

Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

**NHS West Kent
Clinical Commissioning Group**

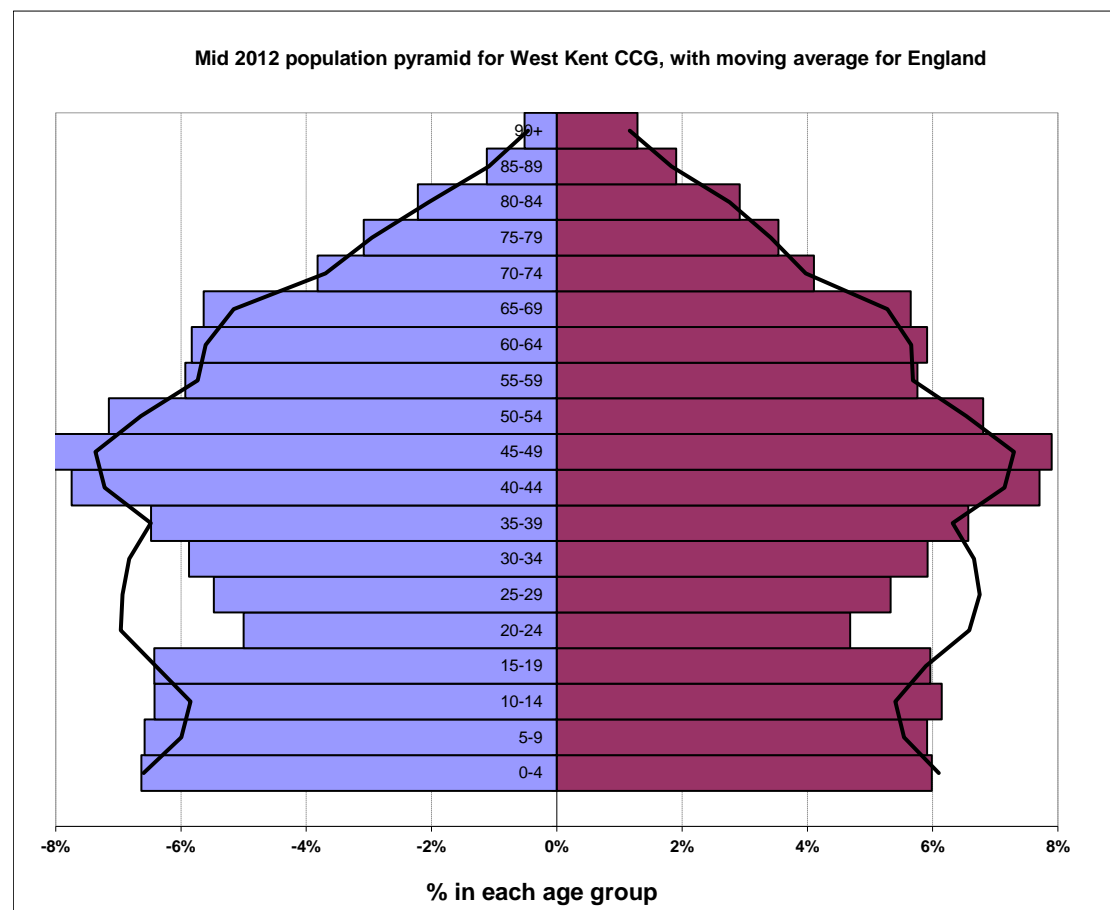
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Introduction

This document has been written as part of the main Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) to allow judgements to be made using local data. This document should be read in conjunction with the main Kent PNA. The CCG area was divided into five separate localities, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Malling area including Kings Hill/Snodland and Maidstone for the purposes of this assessment.

West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (West Kent CCG) covers patients from 63 practices, with a registered practice population of just under 473,000. The CCG area covers the same area as Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council along with part of Sevenoaks District Council.



