



Consultation on a draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (“PNA”)

Full results summary

Contents

Introduction & methodology

- Introduction, aims & schedule
- Gunning Principles
- Consultation approach & promotion

Who are the respondents?

Questions 3 to 7, additional questions in the detailed consultation

Question 9, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the draft PNA?

Free text comments



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on a draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (“PNA”) for Southampton, Portsmouth, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight.

The consultation took place between **Friday 01 April** and **Sunday 31 May 2022**.

The aim of this consultation was to:

- Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposed content of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment;
- Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have, and;
- Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.

This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.

It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. Equally, responses from the consultation should be considered in full before any final decisions are made. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with the **Gunning Principles** (considered to be the legal standard for consultations):

- 1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)**
- 2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'**
- 3. There is adequate time for consideration and response**
- 4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**



Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- 1. proposals are still at a formative stage**
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- 2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response**
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate
² BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.
³ BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016
⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.

Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- Posts on social media channels Facebook and Twitter;
- Links via the Southampton City Council website, and;
- Emails sent to specified organisations.

All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. We have provide quotes all the free text feedback provided.

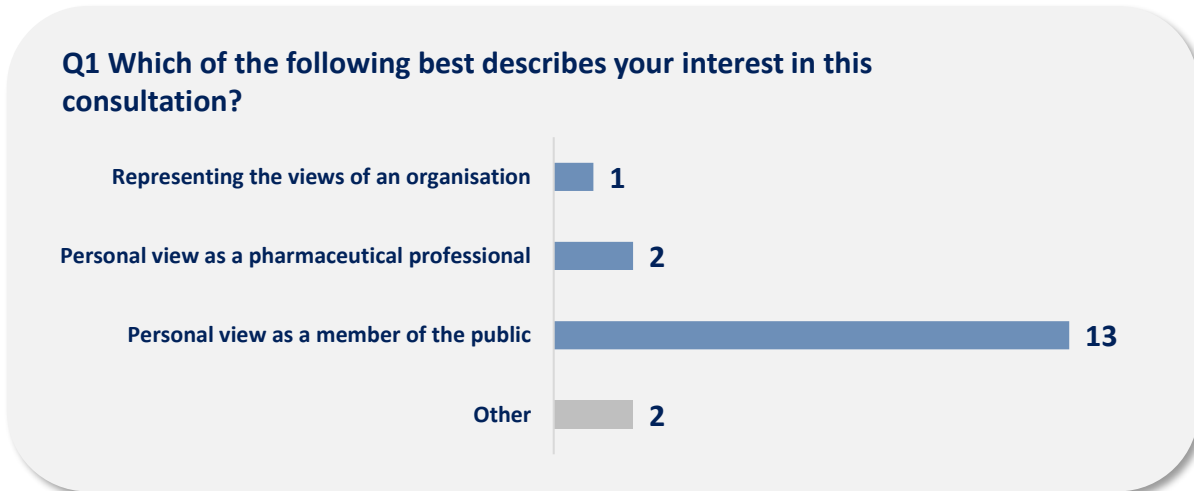
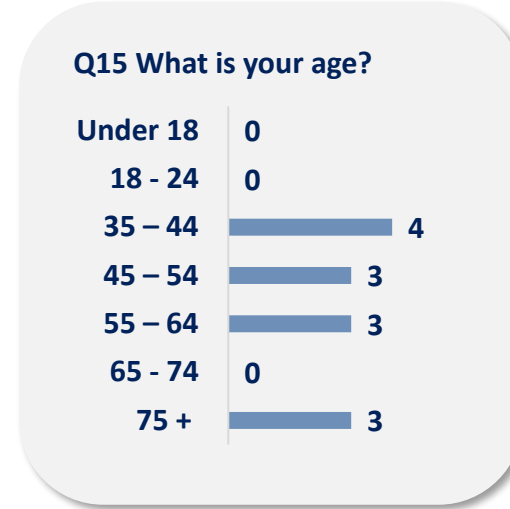
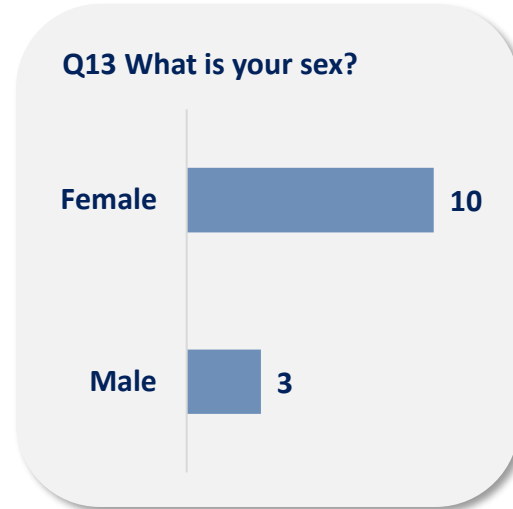


