

Health Scrutiny Panel

2 March 2017

Report title	Update on Funding Reductions to Community Pharmacies	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Public Health and Well-being	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People Directorate	
Originating service	Public Health and Well-being	
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Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Receive the update report as requested and identify any further opportunities to support community pharmacy services across Wolverhampton

Recommendations for noting:

The Panel is asked to note:

1. The good joint working on community pharmacy between the City of Wolverhampton Council, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Wolverhampton CCG and NHS England
2. Identify any further opportunities to support the community pharmacy offer
3. Receive future updates on developments

1.0 Purpose

1.1 Health Scrutiny Panel have requested an update on the funding reductions to community pharmacy, as announced by the Government in October 2016.

2.0 Background

2.1 There are 74 community pharmacies in Wolverhampton providing a range of services, from dispensing medicines, self-care support through to public health promotion. NHS England commissions community pharmacies, with CCGs, public health departments and others commissioning specific additional services.

2.2 In December 2015, the government announced that funding for community pharmacy in 2016/17 would be reduced by £170 million. The cut would be a reduction of more than 6% in cash terms.

2.3 It had been expected that the reduction would be implemented in October 2016, however after the change of Government (post-Brexit), pharmacy minister David Mowat announced that the proposed funding reduction would not be implemented.

2.4 The government announced on 14 October 2016 that it would be reducing funding to community pharmacies by £113 million in the four months December 2016 – March 2017, equating to a loss on average of £8,000 per Wolverhampton pharmacy, representing a 12% reduction. There would be a further reduction of £208 million in 2017/18, which is an anticipated additional loss of, on average, £14,500 per Wolverhampton pharmacy.

2.5 In addition to this announcement, the Department of Health have outlined a Quality Payment scheme of up to £75 million as part of the overall funding sum in 2017/18 to pharmacies meeting certain quality criteria.

2.6 To qualify for quality payments, pharmacies will have to meet four criteria including provision of at least one Advanced Service; their NHS Choices entry must be up-to-date; the pharmacy must be able to use NHS mail; and they must utilise the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS).

2.7 Pharmacies meeting these criteria can then receive a Quality Payment if they meet certain criteria which are weighted and assigned points. The points are expected to be equivalent of £64 so a maximum of £6,400 per pharmacy per year.

3.0 Update and Discussion

3.1 Since the announcement there has been one closure of a community pharmacy in Wolverhampton, that is Boots in Bilston. However it is unclear if this was due to the funding reductions. Amongst other pharmacies a more immediate impact is likely to be a reduction in the provision of additional services, which contribute to the health and well-being of local communities.

- 3.2 This is in part due to the fact that community pharmacies in Wolverhampton have developed to provide good coverage without over-provision of services, as was highlighted in the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment of 2015. This may not be the case in neighbouring areas where closures may therefore be a higher risk.
- 3.3 Future possible impacts of these reductions on community pharmacies in Wolverhampton are therefore:
- Reduced investment by business owners in premises, staff and stock
 - Focus on core dispensing services and thus reduction in the provision of locally commissioned Enhanced Services, e.g. Public Health commissioned services, minor ailments services
 - Closure of pharmacies in the longer term, leading to a reduction in accessible healthcare for vulnerable communities and increased pressure on other parts of the health and social care systems
- 3.4 One way in which some of the local services could be maintained is through the development of other initiatives, such as the Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) Programme that we are developing with partners across Wolverhampton.
- 3.5 The HLP concept is becoming more established as a recognised quality mark, with over 1000 pharmacies across England now accredited to display the HLP logo. To become a HLP, a pharmacy has to demonstrate:
- At least one Health Champion, usually a healthcare assistant who has undertaken and passed the Royal Society for Public Health's Understanding Health Improvement Level 2 Award
 - The pharmacist (or manager) to have undertaken leadership training so that they understand what is required to lead implementation and are able to engage and motivate their team in the HLP concept
 - Evidence from the pharmacy that they have achieved the HLP Quality Criteria and are proactively engaging with their community in health promotion activities
- 3.5 On 29 November 2016, Wolverhampton Public Health, Wolverhampton Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Wolverhampton CCG and NHS England launched the HLP initiative to community pharmacies in Wolverhampton with a view to engaging those that wish to actively pursue the programme.
- 3.6 To support this a number of training events have been organised. By the end of March 2017 Wolverhampton will have:
- 120 trained health champions
 - 55 pharmacists or managers leadership trained
 - 74% of Pharmacies able to qualify as HLP accredited

- 66 Health champions undertaking stop smoking training and delivering a city wide HLP smoking campaign

3.7 With the changing landscape of health and social care, community pharmacies will continue to be important in prevention and early intervention. Despite the challenging financial environment, there are significant opportunities to develop other services through community pharmacy, such as alcohol early intervention, oral health promotion, falls prevention, diabetes prevention and mental well-being. In Wolverhampton, HLP is the start of developing a longer term partnership between community pharmacy, CCG, primary care, social care and the voluntary and community sector.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications of the funding reductions to community pharmacy for City of Wolverhampton Council. [GS/22022017/J]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications of the funding reductions to community pharmacy for City of Wolverhampton Council - TS/22022017/D

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 A reduction in access to services via community pharmacies could adversely affect those that are the most disadvantaged, i.e. those without access to a car, who are immobile or do not access the internet may find it more difficult to access alternative services.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 None

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 None

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 None

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None