

22nd October 2014

Carole Furlong
Consultant in Public Health
Barnet
Health & Wellbeing Board

Dear Ms Furlong

NHS England, London Region is aware that most Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) across London are now well advanced in developing their first Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) in time for publication by 1st April 2015. When developing their PNA, the HWB will undertake a consultation with a range of stakeholders.

To enable NHS England to discharge its statutory functions in relation to considering pharmacy applications, it is important that Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments fully comply with regulatory requirements. Where the PNA is robust, it reduces the risk of a judicial review against the relevant HWB.

Based on its response to one formal consultation, its review of a number of other draft PNAs and feedback from team members involved in producing drafts, NHS England London Region has produced a list of top tips to share with for developing PNAs. Please find attached this document, which it is hoped that HWBs will find both useful when drafting their PNAs and in reducing the need for changes to the PNA at a later stage, following receipt of consultation responses.

One key issue that virtually all HWB's have discovered is that there are significant discrepancies in the information on opening hours that community pharmacies have provided directly to them compared to the information held by NHS England. Whilst this point is covered in the attached "Top Tips" paper, I have also attached a second paper that sets out NHS England London Region's pragmatic approach to dealing with such discrepancies. This has been approved following discussion with several teams that are supporting HWB's with their PNAs.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to cascade these papers to the relevant staff involved in developing your PNA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sturgeon', written in a cursive style.

David Sturgeon
Head of Primary Care, South London Area Team &
Lead for Market Entry for London