Who were the respondents?



Overall, there were **21** separate responses to the consultation. The following page includes demographic breakdowns of the respondents by *count*.

	Count
Questionnaire	19
Emails, letters	2
Total	21





Additional questions in the detailed consultation



Consultation respondents were asked if they would like to respond to either a short or detailed version of the consultation questionnaire, with the detailed version having more questions covering different parts of the draft PNA. The additional questions for the detailed version of the survey were questions **3** through **7**.

2 out of **19** respondents to the online questionnaire answered the detailed version of the consultation questionnaire. A table summarising their responses to the additional questions in the detailed consultation can be found below.

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the purpose of the Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is explained in the document?	1	1				
"The Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment reflects the current provision of pharmaceutical services within your area"	1			1		
"The Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment highlights all the pharmaceutical services that could be provided in the community pharmacy setting"	1					1
"The Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment reflects the needs of your area's population"	1		1			
"The Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment identifies all gaps in service provision"	1					1
Market entry e.g. decisions on applications for new pharmacies	1					
How pharmaceutical services may be commissioned in the future	1					
Future pharmaceutical services provision and plans for pharmacies	1					

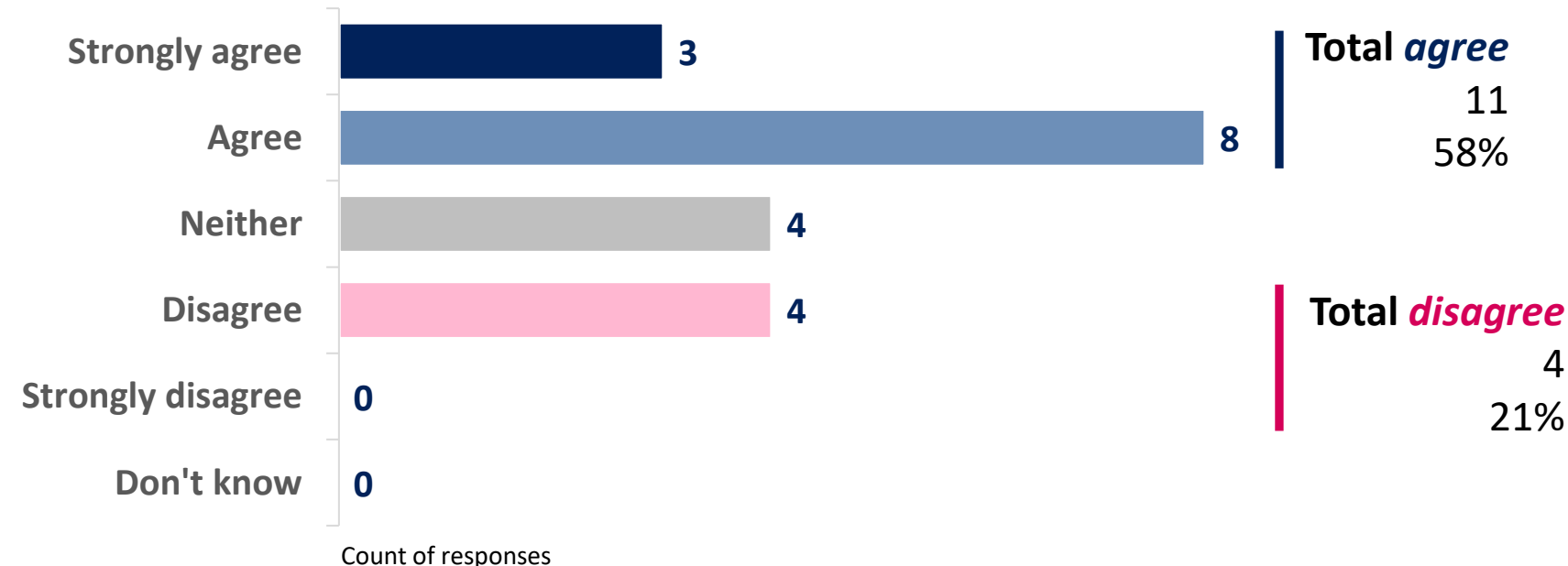


Conclusions of the draft PNA

“A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statement of current pharmaceutical services provided in the local area, which is used by NHS England when responding to applications for opening of additional pharmacies, relocation of premises and amendments to opening hours for pharmaceutical services. A PNA is not, therefore, a typical health needs assessment.

The Southampton PNA concludes that the number, distribution, and choice of pharmaceutical services meet the needs of the population and will meet future needs within the next three years. Therefore, there is no identified need for improvements or better access to pharmaceutical services in the city.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment?





Detailed consultation questionnaire*

Q6 If you disagree with anything in the sections outlined, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details

