

**The Select Committee to receive a report on from Health and Social Care commissioners on how Pharmacy will be a key feature of new models of working and how pharmacists can alleviate the pressures currently being faced within primary care at next meeting of the Select Committee. - 'Report stemming from STP new models of care, Primary Care Strategy and potentials**

### **Alleviating pressure and supporting workload in GP practices**

To support the transformation outlined in the [Five Year Forward View](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care/pharmacy/integration-fund/), and to contribute to the Government's required efficiencies, a new Pharmacy Integration Fund was set up by NHS England in October 2016. More information is available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care/pharmacy/integration-fund/>

The fund is focused on integrating and supporting the development of clinical pharmacy practice in a wider range of primary care settings, to create a more effective NHS primary care patient pathway.

The CCG, in partnership with Livewell South West has supported GP practices covering approximately 180,000 population to bid and successfully secure funding from the Pharmacy Integration fund for clinical pharmacists working in GP practices. This will not only provide additional capacity to those practices but also enable more people to benefit from the clinical expertise of pharmacists.

In addition the CCG has also made further resource available to GP practices in Plymouth to invest in both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians ensuring best use of pharmacy expertise and skill mix.

Livewell South West are employing 5 pharmacists and 4 pharmacy technicians on behalf of these practices further supporting integration into the wider community health and care teams.

Where pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are already in post they are undertaking a range of roles to reduce pressure on the GP practices including face to face patient care, dealing with medicines queries, supporting repeat prescribing processes, undertaking medication reviews and liaising with pharmacy colleagues in community pharmacies. In addition a number of the pharmacists are supporting care in care homes with positive results.

The CCG has recently supported further GP practices covering a further 60,000 population of Plymouth to submit bids for a further tranche of funding from the Pharmacy Integration fund for support recruitment of two further pharmacists. The outcome of these bids is expected shortly.

## **Facilitating integrated working and improved communications**

Where practice based pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are in post this has facilitated improved communication between GP practices and community pharmacies. In some areas this has progressed to reviewing existing services; modifying and enhancing care through a more integrated and efficient approach.

The nationally recognised “Caring for care homes” programme continues to encourage working together to improve the safe use of medicines in care homes and to have a closer understanding across the interface between GP practices, community pharmacies and care homes facilitating more efficient and joined up services. More information is available at:

<https://www.newdevonccg.nhs.uk/information-for-healthcare-professionals/care-homes-caring-for-care-homes-team-101665>

## **Developing future joint working relationships**

- Joint educational work is being developed to ensure that pharmacy staff are more integrated into the primary care workforce in terms of consistency and flexibility. Joint courses in navigation and conflict resolution have been planned or delivered with further courses focussed on educating pharmacy teams to be able to support primary care delivery to a higher extent including an increase in the numbers of prescribing pharmacists.
- A project examining joint learning activities between pharmacists and medics has been launched with a particular focus on creating joint clinical learning networks supported by technology

## **Supporting urgent care**

Since December 2013 the CCG has commissioned Community Pharmacies in Plymouth to supply of a limited range of Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) to treat urinary tract infections, impetigo, nappy rash and bacterial conjunctivitis reducing pressure on GP practices, out of hours and the urgent care system to treat these conditions.

## **Plans to further integrate and utilise community pharmacy to reduce pressures and support delivery of primary care**

A NHS Urgent Meds Supply Advanced service commissioning community pharmacies to supply urgent repeat medications for patients following referral from NHS111 is soon to be launched in this area.

The local system has been proactively lobbying nationally regarding extension of referrals from NHS111 to community pharmacy for minor self-limiting ailments. A bid has been submitted nationally to pilot in this area.

The CCG is currently working with Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee to develop services which will be commissioned as pilots from a cohort of community pharmacies in Plymouth from April. The services will focus on:

- Supporting patients to manage chronic pain ensuring optimal use of medication
- Supporting patients with respiratory conditions to achieve maximal benefit from their inhalers

Consideration is being given to the potential of developing a community pharmacy in greater alignment with local GP practices to reduce demand. Similarly, work is in early conceptual stage to examine if there could be any role within the community pharmacy setting to support practice extended hours provision. This is very early stage work and as a consequence may not necessarily result in a change in the approach to provision but its mere consideration shows a significant change in attitude to the potential of community pharmacy.