

From the office of: Prof Nil Sanganee, Chief Medical Officer, LLR ICB
Email: paul.gilbert7@nhs.net
Based At: County Hall, Leicester
Our Ref: Leicester City PNA 2025

4th August 2025

Rob Howard,
Director of Public Health,
Leicester City Council

Dear Rob,

Re: Consultation Response - Leicester Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Leicester Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025 consultation. We welcome the continued commitment to assessing and improving pharmaceutical services across the city and we are broadly supportive of the draft's conclusions and recommendations.

Community pharmacy remains a cornerstone of healthcare provision for Leicester's residents. The accessibility of pharmacies—both geographically and in terms of opening hours—continues to be a strength, and we are pleased to note that no significant gaps in the provision of essential pharmaceutical services have been identified.

However, tackling the stark health inequalities across Leicester requires a proactive and integrated approach and community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to support this effort. Their presence in the most deprived areas, their ability to offer care without appointment, and their multilingual teams make them vital partners in tackling health inequities. We strongly advocate for their inclusion in local Core20PLUS5 strategies and broader health equity initiatives.

We also wish to emphasise the following priorities:

- **Service Integration and Expansion:** We strongly endorse the need for greater integration of community pharmacy within primary care networks (PCNs) and the emerging neighbourhood health delivery models and plans to support prevention, early intervention and chronic disease management. Services such as Pharmacy First, Community Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Hypertension Case Finding must be scaled and tailored to local needs. We fully support active collaborative working between community pharmacy teams and other health and care partners to maximise impact.
- **Innovation:** We need to further support innovative service delivery through the community pharmacy network and the PNA needs to reflect this ambition. Consideration should be given to additional services that relieve pressures on other services wider than just GP practices, for example urgent and emergency care services. This includes maximising the opportunities presented by increasing availability of independent prescribers in community pharmacy.

Chief Executive: Toby Sanders | **Chair:** Paula Clark

Room G30, Pen Lloyd Building, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8TB
Tel: 0116 295 3405

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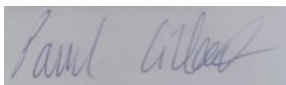


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- **Digital Enablement:** As healthcare becomes increasingly digital, we support the recommendation to tackle inequities in digital literacy, but to do this, commissioners need to ensure that community pharmacies are digitally integrated to work seamlessly with partners, and service design should include community pharmacy digital integration from the outset.
- **Promotion of public health:** We commend the recognition of pharmacies role in supporting public health, and where possible would like to see these sustained and strengthened. These services directly support the Health and Wellbeing Partnership's life course priorities but coverage and quality need regular review.
- **Planning for Growth:** With ongoing housing development and population growth, it is vital that pharmacy provision is regularly reviewed to ensure it meets evolving community needs and we support the recommendation for an annual report of pharmacy services.

We look forward to working collaboratively with patients, Leicester City Council, NHS partners and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) to ensure that community pharmacy continues to evolve and thrive as a key component of our healthcare system.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gilbert

Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead
NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB)



Prof Nil Sanganeer

Chief Medical Officer
NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB)