

City Of Wolverhampton Council

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CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Our mission:
Working as one to
serve our city

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Background: current provision

- There are 74 community pharmacies in Wolverhampton providing a range of services, varying from small independent pharmacies through to the bigger chains of pharmacies
- Public Health Departments are required to publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment every three years, which describes the current provision of community pharmacy services and explore whether this meets the needs of our population. The most recent assessment was published in 2015 and concluded that there is adequate provision of community pharmacies which is well spread across the city.

Valuing Community Pharmacy

- From our Pharmacy Needs Assessment we know community pharmacy is highly valued by residents, provide a wide range of services, have flexible opening times and is accessible in venues across the city
- All provide invaluable services, including dispensing of medicines, safe disposal of medicines, and supporting self care
- But also provide a significant role in supporting public health through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and participation in health promotion campaigns

Public Health Services

- Many community pharmacies in Wolverhampton are commissioned to provide the following public health services:
- Needle Exchange Service – supply of clean needles for drug users, reducing the incidence of Blood Borne Viruses and accept used needles to ensure safe disposal
- Supervised Consumption Service –supervision of the consumption by drug users of Methadone and/or Buprenorphine to ensure adherence to the medication regime and ensure that prescribed drugs do not enter the ‘black market’

Public Health Services

- Smoking Cessation Services – the provision of Stop Smoking services in a pharmacy setting with the supply of Nicotine Replacement Therapy products if required
- Sexual Health Services – the free provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception, free condoms and free chlamydia testing kits are available in a number of pharmacies

Reductions in Funding

- December 2015, the government announced that funding for community pharmacy in 2016/17 would be reduced by £170m. The reduction, from £2.8bn to £2.63bn, represented a reduction of more than 6% in cash terms.
- It had been expected that the reduction would be implemented in October 2016
- After the change of Government (post-Brexit), it was announced that the funding reduction would not be implemented as planned

Final announcement on reductions

- Government announced on 14th October 2016 that funding for community pharmacies would be reduced by £113m in the four months from December 2016 - March 2017.
- This equates to an average loss of £8,000 for each pharmacy in Wolverhampton, representing a 12% cut
- In addition a further cut of £208m, equating to, on average, £14,500 per pharmacy in Wolverhampton, will be imposed next year.

Anticipated impacts

The cuts were required to be delivered in a very short time scale, leaving local pharmacies very little time to plan or implement.

Local discussions highlighted the funding reductions may result in the following impacts in Wolverhampton:

- 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
- Closure of pharmacies, leading to a reduction in accessible healthcare for vulnerable communities and increased pressure on other parts of the health & social care systems
- Important clinical services and care the pharmacy teams provide could be in doubt in the future

Impact to date

Impacts in Wolverhampton to date have been minimal:

- One pharmacy has closed, Boots in Bilston, (not necessarily due to the reductions)
- Vacant posts seem to be being re considered
- Owners report working longer hours and therefore reducing the use of locums

However,

- There is the potential for pharmacies to close in the longer term, with pharmacies needing to make further efficiencies and savings with the funding reductions 2017/18, and as leases on properties come up for renewal

New funding streams?

- After the reductions were announced the following new funding streams were unveiled:
- Extra money for Emergency Repeat Medicines services: overall budget is £2m, therefore negligible per pharmacy, and it is only a pilot until end of March 2018. This is coming out of the new pharmacy integration fund
- The Access scheme: would effect one pharmacy in Wolverhampton. This is not new money, but will come from the Global Sum.
- The Pharmacy Integration Fund: will go to support clinical pharmacy roles working in primary care, which is a very different role.

New Funding Streams

- £6,300 max per year for improving the quality of services that are provided in community pharmacy: supports the work we are doing on developing the Healthy Living Pharmacy scheme across Wolverhampton. It is asking pharmacists to work in a different way.
- Therefore local pharmacies will still lose the funding as identified and that could result in a loss of services. Below average item volume pharmacies are likely to be the most vulnerable

Healthy Living Pharmacy(HLP)

- HLP is a quality mark given to pharmacies that meet a defined set of criteria, and that proactively engage with the public to support health and wellbeing.
- Healthy Living Pharmacies are a great resource for supporting self-care, promoting good health and signposting into relevant local services.
- Wolverhampton Public Health, Wolverhampton LPC, NHS England and Wolverhampton CCG had commenced a programme of work to develop HLP across Wolverhampton prior to the announcements on cuts

What is it?

To become an HLP, a pharmacy has to demonstrate:

- They have at least one Health Champion, usually a healthcare assistant. who has passed the Royal Society for Public Health's Understanding Health Improvement Level 2 Award
- The pharmacist (or manager) has 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 and are signed up as Antibiotic Guardians

Progress to date

- Wolverhampton HLP was launched November 2016, with over 100 pharmacy staff and supporting organisations attending the launch event.
- We have identified 40 pharmacy staff are already qualified as health champions
- A number of training events are planned before the end of March. To date we have an additional 57 staff signed up to be trained as health champions, and 45 signed up to attend the Leadership training
- With some of the national chains undertaking their own training we anticipate we will have a total of:
 - 120 Health Champions
 - 55 Leadership trained, equating to 74% of all pharmacies HLP accredited

HLP Activity

The first campaign we have launched is on Smoking with 66 health champions trained, and activity in pharmacies to be completed during February and March. Other campaigns for this year include:

- Diabetes
- Sexual health
- Winter preparedness
- Wound Care
- Falls prevention

Future potential

- With the changing landscape of health and social care community pharmacies will continue to be important in prevention and early intervention
- 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
- HLP is just the start of developing a longer term partnership between community pharmacy, CCG, primary care, social care and the voluntary and community sector.