOCUS ON LTC

PROMOTE
HEALTH

EXPAND ROLE
FROM DISPENSERS
OF MEDICINES

PERSONALISED
SERVICE

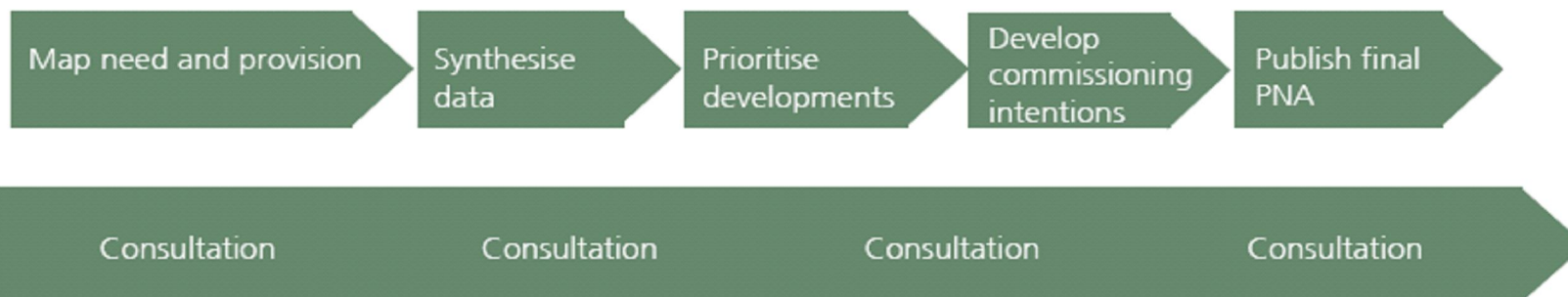
ACCESSIBLE
RESOURCE



Developing a PNA - Five steps

- Getting the engagement right
- Identifying local needs
- Mapping current provision
- Shaping the future
- Action Planning

PNA timetable



PCT plans



Key Issues for PNA Development

- Whilst identifying need that must be met to improve the health of the population:
 - Decide if health gain over alternatives in the same patient group is sufficient
 - Identify the whole-system costs, benefits and opportunity costs
- The PNA forms one of the way PCTs must identify and balance need and opportunity across the system

PNA - Implementation

- PNA could lead to a need to:
 - change local contract processes
 - development of new services
 - redesign of existing services
 - workforce development
 - premises / infrastructure improvement
 - decommissioning of services
- When the health bill is enacted it will be the control of entry tool

Key challenges

- Control of Entry – ensuring your PNA is robust and comprehensive
- Keeping your PNA up to date
- Commissioning services from community pharmacies and other providers
- Supporting community pharmacies to provide appropriate services