

August 2015

PSNC Briefing 051/15: Update on the Health and Care Landscape

This briefing is part of a series issued regularly by PSNC to inform pharmacy contractors and LPCs of developments in the wider health and care landscape beyond community pharmacy. It builds on the Health & Care Review articles which are published on the PSNC website every week.

The future of primary care: creating teams for tomorrow - Primary Care Workforce Commission report

The Primary Care Workforce Commission has published [The future of primary care, Creating teams for tomorrow](#), which calls for greater collaboration across organisations and a broader range of staff to be involved in the delivery of healthcare.

The report calls for wider use of community pharmacists and pharmacy support staff in managing minor illness and advising people about optimising their medicines. It also recognises that greater use of pharmacy services such as weight management and smoking cessation, could relieve some of the demand for care from general practices.

The Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt commissioned Health Education England to establish the independent Primary Care Workforce Commission to identify and highlight innovative models of primary care that will meet the future needs of patients and the NHS.

7-day NHS services: a factsheet

The Department of Health has published a [factsheet](#) describing why the NHS needs to offer a 7-day service and further action that the Government wants to take to make NHS services safer.

Labour pledge to apply for debate as more than 200,000 sign Hunt no-confidence petition

Labour shadow health secretary Andy Burnham has said he will apply for a debate in the Commons after more than 200,000 people signed a petition calling for a vote of no confidence in health secretary Jeremy Hunt.

The [no-confidence petition](#) was organised by NHS doctors who say the health secretary has alienated the entire workforce of the NHS by threatening to impose a harsh contract and conditions on first consultants and then the rest of the NHS staff.

Parliament must consider all petitions that get more than 100,000 signatures for a debate and Mr Burnham has tweeted to say he will apply to debate when the House returns from recess.

Sir Malcolm reappointed as Chair of NHS England

Professor Sir Malcolm Grant has been re-appointed as Chair of NHS England.

Sir Malcolm has been in post since 2011, firstly as founding chairman of the NHS Commissioning Board which subsequently changed its operating name to NHS England in 2013. He will continue in his role from the end of October for another three years.

First vanguard funding allocation from £200m transformation fund

Three new models of care vanguard sites have become the first to be named to receive money from the £200m transformation fund, with another five sites being approved in principle to receive funding.

The first vanguard sites to receive transformation funding will be:

- Sunderland, £6.5m;
- Northumberland, £8.3m; and
- South Somerset, £4.9m.

A further £41m has been approved in principle for:

- Morecambe Bay;
- Southern Hampshire;
- Isle of Wight;
- Salford; and
- Wirral.

Further funding for other sites will be approved later in the year.

Support package launched for vanguards

An initial support package has been published for the new vanguards which were launched earlier this year.

Building on the best practice already being displayed, the support package is designed to be led by vanguard leaders alongside national experts, and aims to help the vanguards be as successful as possible in making the changes they are planning.

It is also intended to maximise sharing of learning and practice across the 29 vanguards and, importantly, with the wider NHS and care system – a key element of the vanguards' work.

The support package, which covers 2015/16, focuses on eight areas:

- 1. Designing new care models** – working with the vanguards to develop their local model of care, maximising the greatest impact and value for patients;
- 2. Evaluation and metrics** – supporting the vanguards to understand – on an ongoing basis – the impact their changes are having on patients, staff and the wider population;
- 3. Integrated commissioning and provision** – assisting the vanguards to break down the barriers which prevent their local health system from developing integrated commissioning;
- 4. Empowering patients and communities** – working with the vanguards to enhance the way in which they work with patients, local people and communities to develop services;
- 5. Harnessing technology** – supporting the vanguards to rethink how care is delivered, given the potential of digital technology to deliver care in radically different ways. It will also help organisations to more easily share patient information;
- 6. Workforce redesign** – supporting the vanguards to develop a modern, flexible workforce which is organised around patients and their local populations;
- 7. Local leadership and delivery** – working with the vanguards to develop leadership capability and learn from international experts, and;
- 8. Communications and engagement** – supporting the vanguards to demonstrate best practice in the way they engage with staff, patients and local people.

