

Health and Wellbeing Board – 23 June 2020

Delay in Production of Statutory Work including - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA); Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA); Walsall Plan Priority Progress and Board Developments.

1. Purpose

As a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the reprioritisation of resource to assist with the appropriate and expected management of this outbreak in Walsall, a number of other statutory pieces of work, which were scheduled to commence this year, will need to be postponed until next year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The HWB note the update from DHSC regarding the suspension for the PNA to be published but be assured that timely supplementary statements will continue to be published on the Council website in response to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during this time.
- 2.3. HWB members note the delay in a refresh of the JSNA, however some planning work has commenced to date.
- 2.4 HWB members note that as a result of the JSNA postponement, current and future Walsall Plan priorities will not all be progressed as previously expected.
- 2.5 The HWB note that Board development plans will be delayed.

3. Background

- 3.1 The initial paper outlining the statutory requirement to the Health and Well-being Board (HWB) to produce and implement a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) was presented at the meeting in March 2020. At the time, the HWB approved the process and the timetable for publication in April 2021.
- 3.2 However, on the 22nd May 2020, The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced that the requirement to publish renewed Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) would be suspended for a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.3 Walsall's JSNA is a statutory piece with contributions from all Local Authority Directorates as well as Partner organisations to help shape and identify priorities for the Walsall Plan (Walsall's Health and wellbeing Strategy). A refresh was due to take place during this year and some

initial work has been undertaken. However, to ensure the right amount of commitment and focus can be dedicated to the JSNA so that it is fit for purpose, the refresh is going to be postponed until next year.

- 3.4 This will therefore have an impact on the identification of priorities to focus upon as part of the Walsall Plan and therefore that too will be impacted upon with a delay. The current priorities (prevention of violence, on the move and Walsall town centre), will also inevitably be impacted, as current resource is rightly re-directed to focus on Covid-19.
- 3.5 Finally, the initial plans for a development plan for the Board will also be impacted. It is however positive to note, that during a period of remote working for staff and members, virtual meetings have been able to resume and the embracing of technology is being utilised.

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