

Title of meeting:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of meeting:	29 th November 2017
Subject:	Response to pharmacy consolidation application
Report by:	Director of Public Health
Wards affected:	Central Southsea, Milton
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services, Charges and Prescribing) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 requires the Health and Wellbeing Board to make representations on consolidation applications to NHS England. This amendment came into effect on 5th December 2016. A consolidation application of community pharmacies is where pharmacy businesses on two or more sites propose to consolidate to a single existing site. This paper presents the decision and response made to NHS England by the Health and Wellbeing Board in response to a consolidation application of two community pharmacies:

Continuing site

L Rowlands & Co LTD T/A Rowlands Pharmacy, 129 Eastney Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO4 8DZ

Closing site

L Rowlands & Co LTD T/A Rowlands Pharmacy, 117 Winter Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO4 8DS

1.2 This is the first consolidation application that has been made in the Portsmouth City Council area. The Health and Wellbeing Boards' representation needed to be received by NHS England by 24th November 2017 and has therefore was brought to the attention of Board members and relevant ward Councillors outside the usual schedule of meetings.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed that:

1. The proposed consolidation of two pharmacies would not create a gap in pharmaceutical services that could be met by a routine application to meet a current or future need for pharmaceutical services.
2. The proposed consolidation of two pharmacies would not create a gap in pharmaceutical services that could be met by a routine application to secure improvements, or better access, to pharmaceutical services.

3. Background

3.1 Access to a community pharmacy has an impact on health. Pharmacies are essential for the supply of medications to the population, but also may offer a wide range of other services in the community that promote health, from medication services to smoking cessation services. Pharmacies are independent businesses, commissioned by NHS England.

3.2 The continuing site and the closing site are located in a mainly residential area in the south locality of the city. Bransbury Park and Milton Park are located near to these pharmacy sites. St Marys Treatment Centre is located slightly east of these pharmacy sites. There are several other community pharmacy sites in the south locality.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 Will the proposed consolidation affect accessibility?

4.1.1 Opening hours

- The continuing site will retain its current opening hours.
 - o Core opening hours = 40 hours a week.
 - o Supplementary opening hours (additional opening hours, and which can be amended if NHS England consents) = 44 hours a week).
- The overall provision of opening hours will not be affected.
 - o Both sites had the same total supplementary opening hours (although the closing site had a shorter lunchtime closure leading to an earlier closing time).
- Weekend opening hours will not be affected.
 - o Both sites had the same Saturday opening times. For the continuing site, these hours will remain unchanged. Both sites did not open on Sundays, this will remain unchanged.
- Evening opening hours will not be affected.
 - o The continuing site was open until 6pm, which will remain unchanged. The closing site was open until 5.30pm.
- Lunchtime opening hours are half an hour longer at the continuing site, compared to the closing site.
 - o The continuing site had a lunchtime closure from 1pm to 2pm. This will remain unchanged. The closing site had a shorter lunchtime closure between 1.30pm to 2pm.

4.1.2 For people with specific needs

- Both the continuing and closing sites had the same provision of access for wheelchair users, access without steps and an induction loop. The application states that the induction loop will not continue to be provided at the continuing site. It is requested that NHS England clarify whether this is accurate.

4.1.3 Travel times

- These two pharmacies are 0.4miles apart, approximately an 8 minute walk.
- Reviewing the maps drawn for the Portsmouth City Council Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2015 (appendix one), this proposed consolidation is considered to have a negligible effect on travel times to a pharmacy for Portsmouth residents. These pharmacies are situated in an area well served by pharmaceutical services.

- The 2015 PNA concluded that:
 - o The population of Portsmouth can access a pharmacy within 1.6km or less from all parts of Portsmouth (assuming it's possible to travel in a straight line).
 - o In 'rush hour'/'heavy' traffic a pharmacy in Portsmouth should still be accessible within a 5 minute drive for most parts of the city, with only a few small areas with low residential density being a 10 minute drive or more from a pharmacy.

4.2 Will the proposed consolidation affect provision of pharmaceutical services?

4.2.1 The application has considered the type of pharmaceutical activity undertaken in each site. Predominant activity in the closing site is described to be monthly monitored dosage system packs (MDS). The application states that MDS packs are currently provided and will continue to be provided at the continuing site.

4.2.2 The application states that at the closing site there are low levels of walk-in prescriptions and a low volume of over the counter sales, the need for which could be met by the surrounding pharmacies.

4.2.3 With respect to advanced, enhanced and locally commissioned services, the closing site provided a wider range of pharmaceutical services. However, the two services not currently provided at the continuing site will be taken on. Pharmaceutical services continuing are Medicines Use Reviews, New Medicines Service, collection and delivery service, flu vaccinations, emergency hormonal contraception, smoking cessation, urgent repeat medicine service, concordance - monitored dosage scheme, minor ailments scheme. The two services currently provided at the closing site which will be taken on by the continuing site are needle exchange and nicotine replacement therapy voucher scheme.

4.2.4 Neither the continuing or closing sites are currently distance selling premises or appliance contractor premises.

4.3 Are there anticipated changes which may affect local demand for pharmaceutical services?

4.3.1 Major regeneration projects are identified in the city as well as new student accommodation anticipated. These sites are not in the immediate area of the closing and continuing sites relevant to this application and therefore, are not expected to change demand for pharmaceutical services in the local area.

4.4 How will a decision be made in response to the application?

4.4.1 The proposed consolidation has been notified by NHS England to a range of stakeholders.

4.4.2 NHS England will consider all representations that are received and will arrange an oral hearing to determine the application if a matter is identified on which further evidence is needed.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1 See Appendix 2. The equality impact assessment concludes that this proposed consolidation would not lead to a detrimental impact on any equality group. There will be no change to pharmaceutical provision through services and access provided by the continuing site.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services, Charges and Prescribing) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 requires the Health and Wellbeing Board to make representations on consolidation applications to NHS England. This amendment came into effect on 5th December 2016.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 No financial implications noted.

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Signed by: Dr Jason Horsley, Director of Public Health

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Portsmouth City Council Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2015:
<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/hlth-pharma-needs-assessment-consultation.pdf>

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
None	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: