

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee 6th March 2018

OUTCOME OF ENGAGEMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRESCRIBING OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS IN BROMLEY

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This information briefing provides an update for the Committee on the outcomes of the recent engagement undertaken by NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group on proposals to no longer support the routine prescribing of health supplements and self-care medications that can be purchased over the counter.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note the paper. The outcomes of the engagement process were discussed at the NHS Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group's Governing Body meeting held in public on 16 November 2017. Based on the outcomes, the CCG's Governing Body approved the implementation of revised prescribing guidelines which would no longer support the routine prescribing of health supplements and self-care medications that can be purchased over the counter.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 In July 2017, the CCG launched a 10 week engagement process on proposals to no longer support the prescribing of health supplements and medicines that can be directly purchased by patients for the treatment of minor and short lived ailments.
- 2.2 The rationale for these proposals was:
 - To promote self-care and empower patients to manage minor ailments and injuries.
 - To free up clinical time for those most in need.
 - To get the best value from the funding that we have available
 - Following the national direction of travel in order to make services more sustainable and eliminate waste.
- 2.3 Prior to the launch of the engagement process, the proposals were considered and discussed by the following groups:

- GP members through the CCG Membership meeting and at GP cluster meetings.
 - Clinical Executive Group.
 - Senior Management Team.
 - Prescribing and Medicines Management Group.
 - CCG Governing Body.
 - Patient Advisory Group focus group.
- 2.4 Information about the proposals was also shared with key stakeholders including Cllr Mary Cooke, Chair of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- 2.5 The engagement period ran from 31 July to 8 October 2017. At the close of the engagement process, **547 responses** had been collected through the survey. Some face to face meetings with different groups had also taken place. The CCG also engaged Healthwatch Bromley to gather views from people on lower incomes and families.
- 2.6 The outcomes of the engagement showed that **83.64** percent of people who responded to the survey either agreed or somewhat agreed with the proposals. **84.71** percent either agreed or somewhat agreed that GPs should spend less time treating people who could buy self-care medication and health supplements without a prescription.
- 2.7 Based on these outcomes, the Bromley CCG Governing Body approved the proposals. These changes were implemented from 1 December 2017.
- 2.8 The outcomes report presented at the Governing Body is available on the CCG [website](#).
- 2.9 The report sets out the following:
- Information on the background to the proposals.
 - Purpose of the engagement activity.
 - How we engaged.
 - Outcomes.
 - Recommendations about the next steps.
- 2.10 Engagement undertaken during this period was done so in accordance with Section 14Z2 of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) and in the spirit of meaningful participation, particularly in, “Make(ing) arrangements to secure that individuals to whom the services are being or may be provided are involved (whether by being consulted or provided with information or in other ways) in the development and consideration of proposals”.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The changes aim to save up to £1million from the local NHS prescribing budget so that this money can be better spent on other local health services. Nationally every year the NHS spends £67.5 million on prescribing paracetamol which can be easily bought cheaply from any supermarket or pharmacy.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Legal advice was sought prior to the start of the engagement process.