

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

On behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey LPCs



Our Views

Surrey County Council – Public Health Service
Consultation about changes to Stop Smoking Service

February 2020

For enquiries regarding this response, please contact:

James Wood FRPharmS
Chief Executive
Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex
jameswood@communitypharmacys.co.uk

About Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex is the local voice for all community pharmacies on behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs).

We represent over 530 pharmacies, on all matters relating to the NHS and public health work undertaken by community pharmacy. This includes single handed independent pharmacies through to medium and large pharmacy businesses. Pharmacies in our area, between them, employ thousands of local people and are at the heart of communities.

Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex negotiates and discusses local pharmacy services with commissioners and is available to give advice to community pharmacy contractors and others wanting to know more about local pharmacy. We are committed to helping to develop and support community pharmacy teams, to deliver high quality health services.

Working closely with the local NHS, including NHS England & Improvement regional team, CCGs and local government, we are responsible for advancing the enhanced role of community pharmacy to ensure it plays an active part in promoting health and wellbeing across Surrey and Sussex. Our vision is to enhance the role of community pharmacy and to ensure the sector has an active role in promoting health and wellbeing in Surrey and Sussex.

Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) are local representative committee of pharmacy contractors in the area covered by the LPC that has been approved by NHS England under the NHS Act 2006, as the body representing the owners of the community pharmacies in the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board area.

Regulations under the NHS Act require NHS England to consult LPCs on matters such as market entry and local enhanced services. The LPC negotiates and discusses locally commissioned pharmacy services with other commissioners and is available to give advice to community pharmacy contractors and others wanting to know more about local community pharmacy.

The LPC constitution sets out the role and duties of the LPC that include:

- representing their contractors in local and national consultations relevant to pharmacy contractors; making representations to NHS England, Health and Wellbeing Boards and PSNC.
- providing support, resources and guidance to pharmacy contractors, such as advice on contract compliance and monitoring, market entry and other locally commissioned services.
- promotion and development of local pharmacy through local public affairs and lobbying to create an environment for community pharmacy to flourish.

Further information is available on our website at <http://communitypharmacys.co.uk/>

Overview

Surrey LPC welcomed the opportunity to be consulted about the proposed changes to the stop smoking services provided by primary care providers, including community pharmacies and general practice.

Our Views

A total of 47 community pharmacies in Surrey hold contracts to provide the one to one behavioural support elements of the stop smoking service, with over 20 providing on a regular basis. Whilst the prevalence of smoking in Surrey has decreased over the last few years, the quit rate achieved through community pharmacies has been consistent, making them an established, integrated and trusted provider as part of the overall commissioned service arrangements.

It is disappointing to see the service being re-specified removing primary care provision. We feel this removes the choice and accessibility, however, the LPC recognised this need to be balanced against more specialist provision, as trends in smoking change and the complexity of those presenting.

In making the changes, we would encourage commissioners to use this as an opportunity to maximise the network of community pharmacy accessibility and contact with hard-to-reach groups to refer potential clients into the specialist service. Many smokers per day pass through a Surrey pharmacy and staff are ideally placed to opportunistically provide brief interventions and identify those who would benefit from more specialist support. This may be picked up, for example, when nicotine-stained fingers are observed, the purchase of a smoker's toothpaste or repeated requests for cough remedies.

Surrey LPC would welcome discussions on how best to reinvest the funds from decommissioning the primary care behavioural support elements of the service to develop the following areas:

1. Local referral pathways

Incentivised appropriately and developed imaginatively, could support the specialist service with a warm referral stream. It would also ensure community pharmacies are integrated as a front door and important gateway into the service and offset some of the issues identified in the impact assessment of service decommissioning.

Robust pathways will help develop relationships between community pharmacies and the specialist service. This will be important as NHS England develops the contractual framework to introduce plans to refer patients for stop smoking support from other care settings, such as secondary care.

2. Access to stop smoking products

Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) voucher service Pharmacy staff could supply NRT when presented with a valid voucher issued by the specialist stop smoking service. Pharmacists could supply either of the prescription-only medicines (POM), bupropion or

varenicline, under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) when presented with a valid voucher issued by the local stop smoking service. The pharmacist will carry out a clinical check to ensure the medicine is suitable for the patient and they will decide whether a supply can be made. Ongoing stop smoking support would be provided by the specialist stop smoking service

Wider Developments

From 2020-2021, all community pharmacies in Surrey will be Healthy Living Pharmacies, making them local hubs promoting health, wellbeing and self-care, and providing services to prevent ill-health. This focus provides a unique opportunity to have these discussions.

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex on behalf of Surrey LPC is committed to working in collaboration with public health colleagues in a positive and constructive way. We urge commissioners to keep us informed when decisions about the service are made and how we can align our communications around any subsequent developments.