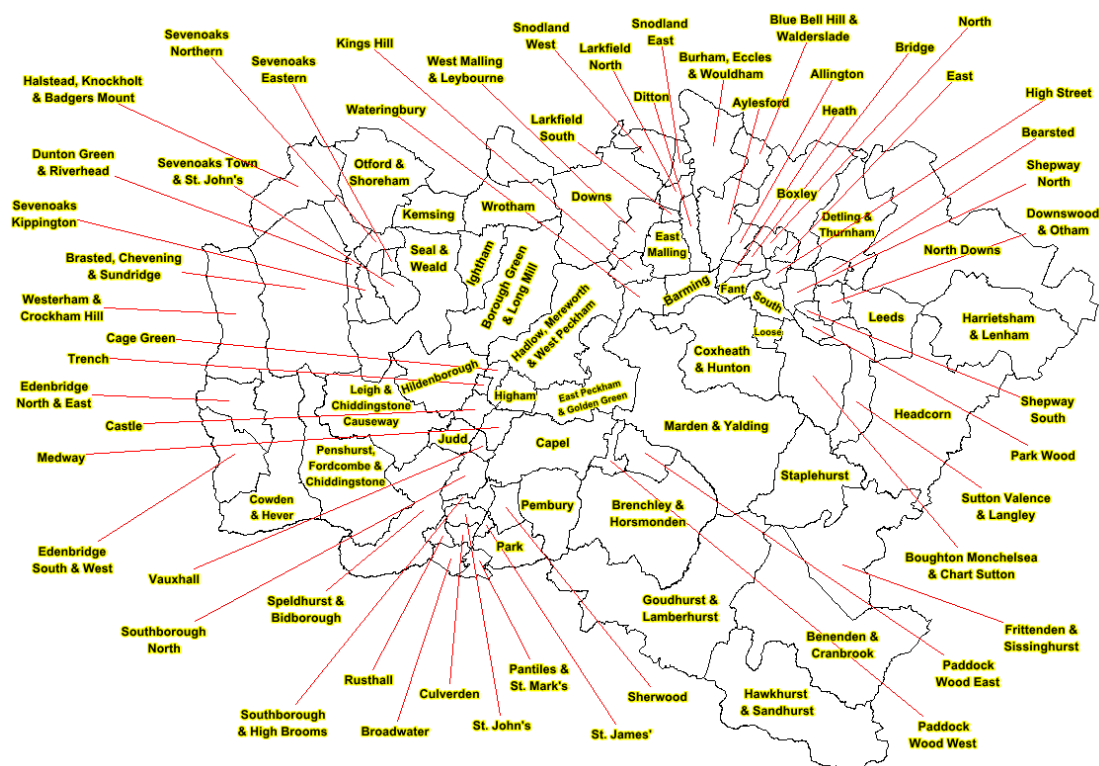
It is important to recognise that patients resident in the CCG area cannot be presumed to be registered exclusively with West Kent primary care teams. Generally though, the vast majority of West Kent residents are registered with practices in West Kent CCG.

Detailed maps showing the population density, projected population growth and the ethnicity of West Kent CCG residents can be found in the supplementary information for West Kent CCG in Appendix A.

West Kent has a lower proportion of 5 to 14 year olds than the national profile and a considerably smaller proportion of those aged between 20 and 35. The largest section of the population in West Kent are aged between 40 and 70 years old. The proportion of the population in all categories above age 70 is similar to the national average.

Commissioners may need to take into account that West Kent has a considerably higher proportion of 40 to 70 year olds compared to other areas Kent and consequently demands for services in the future will increase.

Practice data¹ shows that out of a practice population of 472,769 there are 57,849 children aged 0-9 living in West Kent (12.2%), 88,653 people who are over 65 in West Kent (18.8%), 28.6% of whom are living alone and 3.3% of whom are living in Care homes². These age groups are considered to be the main users of pharmaceutical services.



Prime electoral wards within West Kent CCG area

¹ PCIS practice data June 2014

² ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 21 August 2014]

West Kent is predominantly rural with the majority of the population clustered around the main towns of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Maidstone although there is a significant proportion of the population situated alongside the main arterial roads of the M20 and A20/25.

