

Buckinghamshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Introduction:

- Buckinghamshire Council have been carrying out a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA).
- A PNA is a report that looks at pharmacy services and the need for them in the area, both currently and in the future.
- PNAs have to be done every 3 years; this PNA covers the time between 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2025.

What did we learn?

About Buckinghamshire

- Buckinghamshire has around 547,060 people living there, which will rise to about 553,078 people by 2025.
- Buckinghamshire is one of the least poor areas in England.
- Most people in Buckinghamshire speak English as their main language.

About health in Buckinghamshire

- Obesity (being very overweight) has increased in Buckinghamshire but is about the same as the rest of England.
- People in Buckinghamshire are less likely to have cancer than in the rest of England.
- People are less likely to smoke in Buckinghamshire than in the rest of England.

- People are less likely to have sexually transmitted infections (STIs; illnesses passed by having sex) in Buckinghamshire than in the rest of England.
- There are lower levels of alcohol and substance misuse in Buckinghamshire than in the rest of England.
- People are more likely to have the flu vaccine in Buckinghamshire than in the rest of England.
- People are less likely to die of respiratory illnesses (a type of illness that affects the parts of the body that help you to breathe) in Buckinghamshire than the rest of England.
- People are less likely to have a mental health illness in Buckinghamshire than in the rest of England.
- Despite overall better health, there are still pockets of areas within Buckinghamshire where residents are living in more deprived areas and health inequalities need to be addressed. People living in these areas experience poorer health from birth through to old age.

About pharmacies and services in Buckinghamshire

- There are 86 pharmacies in Buckinghamshire.
- Seventy-six pharmacies in Buckinghamshire offer New Medicine Service which means that they give support to people when they start a new medicine for a long-term illness.
- Nine pharmacies in Buckinghamshire offer needle exchange, where people can be given needles and syringes to take illegal substances to stop the spread of illnesses like hepatitis B and C.
- Fifty-seven pharmacies in Buckinghamshire offer supervised consumption (the pharmacist will watch someone take their medication when it is dispensed in certain cases, like if they might become dependent on the medication).
- Chlamydia (an STI) testing is available at 14 pharmacies in Buckinghamshire.

- Emergency hormonal contraceptive (which prevents pregnancy after unprotected sex or if other forms of protection have failed) is available at 15 pharmacies in Buckinghamshire.
- Fourteen pharmacies in Buckinghamshire offer palliative care drugs (drugs used when someone has a terminal or life-limiting illness).
- Antiviral drugs (medicines that help to prevent diseases by helping your body to fight off viruses).are available at four pharmacies in Buckinghamshire.
- Most people in Buckinghamshire use their pharmacy once a month or a few times a month.
- Most people in Buckinghamshire can walk or drive to their pharmacy within 20 minutes of their home and live within five miles of their pharmacy.
- Most people in Buckinghamshire use their pharmacy for themselves and half of people in Buckinghamshire use their pharmacy for their husband or wife.
- Most people chose their pharmacy because the GP sends their prescriptions there, they are happy with the overall service and/or because it is in a good place for them.
- There is a pharmacy close to every GP surgery in Buckinghamshire.

Conclusions

- There are enough pharmacies in Buckinghamshire for the number of people living there currently and for the number of people who are expected to live there in the next three years.
- This PNA found that no improvements are needed in pharmacies and services in Buckinghamshire.