

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 17th July 2024

Subject: Six months on from the Portsmouth Community Pharmacy Summit

Report by: Claire Currie, Assistant Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council
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Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

To update the Board on the work undertaken to support Community Pharmacies in the six months since the Portsmouth Community Pharmacy Summit, held in November 2023.

2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the collaborative efforts across many partners to support Community Pharmacies in the city through seeking to optimise existing services as well as implementing new initiatives.
- ii. Note that continued efforts are needed to ensure a strong Community Pharmacy sector in the city.

3. Background

- 3.1.** Community Pharmacy closures and consolidations in the city had been noted at the Portsmouth Health and Wellbeing Board, which led to a Community Pharmacy Summit being convened on 15th November 2023, hosted by Councillor Matthew Winnington and Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson. This Summit aimed to explore

the challenges and identify opportunities to support the sector given pressures being experienced.

3.2. As distilled from Summit discussions, the themes requiring attention have comprised i) connecting with the health and care system, ii) utilisation of local community pharmacy services, iii) workforce and independent prescribers, iv) mental health and safety. Progress on these areas is summarised below. Many aspects of Community Pharmacy provision must adhere to regulatory and professional standards as well as deliver against the national contract. Local work, therefore, is bounded by these parameters. The national launch of Pharmacy First at the end of January 2024 is a step towards Community Pharmacy having a clear role as the first port of call for healthcare advice.

3.3. There have been no further closures or consolidations in the city in the six months since the Summit. National arrangements to follow on from the current Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 2019-2024 are expected.

4. Progress since the Summit:

4.1. Theme 1: Connecting with health and care system

4.1.1 Community Pharmacy PCN Lead Roles

Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network (PCN) Leads have potential to serve as liaison persons within their geographically proximate PCNs, facilitating communication, building relationships, and promoting collaborative efforts. Community Pharmacy Hampshire and Isle of Wight proposed this initiative and offered to share funding with the city to create these roles for a two-year period, which has been approved with Public Health transformation funding. These roles will enhance national provision of NHS England funded Community Pharmacy PCN engagement roles via Integrated Care Boards for one year in 2024/25, which offers relatively small resource across the HIOW Integrated Care System and is unlikely to enable meaningful engagement to fully develop local relationships. These roles will support efforts to increase use of Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case Finding Service, Oral Contraceptive Service and Pharmacy First.

4.2. Theme 2: Utilisation of local community pharmacy services

4.2.1. Shaping Portsmouth initiative

This initiative has been designed to promote collaboration, continuous learning and development in relation to retail management and business development within the local community pharmacy community sector, with the aim of improving business sustainability. It is distinct from professional development related to the clinical or healthcare remit of pharmacy professionals, given standards are highly regulated with defined continuing professional development and revalidation requirements. The aims are intended to be achieved through workshops and mentoring

opportunities. Four pharmacies were approached as part of a pilot with all four pharmacies agreeing to an initial meeting to find out more. Understanding whether there has been successful continued engagement from this first phase in the project is awaited.

4.2.2. Portsmouth City Council Public Health Locally Commissioned Services

i) Supervised consumption and needle exchange

The supervised consumption service specification, payments for activity and annual retainer fees have been reviewed and updated resulting in benefits to contractors. The needle exchange payment has also been reviewed with an annual retainer fee now included. The scheme has also been simplified for pharmacies, moving from a pick and mix offer to pre-filled packs to facilitate time efficient interactions with individuals.

ii) Emergency Hormonal Contraception

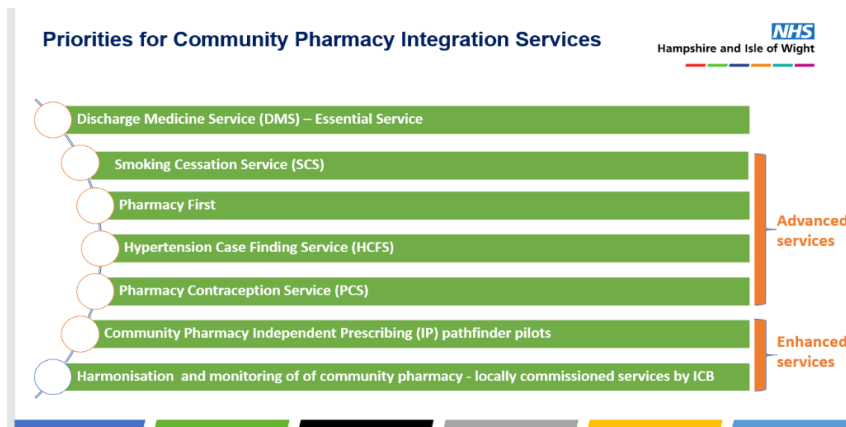
The emergency hormonal contraception service activity recording template has been aligned across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to support pharmacists working across geographic boundaries (including for locums). Efforts have also sought to optimise the nationally funded oral contraception provision pathway (part of the NHS Advanced Service) to help contribute towards further prevention of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies.

iii) Other

A review of community pharmacy provision of alcohol screening and brief advice is currently underway as well as a review of the smoking cessation service, due to low current activity.