Average life expectancy in West Kent is 82.0 years, the second highest in Kent and Medway. Generally, there is an association between lower life expectancy estimates and higher levels of relative deprivation but even the most deprived areas in West Kent are more affluent than some neighbours in Swale and Medway. The most deprived areas are in the High Street, Parkwood and Shepway areas of Maidstone but deprivation is often found in some of the more rural villages in the Weald. More information is available in the West Kent CCG Health Profile which can be found at <http://www.kmpho.nhs.uk/jsna/>

Care Homes

There are a considerable number of care homes in the West Kent area. Patients who are looked after in a care home setting are often high users of medicines. However because of the nature of their care, they rarely access pharmaceutical services individually, leaving this to be carried out by the care home staff. More recently care home organisations do not use local pharmacies for this service, favouring the large “hub” or “internet” pharmacies which specialise in this type of one-stop service. Therefore there is not considered to be any relationship between the number of care homes and the need for local pharmaceutical services.

Pharmaceutical Services in NHS West Kent CCG

There are two ways that patients can access pharmaceutical services within the West Kent CCG area. They are through community pharmacies or through a dispensary within a GP practice (dispensing practices). Appliances can be obtained through both of these methods or through a specific appliance contractor. Appliance contractors usually provide a service nationally and there are two based in the Kent area.

Patients can also request to have their prescriptions (especially repeat prescriptions) sent electronically (EPS) to a pharmacy of their choice, such as one close to their work place or near their home. This means that positioning a pharmacy next to a GP practice is no longer as important.

Ratio of number of pharmaceutical service providers (community pharmacies & GP dispensing practices) per 100,000 population			
Locality	Number of providers	Practice Population	Ratio/100,000 population
NHS West Kent CCG	95	472,769	20
Kent			22
England	-	-	23

Community Pharmacy

There are 69 community pharmacies who are registered on the Kent NHS pharmaceutical list as providing the full range of NHS pharmaceutical services and located within the West Kent CCG area.

NHS West Kent CCG - Community Pharmacies	
Total number of Community Pharmacies providing NHS pharmaceutical services	69
Number of standard 40 hour pharmacies	63
Number of 100 hour pharmacies	6
Number of mail order/internet pharmacies	0
Number of appliance contractors	0
Number of pharmacies offering electronic prescription service (EPS)	68

A list of all the pharmacies located within West Kent CCG can be found in Appendix B.

Standard 40 hour community pharmacies.

These are pharmacies which are registered as providing at least 40 'core' pharmacy hours per week. These hours are usually 8 hours daily, Mon – Fri but are agreed at the time of application to join the register.

Pharmacies cannot change their 'core' hours without prior agreement with NHS England.

Many of these pharmacies also provide supplementary opening hours, often opening slightly later in the evening and on Saturdays and Sundays.

Pharmacies can change their supplementary hours if they so desire, as long as NHS England receives the statutory 3 months' notice.

100 hour pharmacies

These are pharmacies which have to be open for a minimum of 100 hours per week with the hours being agreed with NHS England.

Mail order/internet pharmacies

These are pharmacies which provide pharmaceutical services via mail order or the internet. They are not accessible to the general public. There are no mail order/internet pharmacies based in West Kent

Essential Small Pharmacy Local Pharmaceutical Services (ESP LPS) scheme.

The ESP LPS scheme provided financial assistance to pharmacies which are deemed to be essential for the provision of pharmaceutical services to a local population, but would otherwise be unviable.

This scheme finished in 2011 but has been extended by the Department of Health for current ESPLPS contracts although our understanding is that it is due to finish completely on 31st March 2015.

There is one ESPLPS pharmacy in West Kent CCG which is located in the Downswood area of Maidstone.

NHS England local Area Team will be reviewing the need for extra support to this pharmacy

Appliance contractors

Appliance contractors provide appliances only, which are defined in Part IX of the Drug Tariff (e.g. ostomy, colostomy appliances) and these often require tailoring to meet the need of individual patients. There are no appliance contractors located in the West Kent area.

A review of all opening times was carried in May 2014 using data provided by NHS England which is available on NHS Choices. It was considered that there is adequate provision of pharmaceutical services through pharmacies and dispensing surgeries for the majority of the day between 8am and 6.30pm. Services between 6am and 8 am and between 6.30pm and 11pm are provided at strategic points across the area. Out of Hours providers of medical services provide access to urgent medical care including urgent medicines between 11pm and 7am.

Subsequent changes to opening times since May have been taken into account and the opening times of all pharmacies along with the additional services that they offer can be found on NHS Choices. NHS England has the responsibility for maintaining NHS Choices.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Pharmacy/LocationSearch/10>

Dispensing practices.

