

Health and Wellbeing Board 21st April 2016

‘COMMUNITY PHARMACY IN 2016/17 AND BEYOND’ CONSULTATION

Responsible Officer

Email: Rod.Thomson@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 253978

1. Summary

- 1.1 Community pharmacies play a vital role in dispensing medicines and advising on their use; promoting good health and supporting the prevention agenda; and supporting people to look after themselves. However, there is opportunity for them to play an even greater role as part of integrated, local care models and help to improve the health of the population.
- 1.2 As of 31st December 2014 there were 53 community pharmacies in Shropshire. The most recent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) identified that due to the rural nature of Shropshire, many localities are supported by GP practices that dispense to their patients. The PNA also identified that currently Shropshire has a good level of provision providing choice and convenience to our population, however, there is more limited access during weekends and in the later evenings. Similarly, it is not clear what the arrangements for resilience are amongst our community pharmacies.
- 1.3 On the 17th December 2015 the Department of Health launched a consultation, ‘Community Pharmacy in 2016/17 and beyond’, inviting the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiation Committee, pharmacy stakeholders and others to consider the future development of community pharmacy. The written element of the consultation was open until 12th February 2016, with further stakeholder sessions held during March 2016. The consultation concentrated upon:
 - Pharmacy integration
 - Medicines supply
 - Maximising patient choice and convenience
- 1.4 The consultation sets out the changes for community pharmacy as the Department of Health looks to integrate more closely with other NHS services and at the same time make efficiencies that include budget reductions (please see the links below for more information regarding the proposals).
- 1.5 Shropshire has concerns for the proposed changes and the particular impact that this may have upon rural communities. Our concerns include:
 - The PNA highlighted that we have good rural provision of community pharmacies; on this basis, community pharmacies are currently forming part of our Future Fit and Community Fit work-streams and their availability is integral to developing sustainable services in Shropshire. As such, any consequential changes to levels of provision may have a negative effect upon our population, with disproportionate effects likely to fall upon our rural communities;

- The intention to enable a 'click and collect' service and other online services and developments require a good internet connection, which is lacking in many of our rural communities;
- The 'hub and spoke' legislation relating to dispensing doctors may have an effect upon, and increase disadvantage for, our patients living in rural areas;
- The Access Scheme must take into account patients' access to dispensing practices, and these plans need to be 'rural-proofed' in order to ensure that health inequalities are not increased.

2. Recommendations

1. That the Board discuss and agree consultation submission on behalf of the Shropshire Health & Wellbeing Board

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is charged with reducing health inequalities, as such, considerations for reducing inequalities is part of everything that we do.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial considerations associated with this report.

5. Background

Shropshire's most recent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment was published in May 2015 (please see the link below for more detail)

6. Conclusions

n/a

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p> <p>Shropshire's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment: http://www.shropshiretogether.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/PNA-2015-FINAL.pdf</p> <p>Letter from the Department of Health to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee regarding the consultation: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486941/letter-psnc.pdf</p> <p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr Karen Calder</p> <p>Local Member</p> <p>Appendices</p>
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