

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment



**easy
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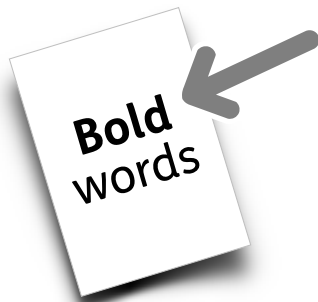
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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board is looking at pharmacy services in our area.



We have written a **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)**.

A **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)** is a document that explains what pharmacy services are needed.



You can read the full draft PNA here:
www.bedford.gov.uk/media/4956

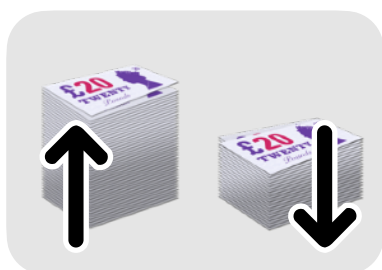
The main things we found out

About Bedford Borough

We found out:



- About 175,000 people from lots of different ethnic backgrounds live in Bedford Borough.



- Some parts of Bedford Borough have a lot of money, and some parts do not have a lot of money.



- Bedford Borough will have around 10,500 more people living there in the next 10 years.

Pharmacies and services

We found out:



- Bedford Borough has 32 pharmacies. This includes 2 Distance Selling Pharmacies - these are pharmacies that post your medicines to you.



- Pharmacies in Bedford Borough provide all the services that people need.



- Most people in Bedford Borough can walk from home to a nearby pharmacy in 20 minutes.



Pharmacy services include:

- Giving you medicine that your doctor has told you that you need.



- Selling medicines.



- Giving you advice about how to keep healthy.



- Safely getting rid of your medicines.



- Helping you with advice and medicines to deal with common, not very serious illnesses, like coughs, colds and upset tummies.



Some pharmacies in Bedford Borough also offer help to stop smoking, stay safe during sex, and give you a flu jab.

Issues and illnesses

We found out:



- The amount of people in Bedford Borough who have blood pressure, diabetes and weight issues is the same as the average in England.



- Weight issues are a big health problem, and this will continue in the future.



- The amount of people under the age of 18 who become pregnant in Bedford Borough is the same as the average in England.



- The amount of people who smoke in Bedford Borough is the same as the average in England.



- People living in areas of Bedford Borough that do not have a lot of money are more likely to smoke.



- Pharmacies give help and support for issues with smoking, blood pressure and weight issues.

What people said



We asked people questions about pharmacies in Bedford Borough to find out what they think about them.

364 people answered these questions. From their answers we found that:



- Most people have a pharmacy that they prefer to go to.



- Most people said they preferred their pharmacy because of the lots of different types of medicines it provided and the high quality of service.



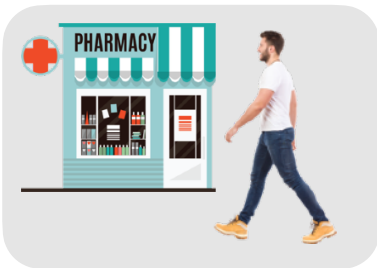
- Most people said their pharmacy was either good or excellent.



- Just over half of the people visit a pharmacy once a month or more.



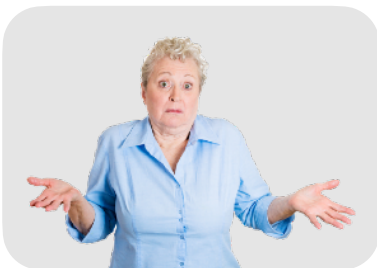
- Most people found it very easy to talk to staff at their pharmacy during COVID-19.



- Just over half of the people walked to their pharmacy.



- Most people knew about the services that their pharmacy provides.



- Only a few people knew about the Advanced Services, like the New Medicines Service and Community Pharmacist Consultation Service.

General

In general we found out that:



- There are lots of different pharmacy services in Bedford Borough to meet people's health needs.



- Pharmacies are all over Bedford Borough and people can get to these pharmacies.



- Doctors' surgeries that provide medicines are important to people in Bedford Borough who live in the countryside.



We think that Bedford Borough has a good number of pharmacies now and for the next 3 years.



We think that they provide a good service.



We will check the number of pharmacies and their services to make sure they are right for people's needs.

Ways we can be better



We found out some ways that pharmacy services in Bedford Borough can be better:



- We need to keep checking on pharmacy services in Bedford Borough.



- Pharmacies should help people to be healthy and make people more aware of their services.



- Pharmacies in Bedford Borough should try to provide the services their patients need.



- Everyone should be able to get to and use pharmacies, like people who live in the countryside.



- Pharmacies should think about providing new services.