NHS West Kent CCG – Dispensing practices	
Total number of GP surgeries providing pharmaceutical services to their patients	25
Total number of sites (including branches) providing pharmaceutical services to their patients	26

A list of all the dispensing doctors located within West Kent CCG can be found in Appendix C

Dispensing doctors have rights to provide pharmaceutical services to their patients with the patient's permission. This is mainly for patients in rural (controlled) areas where the most rural of patients would have problem accessing medicines. The surgery has to be registered to provide pharmaceutical services and can only dispense to their own patients who must be resident in an area which is rural in character, known as a controlled locality, at a distance of more than one mile (1.6km) from a pharmacy's premises. Surgeries must always give these patients the choice of obtaining their medicines through the GP dispensary or being allowed to take their prescription to a community pharmacy of choice.

Patients who live within the 1.6km radius who are unable to access the pharmacy and wish their GP surgery to dispense their medication can, in exceptional circumstances, apply for consideration as a serious difficulty case. All applications for 'serious difficulty' must be made to NHS England.

Controlled localities

A 'controlled' locality is an area which is deemed to be rural in character. Until 1 April 2013, PCTs determined whether areas were rural in character, and published maps with any such rural areas (controlled localities) delineated on those maps.

Any areas determined to be controlled localities (or not controlled localities) cannot be considered again for a period of five years. On 1 April 2013, NHS England took over the maps produced by PCTs and became responsible for determinations of controlled localities. An explanation of controlled and not-controlled localities, rurality reviews and definitions of rural and urban can be found in the main Kent PNA document

Maps showing the controlled areas and the 1.6km boundaries around pharmacies in the West Kent CCG location, can be found in Appendix A.

The pharmaceutical services which are provided by community pharmacies and by dispensing doctors are laid down in statute in the NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013. Pharmaceutical services from community pharmacies comprise of essential, advanced and enhanced services. Explanations of these services can be found in the main Kent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. Pharmaceutical services from Dispensing practices do not have to provide all the 'essential' services. They mainly provide dispensing services and the advanced service of Dispensing review of the Use of Medicines (Drugs).

All West Kent pharmacies must provide the Essential services and a map showing which ones provide the advanced services of Medicine Use reviews (MURs) and New Medicines Service (NMS) can be found in Appendix A.

Pharmaceutical services out of hours

The West Kent CCG area currently has six '100 hour' pharmacies, two of which are located in the middle of Maidstone, one in Sevenoaks, one in Tonbridge, one in Aylesford close to the M20 and Maidstone Hospital and one in Tunbridge Wells. These provide services from early in the morning until late at night Monday to Saturday and are open on a Sunday.

Access to medicines via 100 hour pharmacies is considered to be especially important in areas which are deprived, especially if there is a high number of children aged 0-9 and/or elderly people over 65 who are living alone with no family/carer support.

Access to medicines outside these times, is commissioned from the local out-of-hours medical services provider, who has available essential and urgently needed medicines, as agreed in the *National Out of Hours Formulary* and are supplied where the need for them cannot wait until the 100 hour pharmacy opens.

Walk in centres

There are walk in centres which treat minor injuries and minor ailments at Sevenoaks Community Hospital and Edenbridge Community Hospital. These services have accessible from early in the morning until late in the evening. A&E services are available at Maidstone Hospital and Pembury Hospital.

Rota services

NHS England manages a voluntary rota service for days when there are no pharmacies open at all. This is usually Christmas Day and Easter Sunday but may include other Public and Bank holidays if required.

Public Health services provided through pharmacies.

Many community pharmacies are also commissioned by local authorities to provide public health services on a 'needs' basis. These are not classed as pharmaceutical services as they are provided by other healthcare providers as well.

Examples of these are smoking cessation, NHS Healthchecks and sexual health.

For completeness we have included maps showing where these services are available and published them alongside the PNA.

Enhanced services managed by NHS England

Various enhanced services which were commissioned by the former PCTs are currently being reviewed by NHS England. These services include various bespoke services such as warfarin monitoring and access to palliative care drugs. These services are not necessarily pharmacy specific and are therefore may not be considered to be pharmaceutical services. These are not being assessed as part of the PNA until the results of the review are complete.

