

Sandwell Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) looks at whether there are enough pharmacies, in the right areas, offering the right services, to meet the needs of local people. It must be updated every three years.

Conclusions

- There are enough pharmacies in the right locations, to meet the current and likely future needs of people living in Sandwell.
- Every town in Sandwell has a pharmacy open early, late, and on weekends.
- Pharmacies can offer a range of different services, but many people do not know which services their local pharmacy provides.
- There are no pharmacies that can give Emergency Hormonal Contraception (morning after pill) free of charge without a prescription in Tipton and Rowley Regis.

- Most pharmacies have wheelchair access.
- The majority of people are unaware that their pharmacy can make accessibility adjustments to accommodate needs.

The following services are widely available at pharmacies:

- Flu vaccination
- Blood pressure checks
- Support with new medicines
- Lateral Flow Device Service (COVID-19 test)
- Pharmacy First Service (advice and treatment for seven common conditions)

Not many people use their community pharmacy to access:

- Stop smoking services
- Stoma Appliance Customisation Service
- Appliance Use Review Service (support with use of an appliance such as catheter, equipment for incontinence, stoma appliance)

Recommendations

- Services provided by pharmacies should be widely promoted by pharmacies and other healthcare services.
- Pharmacies should be easily accessible to all (e.g. improving wheelchair accessibility, use of large print, use of 'Language Line') and the support available to ensure everyone has fair access should be widely promoted by pharmacies.

More pharmacies should offer the “morning after pill” free of charge, especially in Tipton and Rowley Regis.

- There is a plan for more local pharmacies to provide this service in Sandwell (including in Rowley Regis and Tipton) and for the national Pharmacy Contraception Service to also include the “morning after pill”.