

Section A - EQUALITY ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:

Proposed commissioning intentions for Public Health Services in Community Pharmacy from 1st December 2022 – 31st March 2028

Date: 27/04/2022

Version Number: 1

Equality Analysis completed by:

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Job title: Public Health Lead

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name: Gerry Taylor

Job title: Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ()

Changing/Being Reviewed (X)

Other ()

Part 1. Purpose and Scope

Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

[Further Guidance](#)

Background

Further to the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities have responsibility for improving the health of the local population. In order to do so, they often commission services from local community pharmacies that aim to improve health. This has a number of benefits, in particular relating to the wide availability and accessibility of pharmacies in local communities and their key function in dispensing relevant evidence based products, such as those to help with smoking cessation or provide emergency contraception.

In Sunderland, a range of services are commissioned in this way. These are:

- a. Smoking Cessation Services – these aim to provide behavioural support and access to appropriate smoking cessation medications for those that wish to give up smoking tobacco.
- b. Provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Varenicline to support smoking cessation.
- c. Supervised consumption of opioid substitutes – this helps to improve treatment outcomes for those with substance misuse issues and reduces risk of medications being diverted or taken by somebody other than the service user.
- d. Harm Reduction (including Needle Exchange) – this helps to reduce risk of transmission of communicable diseases by ensuring that those that need to can access sterile injecting equipment. It also enables provision of key harm reduction information and helps reduce drug-related litter.
- e. Provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), C Card and Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea screening – provision of these services in community pharmacies provides an accessible way to help reduce unwanted pregnancies as well as transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.
- f. Provision of Healthy Start Vitamins – this supports the national Healthy Start scheme by making free vitamins available for mothers and their babies.

These services are currently in place via direct contracting arrangements between the Council and General Practices until 30th November 2022. As such, the proposal looks to establish commissioning intentions to further develop and sustain these services for the coming years.

Proposed Decision

There are a number of decisions which combine to establish the next steps for these services in Sunderland. The main one amongst them is to put in place contracts for Public Health Services in Community Pharmacy for the period 1st December 2023 to 31st March 2028 to include:

- Smoking Cessation Services
- Provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Varenicline
- Provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception, C Card and Chlamydia/ Gonorrhoea screening
- Provision of Healthy Start Vitamins

In order to reach this point, it is firstly proposed to extend the existing contracts for a further year up to 30th November 2023 and secondly to narrow the scope of services to be provided under the contract to remove the two services relating to substance misuse (supervised consumption and harm reduction) from 01st December 2022. The latter is in favour of arrangements where the local specialist substance misuse provider will contract with pharmacies for the delivery of those schemes; these arrangements aim to secure better integration with substance misuse treatment delivery.

Policy and Guidance

In terms of the services themselves, though smoking cessation services are not mandated for local authorities, they are evidence based and proven to help reduce the prevalence of smoking. Despite decreases in prevalence of smoking in Sunderland, the city continues to have comparatively high levels of smokers – during 2020 14.6% of adults in Sunderland were identified as current smokers, compared to 13.6% across the North East and 12.1% across England. As such, there continues to be a need to maximise access to smoking cessation services. Pharmacies have remained a popular choice for residents to access smoking cessation in recent years, both to receive behavioural support and to access evidence based products such as Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Varenicline (Champix).

Provision of open access sexual and reproductive health services is a mandated function for local authorities. Widespread access to free EHC via community pharmacies is recognised as a valuable first line response to help reduce unplanned pregnancies – particularly in areas of high deprivation where residents may not otherwise be able to afford the products. Additionally, these schemes can help offer an opportunity for the provision of wider advice and information on how to reduce risk of repeat pregnancies (for example via signposting to provision of long term contraception solutions) and how to reduce risk of transmission of sexually transmitted infections (for example via chlamydia screening or access to free condoms).

As part of their responsibilities under the Health and Social Care Act 2021, local authorities must put place facilities for eligible local residents to access Healthy Start Vitamins. Whilst these does not have to be via community pharmacies, they can offer good local access to Healthy Start Vitamins through their presence in all communities.