For completeness we have included maps showing where these services are available and published them alongside the PNA.

CCG services provided through community pharmacies.

These are not necessarily pharmaceutical services and therefore not considered as part of the PNA. However for completeness we are including maps of such services where the information is available.

Currently West Kent CCG has commissioned a pilot 'Pharmacy First' Common Ailments Scheme through West Kent community pharmacies. This is only a few months old and is being monitored closely.

Non NHS and private services

Pharmacies also provide many other services to the public which are not part of NHS pharmaceutical services and therefore not paid for by the NHS or Local Authority. These can include delivery services, provision of medicines in multi-compartment aids, travel medicines and the sale of over the counter (OTC) medicines. All of these services may attract an additional charge. These services will not be included as part of the PNA.

Healthy Living Pharmacies

Please see the main Kent PNA for an explanation of the concept of Healthy Living Pharmacies. Becoming accredited as a Healthy Living Pharmacy is not mandatory and is not a pharmaceutical service and therefore not considered as part of the PNA.

Currently West Kent has 7 community pharmacies who have met the accreditation as a Healthy Living Pharmacy. Please see map in Appendix A for details.

Housing

Like most of Kent, considerable new housing is expected to be built in the West Kent area over the next 20 years. Each of the district councils has their own plans and altogether these suggest that over 1200 homes will be built in the West Kent CCG area per annum.

Peters Park Wouldham

The proposed development of 1,000 homes in the Wouldham area has the potential to significantly increase the health needs of the area over time. Although it is not expected to have a major impact in the life time of this PNA, it is important that this development is reviewed regularly. The nearest community pharmacies to this development are actually in Medway CCG.

There is also the potential for infilling within the West Kent CCG area in some of the more rural areas and on the outskirts of the towns. Such areas will be reviewed regularly especially if the house building changes the landscape from rural to urban.

West Kent PNA 2011.

As part of this assessment, reference was made to the previous one carried out in 2011 by West Kent Primary Care Trust. It was noted that this assessment stated the following.

Across the whole PCT area.

There is no immediate need to commission more services, but rather to target the commissioning of current services more appropriately according to need.

Review the PNA regularly in the light of refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and publication of other relevant data.

Maintain and look to extend access to '100 hours' pharmacies.

Review controlled and non-controlled localities specifically those that are undetermined.

And for the West Kent CCG area in particular

The number of pharmacies and dispensing doctors and the positions they are in are adequate for the area and we feel they meet the needs of local people therefore we have no plans to increase the provision of essential and enhanced services. Although the number of community pharmacies is less than the national average of 23 per 100,000 population: the GP dispensing practices complement this with good dispensing provision, especially in countryside communities.

We have looked at these recommendations again and note.

Rurality

We have been informed that all the areas in NHS West Kent have been reviewed and are designated as either controlled or not controlled.

Pharmacy Contracts

There has been a slight increase in the provision of pharmaceutical services since 2011 but the number of providers (including dispensing practices) of pharmaceutical services are still below Kent and England average.

The pharmacies serving outlying areas and rural Wealden villages are considered to be essential to these areas and must be preserved especially where the population of these areas are under 10 or over 65 and likely to need more pharmaceutical services.

The housing developments are still mainly in the planning stage.

Conclusions and recommendations

We therefore recommend that for the NHS West Kent CCG area:

The current provision of pharmaceutical services is good and provides the pharmaceutical needs of the population on the whole.

The provision of '100 hour' pharmacies needs to be maintained.

The rural pharmacies need to be preserved

The provision of new housing in the West Kent area especially in the Wouldham area needs to be reviewed regularly.

Document Version Control

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comments
Draft 1	25/08/14	Cheryl Clennett	1 st draft
Draft 2	27/08/14	PNA Steering group	Minor amendments made after meeting of PNA SG
Draft 3	17/09/14	KCC HWB	Changes after HWB meeting
Draft 4	27/09/14	K&M LAT	Minor changes by K&M LAT
Draft 5	18/02/15	PNA Steering Group	Changes post consultation
Final Version	20/03/15	PNA steering Group	Final checks prior to publication after approval from HWB