- *"Some of the data is out of date and incorrect. Some pharmacies have closed, take longer than 30 min lunch and are closed before 5.30 pm. This does not meet the need of people working and it takes longer than 4 mins to reach a pharmacy from shopping. No mention of automatically sending prescriptions to pharmacies so they are not collected as stated in the document"*

Short consultation questionnaire

Q10 If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider within the Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, please provide details

- *"A pharmacy existing in an area does not therefore mean that the pharmacy actually fulfills the needs of the area. Our local pharmacy is shut for large portions of the day, will sometimes only accept cash, and often doesn't have what I need anyway. So although I have a pharmacy within walking distance I cannot actually use it, I must take an hour out of my day to drive to the nearest precinct and use the pharmacy there. This is a big hassle for me but will be considerably more of an issue for those who do not drive and are not mobile enough to walk the distance (i.e., the elderly or disabled customers who will rely much more on having a local pharmacy). The actual level of service provided by pharmacies must be considered here."*
- *"Pharmacies are not open towards the east of the city after 5.30pm and open at 9 am as well as close for lunch which does not meet the need for people working when prescriptions are automatically sent to a nominated pharmacy. There should be a rota of late night pharmacies in each locale which needs to be communicated so the prescription can be sent to the correct one."*
- *"My local pharmacy is archaic. Their system is often confusing to them which causes greater waiting times. They shut at lunch which does not suit everyone (for example it would be easier for me to pop in during my lunch. They have several members of staff, lunch could be staggered)."*
- *"My only concern is finding a pharmacy that is open out of hours. If there are only 4 open in the whole city this isn't enough."*
- *"I live in Bitterne and there are a number of pharmacies in my local area"*

Comments received via email response

- *"Thank you for inviting [REDACTED] to comment on the Southampton Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment as a statutory partner. We have considered the document and agreed with the conclusion. Our only other comment is to highlight and welcome the opportunity for General Practice and Community Pharmacies to work in an even closer way when commissioning of Community Pharmacy is delegated to Integrated Care Systems from NHS England (either 1st April 2022 or 2023 depending on region)."*
- *"The draft PNA clearly sets out the population needs and current provision. We agree that the number, distribution, and choice of pharmaceutical services meets the needs of your population and will meet future needs within the next three years."*