

## Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex Partner's news roundup | issue 14 | week beg 1 March 2021

Welcome to our fortnightly round-up of local partners' news – our **GREEN** bulletin – with links to local newsletters and other pieces of information relevant to you and your teams.

Please share this information with your team members and do please scroll to the end to be sure you don't miss anything.

LPC news (and when necessary topical support bulletins) are mailed to you separately. Look out for them. You can also find back issues in our [news archive along with our bulletins distribution schedule](#).

Warmest wishes and thank you for everything you do

The staff team

### Urgent

#### Views sought on making oral contraceptive available from pharmacies

MHRA [public consultation](#) on the reclassification of two progestogen-only contraceptive pills containing desogestrel, asks whether they should be available over the counter without a medical prescription. The consultation closes on **Friday 5 March**.

### Newsletters and briefings

#### Newsletters

- [East Sussex Public Health Monthly](#) bulletin: March 2021
- KSS AHSN newsletter called [Collaborate](#)
- [Prescribing News \(Sussex\) February 2021](#) is available on the Sussex NHS Commissioners' website. Content this month includes: Locality Prescribing meeting dates; Vitamin D and Care Homes Guidance; Freestyle Libre 2 Update; Antimicrobials (azithromycin and doxycycline) not beneficial in the management of COVID-19 positive patients; Permanent removal of patient consent for eRD; Phyllocontin® (Aminophylline) 225mg and 350mg modified release tablets are being discontinued in the UK; New PINCER Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) indicators available at PRIMIS.
- [Healthwatch Surrey monthly Intelligence Bulletin](#) highlighting themes they are hearing about.

#### Briefings

- PSNC has published a [briefing on the recent DHSC White Paper](#), which summarises the key points and identifies some of the implications for our sector:

### System partners

## Top-tier councils across Sussex are working together with the LPCs to offer rapid lateral flow Covid tests at participating community pharmacies and dedicated testing sites

The tests are for everyone who lives or works in Sussex who cannot work from home and who does not have access to a symptom-free test through other routes.

Before the symptom-free Community Testing Programme is opened out across Sussex next week, the councils are piloting the programme through a limited number of pharmacies for a few days this week with appointments starting on Thursday 4 March. During the short pilot, staff from Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex councils, Sussex Police and East and West Fire Services will be offered testing to help trial the booking system and fine tune the way the testing process is managed.

- Pharmacies already contracted to one or more of the councils are eligible to apply to participate in this locally commissioned service and have until 11.59pm on Sunday 7 March, latest, to express an interest

## Help Us, Help You lung cancer campaign launched

The latest phase of the [Help Us, Help You campaign](#) urges people worried about possible symptoms of lung cancer to seek advice. It focuses on the key symptom – a cough that lasts for three weeks or more – and aims to reassure people that cancer remains a priority for the NHS.

## Community equipment appeal - Surrey

Surrey County Council and the NHS in Surrey work together with Millbrook Healthcare to provide medical equipment to residents to help them live independent and safer lives, but many of those items never find their way back when they are no longer needed. Items like crutches, walking frames, beds and chairs are needed now more than ever. Residents across Surrey are being asked to return equipment that is no longer needed and should call Millbrook Healthcare on 0330 124 1247 or email [SurreyFeedback@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:SurreyFeedback@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk) to discuss the return for others to use.

## Expressions of Interest to be a pharmacy-led C-19 vaccination site

NHS England's regional team received a healthy number of expressions of interest (EOI) before the application deadline on 28 February. There is unlikely to be further communication from NHSE about this until those chosen to be designated as C-19 vaccination sites are notified (probably before 12 March). If you have submitted an EOI and have not heard from NHSE's regional team by 12 March it is unlikely that your application will have been successful.

**You are invited**

## Moving forward with recommendations from last summer's Wright Review

Community pharmacy contractors are invited to an online 'Your Representation, Your Say' engagement event on Tuesday 9th March, 7.30pm – 8.30pm. [Register here for this online event](#) [Read more](#)

## International Women's Day is on Monday 8 March

Independent community pharmacist Reena Barai is calling on all the amazing women in pharmacy to join a networking session at 1.45pm on 8 March. The session is called 'How can female BAME Pharmacists find, develop & practice that #everydaycourage to release their inner leader and rise up the ranks in the NHS' [Find out more](#)

## The National Pharmacy Association is 100 years old this year!

To mark the centenary the NPA is publishing profiles of members who have an interesting history of their own. You are invited to share your story too, contact [press@npa.co.uk](mailto:press@npa.co.uk)

## RPS Workforce Wellbeing Campaign

An RPS and Pharmacist Support Wellbeing survey has highlighted the mental health difficulties that pharmacists face every day. The COVID-19 pandemic has only amplified the pressures that were already inherent in the system and places where pharmacists work. You are invited to get behind the campaign. [Read more](#)

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