



West Berkshire

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028

Easy read draft for consultation

Introduction

- West Berkshire Council have been carrying out a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA).
- A PNA looks at pharmacy services and the need for them in the area, both now and in the future.
- PNAs have to be done every 3 years; this PNA covers the time between 1st October 2025 to 30th September 2028.

What did we do?

We looked at:

- The health and wellbeing needs of people who live in West Berkshire.
- Where pharmacies are and what services they offer.
- What people said about their pharmacy and how they use it.

What did we learn?

About West Berkshire:

- About **161,000 people** live in West Berkshire.
- Most people live in towns such as **Newbury and Thatcham**.
- West Berkshire is one of the **least deprived** areas in England.
- Some groups of people may have different pharmacy needs, like:
 - People living in **rural areas**.
 - People who are **homeless**.
 - People who have had **domestic abuse**.
 - **Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities**.
 - People in the **horse racing community**.

About health in West Berkshire:

- People in West Berkshire live **longer and healthier lives** than in many other parts of England.
- Health problems like **smoking, being overweight, alcohol and drug misuse, and STIs** are **less common** here than in the rest of the country.

What did people tell us about pharmacy services?

- **851 people** answered the survey.
- Most people choose their pharmacy because:
 - Their **GP sends prescriptions** there.
 - It is **close to home or work**.
 - It is **easy to park nearby**.
- Most people said they can get to a pharmacy in **20 minutes or less**.

- Most people **drive or walk** to the pharmacy.
- Many people praised their pharmacy, but some people had to **wait too long**.

About pharmacies in West Berkshire

There are **16 pharmacies** and **7 GPs** that give out medicines (called dispensing GPs).

There are another **10 pharmacies close to the boundary** of West Berkshire.

These pharmacies offer services including:

- Giving out medicine.
- Helping with **new medicines**.
- Providing advice for **minor illnesses** (this is part of **Pharmacy First**).
- Services for people with more complex needs.

Is there enough pharmacy support?

Most areas in West Berkshire have enough pharmacies for the people who live there now and in the future.

But one area, **Calcot**, was found to have:

- **No easy access to basic pharmacy services**
- A need for more services like **Pharmacy First**

Conclusion

West Berkshire has good access to pharmacy services for most people. One gap was found in the Calcot area.