From 2020/21, all community pharmacies have been required to become Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLPs). This is embedded within the [Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24](#). The HLP Framework aims to achieve consistent delivery of a broad range of health improvement interventions through community pharmacies to meet local needs, improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and help to reduce health inequalities. Participation in public health schemes such as those discussed above can help pharmacies to achieve and improve upon HLP as well as increasing general local networking opportunities, such as access to key health improvement training that is available free of charge.

Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

[Further Guidance](#)

The Public Health Outcomes Framework indicates that Sunderland experiences comparatively poor outcomes in a number of areas that the services within the scope of this proposal are designed to help address. In particular:

- Sunderland continues to see high levels of smoking when compared to other areas. During 2020 14.6% of adults in Sunderland were identified as current smokers, compared to 13.6% across the North East and 12.1% across England. Those in routine and manual occupations in Sunderland have a higher prevalence of smoking at 18.4%. Additionally, within Sunderland more women smoke during pregnancy (15.1% in 2020, compared to 13.3% across the North East and 9.6% across England); this places both mothers and their children at risk of smoking-related ill health. Most recent data (Q2 2021/22) indicates that around 20% of successful smoking quits in Sunderland were through services delivered in community pharmacies. During 2020/21, community pharmacies achieved a successful quit rate of 61.3% amongst those that accessed their services. Alongside this, many quits supported via other routes benefit from the provision of NRT or varenicline via community pharmacies.
- The conception rate amongst under 18s in Sunderland has shown a steady decline, particularly from 2008. However, the most recent rate of conceptions per 1,000 was 21.7 (2020). This is still significantly higher than the rate across England which is 13.0 per 1,000 and higher than rate for the North East which is 18.6 per 1,000. By providing access to EHC in community pharmacies, local residents (both under the age of 18 and of other ages) will be able to receive effective contraception to help ensure that unplanned pregnancies are minimised. Additionally, they will be able to access holistic advice in relation to wider sexual and reproductive health issues.

The most recent update of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Sunderland is currently available online for statutory consultation ahead of publication in October 2022. This indicates that Sunderland residents have access to stop smoking/NRT, EHC/sexual health and Healthy Start Vitamins in all localities of the city via these schemes. This provides significant opportunities to reduce the health inequalities seen in some areas of the city.

Gaps in intelligence and information

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

[Further Guidance](#)

Not applicable.

Additional Impacts

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)

[Further Guidance](#)

Evidence shows that the most deprived wards in Sunderland have the highest smoking and teenage pregnancy rates. It is anticipated that the proposal will help ensure that preventative interventions are available within these areas through access within community pharmacies. This will have a positive impact on changing behaviour and preventing ill-health.

Part 2. Analysis of Impact on People

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.

[Further Guidance](#)

Characteristic	List of Impacts		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	Services within the scope of the proposal are for both adults and young people. It is anticipated they will have a positive impact on people of all ages, for example by reducing prevalence of smoking, including smoking in pregnancy. Additionally they offer opportunities to help reduce unplanned pregnancies and prevent transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.		
Disability		Services within the scope of the proposal will be delivered in a way which ensures they do not discriminate based on disability.	
Gender/Sex		Services within the scope of the proposal are provided for all residents, irrespective of gender/sex.	
Marriage & Civil Partnership		Services within the scope of the proposal are will ensure that messages use are suitable for people who are married or in a civil partnership.	
Pregnancy and maternity	It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity as it will help reduce tobacco use during pregnancy. It will also help support women to plan pregnancies by offering wider access to emergency hormonal contraception.		

Race/Ethnicity		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.	
Religion/belief		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all religions and beliefs.	
Sexual Orientation		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all sexual orientations.	
Gender identity		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all gender identities.	

Please add any additional groups mentioned in the “additional impacts” section above.

Part 3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

No Major Change (☒)

Continue Despite Negative Implications (☐)

Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity (☐)

Stop (☐)

Action Plan

[Further Guidance](#)

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS TEMPLATE IS PUBLISHED ON <http://citypoint/equalityanalysis/default.aspx>, WITH THE RELEVANT ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION APPENDED, i.e. POLICY/STRATEGY. THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS MUST BE PRESENTED AT ANY DECISION POINT.