A number of dedicated workstreams – which will be led by a vanguard leader and national subject matter expert – will work with the vanguards to refine what is being offered so that it is fully tailored to their needs.

Hospital-based GP practice for patients with five or more serious long-term conditions

A GP practice based within a hospital is looking to sign up just patients who have five or more serious long-term conditions to its list.

Health 1000, based at King George Hospital, London, has begun advertising for patients who will receive services from GPs as well as other healthcare professionals including nurses, consultants, physiotherapists, geriatricians, occupational therapists and a social worker.

The new practice aims to reduce pressure on the Emergency department by ensuring patients who are at risk of having to be admitted to hospital regularly are provided with personalised, responsive care. This includes patients with coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, heart failure, stroke, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia and depression.

The scheme is run by GPs who have received funding from the [Prime Ministers Challenge Fund](#) to increase GP access, and it has been commissioned by two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Barking and Dagenham CCG and NHS Havering and Redbridge CCG.

Patients who sign up to the new practice will be transferred from their existing GP practice, they cannot access services from both; however, they will be able to access a personal key worker to coordinate their care via telephone seven days a week, and be seen at home if more appropriate, the CCGs said.

Diabetes medicines account for 10% of primary care prescribing budget

New figures show that medicines used to treat diabetes now account for 10% of the annual primary care prescribing bill in England.

The report [Prescribing for diabetes in England](#) published by Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) shows that in 2014/15:

- the Net Ingredient Cost for managing diabetes was £868.6 million – This represents 10% of the total primary care prescribing spend in 2014/15 (£8,704.9 million), compared with 9.5% in 2013/14 and 6.6% in 2005/06;
- 47.2 million items were prescribed for diabetes, a 4.6% increase (2.1 million) from 45.1 million items in 2013/14 and a 74.1% (20.1 million) rise on 2005/6 (27.1 million); and
- diabetes medicines accounted for 4.5% (47.2 million) of all prescription items (1,059.8 million) compared with 4.4% (45.1 million) in 2013/14 (1,027.9 million) and 3.8% (27.1 million) in 2005/06 (722.4 million).

5% of appointments at GP practices are “no-shows”

One in 20 appointments at GP practices are missed by patients, research by a Local Medical Committee (LMC) has shown.

In 2014 68,000 appointments across 29 practices in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LMC area were missed by patients. The findings suggest that across England, more than 16 million appointments are missed each year.

Leaders of the medical profession have warned that no-shows for GP appointments are adding to the pressure on an already overstretched GP workforce.

Public Health England’s annual plan 2015/16 published

Public Health England (PHE) has published their annual plan [Who we are and what we do: Annual Plan 2015/16](#).

The plan sets out the core functions of PHE and outlines the key steps and actions for the year ahead.

PSNC has published a [Briefing](#) which summarises the elements of the plan that are of most relevance to community pharmacy.

Call for expressions of interest for diabetes prevention programme

NHS England, Public Health England and Diabetes UK are calling for expressions of interest from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local authority (LA) partnerships to become first wave sites for the [NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme](#) in 2016.

First wave implementers will partner with contracted providers of the new service, to deliver behavioural interventions to prevent Type 2 diabetes in their locality. Expressions of interest covering geographies greater than individual CCGs are being encouraged, as are collaborative expressions of interest between CCGs and LAs.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 18th September 2015.

NHS Friends and Family Test reaches 10 million pieces of feedback

The NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT) has reached another milestone, having received 10 million feedback responses from patients.

The FFT was launched in April 2013 and allows patients to give feedback on their experiences of care and treatment in services throughout the NHS. It has quickly grown into the world's biggest collection of patient feedback on a health service and gives staff the ability to react promptly and make swift and lasting improvements to care provided.

