

Meeting: [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) **Date:** [19th June 2025](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Torbay Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\) 2025 to 2028](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [N/A](#)

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 2025 to 2028 update of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

2. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 2.1 The following narrative is considered for approval, with issues discussed.

Background Documents

[None](#)

3.1 What is a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

A PNA is a comprehensive assessment of the current and future pharmaceutical needs of the local population for community pharmacy, dispensing appliance contractors, and dispensing doctors in rural areas (where relevant).

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred the responsibility to develop and update PNAs from Primary Care Trusts to Health and Wellbeing Boards (H&WB) from 1 April 2013.

This means that Torbay's H&WB has a legal duty to ensure the production of a PNA for Torbay.

3.2 What's in the PNA and what is a PNA used for?

The PNA for Torbay 2025-2028 presents a picture of community pharmacy need and provision in Torbay, and links to Torbay's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

The PNA is used by NHS Devon ICB to inform:

- decisions regarding which NHS funded services need to be provided by community pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors in Torbay
- whether new pharmacies or services are needed
- decision-making about the relocation of existing pharmaceutical premises in response to applications by providers of pharmaceutical services
- the commissioning of locally enhanced services from pharmacies

Providers of pharmaceutical services will also use the PNA to inform their applications to provide pharmaceutical services by demonstrating that they are able to meet a pharmaceutical need as set out in the PNA.

Essentially, the document is a 'market entry' document, it uses data to show potential gaps in pharmaceutical provision or services that a new pharmacy may be able to provide. It also anticipates circumstances in which additional pharmacies or services may be needed, for instance in the case of substantial housing development.

3.3 Developing the PNA

Torbay's PNA was developed in partnership with the Devon-wide PNA Steering Group on behalf of Torbay's H&WB.

This was to ensure that production of the PNAs for Plymouth, Devon and Torbay followed the same process and format but with locally relevant information.

Partners included:

- Torbay Council
- Devon County Council

- Plymouth City Council
- NHS Devon ICB
- NHS South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub
- Community Pharmacy Devon
- Devon Local Medical Committee

3.4 **Main conclusion of the PNA**

There have been no existing gaps identified in pharmaceutical services within Torbay, the number of pharmacies in Torbay fell from 31 in 2021/22 to 28 in 2024/25, this was due to 2 closures of Lloyd's Pharmacy at the main Torquay and Paignton Sainsbury's and a consolidation of 2 Day Lewis pharmacies in Brixham. Torbay has broadly the same number of pharmacies per head of population as England.

Going forward, 3 potential gaps were identified if certain pharmacies were to close:

- (a) There is only 1 pharmacy open after 6:30 pm on a weekday and 5:30 pm on a Saturday in Torbay. If this pharmacy were to close or reduce its hours this would leave a gap in pharmaceutical provision due to excessive car and public transport travel times for significant parts of Paignton and Brixham in particular.
- (b) If the pharmacy at Foxhole, Paignton were to close, this would result in excessive walking times for areas within the 20% most deprived in England, leaving a gap in accessible pharmaceutical provision.
- (c) There is only 1 pharmacy in Brixham with core hours on a Saturday in Brixham. Other pharmacy provision is available in Brixham on a Saturday but they are supplementary hours. Supplementary hours require just 5 weeks notice to amend or remove, core hours are significantly harder to change and are subject to approval by the local ICB. If the pharmacy with core hours were to close it would potentially result in excessive walking times for areas within the 20% most deprived in England, leaving a gap in accessible pharmaceutical provision.

3.5 **Consultation**

The consultation period ran from 3rd March to 6th May.

The survey questions were designed to gather feedback on whether the requirement of the PNA had been met and to offer the opportunity to highlight any gaps.

1 response to the online consultation survey was received for Torbay. It was positive.

3.6 **Next steps**

The recommendation is for the Health & Wellbeing Board to:

1. Formally accept the Torbay PNA for 2025-28
2. Agree to its publication on the Torbay Council website