

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting	07 October 2025
Title	Reading Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report author	Zoe Campbell
Job title	Business Manager, Reading & West Berkshire Public Health
Organisation	Reading Borough Council
Recommendations	1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the statement of need for pharmaceutical services for the Reading population to cover the period from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Following conclusion of the stakeholder consultation, the attached final statement of need for pharmaceutical services is presented for approval.
- 2.2. The report highlights that the 27 pharmacies supported by 1 Dispensing Appliance Contractor and 1 Distance Selling Pharmacy in Reading, and the 6 pharmacies in neighbouring areas that are within a mile of the district boundary, provide adequate community pharmacy services for the needs of Reading's population.

3. Policy Context

4. The Government's 10 Year Plan commits to increase the role of community pharmacy as part of the new Neighbourhood Health Service.

5. The Proposal

- 5.1. Each Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a statutory responsibility to publish and keep up to date a statement of needs for pharmaceutical services for their population. This is called the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The purpose of the PNA is to:
 - 5.2. Inform local plans for the commissioning of specific and specialised pharmaceutical services to meet the current and future health needs of the local population
 - 5.3. Support the decision-making process for applications for new pharmacies or changes of pharmacy premises and/or opening hours.
 - 5.4. The PNA provides an overview of the demographics and the health and wellbeing needs of the Reading population. It also captures the views of residents and pharmacy service users. It assesses whether the current provision of pharmacies and the commissioned services they provide meet the needs of residents and whether there will be any gaps in provision within the lifetime of the PNA.
 - 5.5. Consultant, Healthy Dialogues, was appointed to prepare the PNA, reporting to a local Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders. The process was overseen by a Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Steering Group. The process included:
 - A review of the current and future demographics and health needs of the Reading population.

- A survey of Reading patients and the public on their use and expectations of pharmaceutical services and an equality impact assessment.
- An assessment of the commissioned Essential, Advanced, Enhanced and Locally Commissioned services and, services delivered by dispensing GPs in Reading.

6.6 A consultation draft of the PNA was published for formal consultation between 14th May and 13th July 2025. Responses to the consultation were considered by the task group and steering group before final publication of the PNA.

6.7 There are currently 27 community pharmacies, 1 Dispensing Appliance Contractor and 1 Distance Selling Pharmacy in Reading, with a further 6 community pharmacies located in neighbouring local authority areas within a mile of Reading's boundary.

5.6. The PNA includes an assessment of whether the current and future pharmacy provision meets the health and wellbeing needs of the Reading population. It also considers whether there are any gaps in the provision of pharmaceutical service either now, or within the lifetime of this document.

5.7. The findings show that essential services provided at all premises, including those though outside the Reading area, contribute towards meeting the need for pharmaceutical services. Adequate provision of advanced, enhanced, and locally commissioned services meet the need of the local population, including premises which although outside the Reading area, have secured improvements, or better access to pharmaceutical services in its area.

5.8. The proposal is to approve the PNA as presented, which would ensure that the Board discharges its statutory requirements within the required timescale.

5.9. Other Options considered;

The Health and Wellbeing Board could approve the PNA as presented. This is the preferred option.

Alternatively, the Health and Wellbeing Board could choose not to approve the PNA and request further changes. This is not the preferred option, since it would incur delay and the Board would fail to comply with the statutory requirement to adopt an updated PNA by October 2025.

5.10. Conclusion(s);

This PNA has concluded that there is good access to essential, advanced and other NHS pharmaceutical services for residents of Reading.

6. Contribution to Reading's Health and Wellbeing Strategic Aims

6.1. The proposal will support the overall direction of the [Berkshire West Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-30](#) by contributing to the following priorities;

1. Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
2. Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
3. Help children and families in early years

7. Community Engagement

7.1. A survey of Reading patients and the public on their use and expectations of pharmaceutical services and equality impact assessment.

8. Equality Implications

8.1. An EIA was carried out as part of the PNA (see Chapter 6). No substantial differences or identified needs were found amongst protected characteristics groups in pharmacy usage.

9. Other Relevant Considerations

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Legal Implications

10.1. The Reading Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and fulfils the Health and Wellbeing Board's obligation to publish an updated assessment by 1 October 2025.

11. Financial Implications

11.1. Not applicable.

12. Timetable for Implementation

12.1. The statement of need for pharmaceutical services for Reading population to cover the period 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.

13. Background Papers

13.1. Not applicable.

Appendices

1. Reading Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2025-2028)