Although the FFT helps identify areas where improvements can be made, most of the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive across healthcare organisations. Many have reported that it has provided an unexpected boost to staff morale and created many more opportunities to give well deserved appreciation to individual staff who have provided excellent patient care.

New partnership between NHS England and the Fire and Rescue Services

NHS England and the Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) have established a new partnership to use their collective capabilities and resources more effectively to enhance the lives of older people and those with complex conditions.

Working together with PHE, the Chief Fire Officers Association, the Local Government Association (LGA) and Age UK, the group has established a new working relationship aimed at improving the quality of life for people who would benefit from brief health and wellbeing interventions in their own homes, and better coordinated public services.

Jacque White, NHS England's Deputy Director for People with Long Term Conditions, explained "The Fire and Rescue Services in England carry out 670,000 home visits annually on vulnerable people.

"They are already providing some basic health interventions – but they are keen to do more.

"Health and local government staff in some areas are working with the FRS to identify households with complex conditions or needs and increased risk of fire. They agree a local list of health interventions to be provided, while also developing ways of directing people who need help from health or care services."

NHS England is supporting the local development of a whole system, multi-agency approach to deliver the national commitment of more integrated person centred care closer to home.

A consensus statement between NHS England, the Chief Fire Officers' Association, PHE, LGA and Age UK will be published soon along with design principles for 'safe and well visits' and links to case studies.

National patient safety alert – implementation of an antimicrobial stewardship programme to address antimicrobial resistance

NHS England, Health Education England and PHE have issued a joint National Patient Safety Alert to all providers of NHS care in England to highlight the challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the need for antimicrobial stewardship.

Inappropriate use of antimicrobials has been a key driver in AMR, which has risen alarmingly over the last 40 years. From 2010 to 2013, total antibiotic prescribing in England increased by 6%, comprised of a 4% rise in general practice and a 12% increase in hospital inpatient prescribing.

The joint patient safety alert signposts NHS organisations to the [TARGET \(Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools\)](#); and [Antimicrobial Stewardship: Start Smart then Focus](#) toolkits. The toolkits have been developed by PHE in collaboration with several professional bodies to support the NHS in improving antimicrobial stewardship in both primary and secondary care. Through the alert health providers are asked to specifically identify how the toolkits can be used to support their own local antimicrobial stewardship programmes.

E-cigarettes around 95% less harmful than tobacco

PHE has published an [expert independent evidence review](#), which has concluded that e-cigarettes are significantly less harmful to health than tobacco and have the potential to help smokers quit smoking.

Key findings of the review include:

- the current best estimate is that e-cigarettes are around 95% less harmful than smoking;
- nearly half the population (44.8%) don't realise e-cigarettes are much less harmful than smoking; and
- there is no evidence so far that e-cigarettes are acting as a route into smoking for children or non-smokers.

The review, commissioned by PHE and led by Professor Ann McNeill (King's College London) and Professor Peter Hajek (Queen Mary University of London), suggests that e-cigarettes may be contributing to falling smoking rates among adults and young people. Following the review PHE has published a paper on [the implications of the evidence for policy and practice](#).

The comprehensive review of the evidence finds that almost all of the 2.6 million adults using e-cigarettes in Great Britain are current or ex-smokers, most of whom are using the devices to help them quit smoking or to prevent them going back to cigarettes. It also provides reassurance that very few adults and young people who have never smoked are becoming regular e-cigarette users (less than 1% in each group).

However, the review raises concerns that increasing numbers of people think e-cigarettes are equally or more harmful than smoking (22.1% in 2015, up from 8.1% in 2013: ASH Smokefree GB survey) or don't know (22.7% in 2015, ASH Smokefree GB survey).

Despite this trend all current evidence finds that e-cigarettes carry a fraction of the risk of smoking. Emerging evidence suggests some of the highest successful quit rates are now seen among smokers who use an e-cigarette and also receive additional support from their local stop smoking services.

If you have any queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information, please contact [Rosie Taylor, Pharmacy and NHS Policy Officer](#).