

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

On behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey LPCs



Consultation Response

West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024

Start well, Live well, Age well

January 2019

For enquiries regarding this response, please contact:

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About Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex is the local voice for all community pharmacies on behalf of East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs).

We represent over 560 pharmacies, on all matters relating to the NHS and public health work undertaken by community pharmacy. This includes single handed independent pharmacies through to medium and large pharmacy businesses. Pharmacies in our area, between them, employ thousands of local people and are at the heart of communities.

Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex negotiates and discusses local pharmacy services with commissioners and is available to give advice to community pharmacy contractors and others wanting to know more about local pharmacy. We are committed to helping to develop and support community pharmacy teams, to deliver high quality health services.

Working closely with the local NHS, including NHS England Area Teams, CCGs and local government, we are responsible for advancing the enhanced role of community pharmacy to ensure it plays an active part in promoting health and wellbeing across Surrey and Sussex.

Further information is available on our website at <http://communitypharmacys.co.uk/>

Our Vision

Our ambition is that community pharmacies are **the heart of the local communities that they serve**. Working collaboratively, integrated in the local health economy, to provide local access to medicines, improve medicines use, enhance medicines safety, facilitating the health and wellbeing of patients.

That community pharmacies are change agents for prevention, enablers of self-care, experts in medicines and minor conditions.

Consultation Response

We welcome the opportunity to be able to provide our response to the consultation on the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2019 – 2024, ‘Start well, Live well, Age well’.

Community pharmacies are providing a growing range of public health services, that are producing positive outcomes, notably for people in deprived or vulnerable circumstances. As community pharmacies are uniquely well positioned to reach out to the population – including ‘apparently well’ people – on a large scale, there is considerable public health benefit to be gained by extending the range and reach of these services.

A concept that’s has really built momentum over the last few years has been the ‘Healthy Living Pharmacy’ (HLP), which brings together a number of public health services in one location. The majority of pharmacies in West Sussex have now become level 1 HLPs. This level of engagement by community pharmacy teams demonstrates their commitment to playing a major role in addressing health inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of the citizens of West Sussex.

Q1. Are you answering as:

On behalf of an organisation – Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex

Q2: Does the strategy clearly describe the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board?

Yes, we believe the strategy describes the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in a clear and succinct way. We would welcome further commentary on the role of the board working with local providers.

Health and Wellbeing Boards have the responsibility to develop, update and publish local Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs), which identify plans for improving health, and which aid NHS England’s decision making on the granting of new NHS contracts to community pharmacies. This is an important role and suggest that this is described in the final version of the strategy.

Q3: The purpose of the strategy is to:

- Be concise and purposeful (i.e. rather than attempt to be exhaustive, the strategy identifies key initiatives where the board can have maximum impact);
- Be a tool that will enable the HWB to champion key principles and initiatives;
- Be a framework for other strategies and commissioning plans across health and social care in West Sussex.

Do you think the strategy achieved its purposes?

Yes. In the final draft, we would encourage the strategy to consider and align with the recently published NHS Long-Term Plan.

Starting Well

Our goals for Starting well:

- Children, young people and families have good emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Improved infant and maternal outcomes especially in most deprived areas.
- Children grow in a safe and healthy home environment with supportive and nurturing parents and carers.
- Children and young people leaving care are healthy and independent.

Q4: Considering our goals in Starting Well, do you agree with the direction the board is proposing to take over the next five years?

Yes

Living and working well

Our goals for Living and Working Well are:

- Individuals, families, friends and communities are connected.
- People are able to look after their own health and wellbeing.
- People have access to good quality homes, providing a secure place for families to thrive and promote good health, wellbeing and independent living.
- People live, work and play in environments that promote health and wellbeing.

Q5: Considering our goals in Living and working well, do you agree with the direction the board is proposing to take over the next five years?

Yes

A community pharmacy is one of the core businesses which can make a difference between a viable high street and one that fails commercially – thereby sustaining communities and building social capitalⁱ.

Community pharmacists have made a commitment to their local community by virtue of their financial investment and present a sustainable asset. Pharmacies provide employment for local people and contribute to the economic prosperity of their local community by preserving local shopping access. For these reasons, we would encourage the final Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy to commit to considering the viability of their local community pharmacy network.

Ageing Well

Our goals for Ageing Well are:

- There is a reduction in the number of older people experiencing loneliness and social isolation.
- Older adults stay healthier and independent for longer.
- There is a reduction in the number of people falling.

Q6: Considering our goals in Ageing well, do you agree with the direction the board is proposing to take over the next five years?

Yes

Community pharmacies fulfil an important social function by providing a space for individuals to develop networks of trust and mutual support. For example, for many older people who live alone, a visit to a pharmacy constitutes valued social interaction. Secure health infrastructure is important to maintain resilient communities, notably in remote, rural locations such as some of those in West Sussex.

Further comments

Q9. Do you have any further comments about the contents of the strategy?

As the local representative of community pharmacy contractors in West Sussex, Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex would be very happy to continue to work closely with the Health & Wellbeing Board and West Sussex County Council officials as a willing partner in the mobilisation of this strategy from 2019 to 2024.

ⁱ Department of Health, Improving shopping access for people living in deprived neighbourhoods: a paper for discussion (1999)