4.2.3. NHS Advanced Services: Pharmacy First, Hypertension Case Finding service and Pharmacy Contraception Service

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight is focused on promoting utilisation of Pharmacy First, Hypertension Case Finding service and Pharmacy Contraception Services. NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight is actively working with communications teams to signpost and encourage self-referral for individuals into Community Pharmacy services. NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have also procured Pharm Refer licences for SystemOne practices to make digital Pharmacy First referrals into Community Pharmacy and are offering General Practices support in implementation. National data to enable understanding of referrals and completion for the service in Portsmouth is not yet available.



4.2.4. Portsmouth pharmacist led hypertension detection and management pathway

This pathway has utilised University of Portsmouth Pharmacy undergraduate students to conduct blood pressure checks, direct individuals who require a diagnosis into the established Community Pharmacy blood pressure check service, and subsequently onto the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Cardiovascular Specialist Independent Prescribing Pharmacist who is able to initiate and manage antihypertensive medication for individuals registered with a Portsmouth GP. Twenty events have been held at multiple community and workplace venues (identified by Public Health, guided by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and CVD Prevent data) between October 2023 and April 2024, reaching 396 individuals. Of those who reported their ethnicity, 8.1% reported Black or Black British ethnicity, exceeding the Portsmouth population estimate of 3.4% for this ethnic group. 91 Portsmouth residents were found to have high or very high blood pressure. 63 Portsmouth residents were referred into the Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case Finding Service.

4.3 Theme 3: Workforce and independent prescribers

4.3.1 Community pharmacy independent prescribing supervision

From September 2026 all newly qualified pharmacists will be independent prescribers on the day of registration. NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have secured funding for community pharmacy independent prescribing supervision in addition to gaining commitment from NHS Trusts to support local community pharmacies with the prescribing supervision element of the trainee pharmacist year for trainees in 2025/26. Being able to provide supervision is an essential requirement in being able to employ a trainee, however, pharmacists who have qualified before this cohort will not themselves be independent prescribers unless they have undergone additional training. The Portsmouth Medicines Optimisation team will also be supporting two community pharmacy placements for 2025/26 in order to support with the prescribing supervision required.

Furthermore, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have worked in partnership with the University of Winchester to develop a pharmacist only independent prescriber course that started in May 2024. This is a hybrid model of delivery with reduced face to face commitment for the community pharmacists, which was seen to be more attractive. There are three community pharmacists on the course from the wider-Portsmouth area. NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have paid for the designated prescribing practitioner provision (supervises and certifies competence as an independent prescriber) required for this training and assisted partnering these pharmacists with GP practices who offer this. The three wider-Portsmouth pharmacists on this course have secured this support from GP practices in Southampton and Havant with no provision secured within Portsmouth.

4.3.2 Independent Prescribing pathfinder programme

Nationally led, developing and utilising the clinical skills and capabilities of community pharmacists is part of a wider shift across the health system to improve access to care in local communities and address health inequalities. The purpose of the pathfinder programme is to test delivery of pharmacist independent prescribing as part of locally commissioned clinical services. Following successful application by NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, one site in Portsmouth has completed readiness and is awaiting a start date from NHS England. The model will pilot prescribing of contraception.

4.4 Theme 4: Mental health and safety

4.4.1 'No Excuse for Abuse' campaign

In winter 2023, the 'No Excuse for Abuse' campaign was developed after pharmacies and GP practices reported increased amounts of threatening behaviour and verbal abuse towards staff from some patients. Marketing and communications resources including posters, digital screens and social media assets were circulated and are available to download from the Health and Care Portsmouth website: www.healthandcare.portsmouth.gov.uk/resources. The campaign was shared through Health and Care Portsmouth channels and utilised paid advertising through Facebook and Twitter. Partners were encouraged to share the messaging and pull up banners were purchased for organisations who requested them.

5 Reasons for recommendations

Positive partnerships across partners in Portsmouth have enabled local innovative projects to be initiated. Implementation of several local, system and national initiatives, and therefore potential benefits for the broader primary care system and local residents, are yet to be realised. Continued efforts to develop collaborative working and support the Portsmouth Community Pharmacy sector is welcomed to ensure the challenges highlighted by the Summit are addressed fully within what is possible from a place perspective (given the national framework Community

Pharmacies operate in) and given the evolving role of Community Pharmacy practice.

6 Integrated impact assessment

No integrated impact assessment has been undertaken because individual projects will be subject to their own assessments.

7 Legal implications

There are no legal implications specifically associated with this report.

8 Director of Finance's comments

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Any projects that flow from this will be subject to their own individual financial assessments.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: