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Newsletter

10/10/2025

This LPC newsletter is for community pharmacy contractors, managers and team members in Surrey and Sussex.

It contains local information and local news items, local diary dates and other local topics to help effectively manage NHS and locally commissioned contracts.

Visit our Newsletter page for an archive of previous issues. Sign up to CPE to receive nationally significant news and guidance on national contracts.

Quick Glance

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LPC News



CPSS Podcast Newsletter – Trial Now Live

At CPSS, we understand that pharmacy staff across Surrey & Sussex have very busy schedules. However, we are committed to ensuring you don't miss out on the latest news and opportunities across the area.

To support this, we are trialling a **podcast version** of our weekly newsletter. This will allow you to catch up on updates while on your way to work or even in the background during your day.

This week's newsletter is now available to listen to [here](#).



Reminder 2025 mandatory workforce survey now open

Community pharmacy owners have until **11:59pm on Friday 21st November 2025** to complete the mandatory workforce survey.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Local Services



Flu nasal spray vaccine for 2 and 3 year olds

From the 1st October, parents of 2- and 3-year-olds have been able to get their child's free flu nasal spray not just at their GP practice, but also at local pharmacies that offer the service.

A huge thank you to our Surrey LPC member, Jay Amin for supporting Surrey Heartlands ICB with public communications about the service.

You'll also find a link to Jay Amin's video [here](#), which helps bring this message to life.

To promote the service to your communities, you can find posters [here](#) and [here](#).



West Sussex Change Grow Live (CGL) information sessions

Change Grow Live (CGL), the specialist drug and alcohol treatment provider for West Sussex, have published the dates of their next round of information sessions for professionals: [Professionals - Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network - West Sussex | Change Grow Live](#). These sessions provide a brief overview of local services, how to refer, and an opportunity for professionals to ask any questions. Sessions run from 13:00 – 13:45 on the following dates:

- 21st October 2025
- 11th December 2025
- 17th February 2026
- 16th April 2026
- 16th June 2026
- 13th August 2026

Please email westsussex.info@cgl.org.uk to request a Teams invitation.

Training



**Surrey NHS Health Check Training – Wednesday 19th November,
09:30 – 15:30**

Please sign up to the training day below hosted by Surrey County Council if you would like to learn or refresh your knowledge around the NHS Health Check. Feel free to pass on to colleagues, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. If you are unable to make this date but would like to be considered for the next training day, please contact Will.King@surreycc.gov.uk

[NHS Health Checks Training Tickets, Wed 19 Nov 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Pharmacy technician development programme – Applications now open

Funded Pharmacy technician development programme

Applications are now open for a fully funded development programme to support pharmacy technicians to develop their skills to deliver a wider range of services. [Apply now.](#)

Newsletters

To read the latest edition of the Surrey Heartlands ICB

Medicines Management Matters click [here](#).

To read the latest edition of the NHSE Primary Care Bulletin
click [here](#).



Additionally you may be interested in.....



Launch of the Sussex Pharmacy Workforce Website

A new digital platform has been launched to support the entire pharmacy workforce across Sussex. The [Sussex Pharmacy Website](#) has been developed as a central hub for news, resources, and opportunities relevant to all pharmacy sectors, providing an accessible space for professionals to stay informed and connected.

The website brings together updates, training opportunities, and workforce development initiatives under one roof. Key features include:

Sussex Institute of Medication, Education and Research (SIMER)

A dedicated page showcasing the work of SIMER, including updates, announcements,

and highlights of projects and achievements across the region.

Trainee Pharmacy Professionals

Tailored support for individuals training to become pharmacy professionals.

Information is grouped by professional group and includes details about training programmes, learning resources, course provider links, and guidance on available study sessions and peer support groups.

Post-Qualification Pharmacy Professionals

Resources for qualified staff exploring opportunities to develop their skills or return to practice. Each staff group has a dedicated page with pathways for foundation practice, advanced roles, and sector-specific development.

Training Opportunities

A comprehensive calendar of local and national training events, including Sussex-focused webinars. The section also features a **training tracker tool**, helping professionals identify opportunities aligned with their career development.

Pharmacy Career Promotion

Guidance on how to support career events across Sussex, including a live events calendar. Downloadable resources are also available, such as a Sussex Pharmacy Careers leaflet and a range of student activities designed to promote pharmacy careers.

Useful Links

Quick access to external organisations, professional bodies, and training providers that pharmacy teams may find valuable.

The Sussex Pharmacy Website is designed to support professional growth, celebrate achievements, and strengthen collaboration across all sectors. It will serve as a key resource for the pharmacy workforce in Sussex, helping to ensure that staff at every

stage of their career have access to the information and opportunities they need.

For any further information please contact: Paula.parker1@nhs.net or

zenobia.dzisiewska-smith@nhs.net.



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Sussex Institute of Medicines Education and Research (SIMER)

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The launch of the Sussex Institute of Medicines Education and Research (SIMER);

<https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/professional-guidance/pharmacy/sussex-institute-of-medicines-education-and-research-simer/>), is a collaboration between the University of Brighton and pharmacy teams in the ICS. The research arm of SIMER will look to form links between researchers at the university and pharmacy teams in practice with the aim of improving patient care. The conduit to form these links will be the Centre for Lifelong Health (<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/clh/index.aspx>).

To kick start the process Prof. Mark Yeoman Director of the Centre for Lifelong Health at the University of Brighton is keen to develop a repository that contains details of all the research that is being carried out by pharmacy teams in Sussex. Research includes undergraduate/masters projects, audits, service evaluations, clinical trials etc. Very simply if you are generating new knowledge then they would like to hear about it.

Once they have developed the repository, the plan is to make this available on the SIMER website under a keyword search so you can identify all the work being carried out in your area of interest. The university, will bring together groups of researchers and academics with the aim of coordinating the research, providing help to develop

the projects where required and providing support/advice and time to enable major funding bids to be submitted to support key projects in the area.

Here is the link to the survey which will take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/brighton/pharmacy-research-in-sussex>.



East Sussex Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey

East Sussex Public Health are undertaking a Mental Health Needs Assessment of the older age population (over 60 years) in East Sussex. Views are welcome from anyone working in primary care about accessing help for older people and what might help prevent mental health problems developing in older age. The survey is very brief and should take no more than 10 minutes. The results will be summarised in anonymised form within the overall needs assessment report, which will be published [here](#). The survey will be open until **7th November 2025**.

Complete the survey [here](#).



Free subscription to Drink and Drugs News

Drink and Drugs News (DDN) is the UK's free magazine for the drug, alcohol, tobacco and wider health and social care sectors. Published since 2004, it is read by services, commissioners, NHS partners, voluntary organisations, recovery groups – and community pharmacies.

The magazine covers treatment, harm reduction, outreach, overdose prevention, smoking cessation, and pharmacy-led needle and syringe programmes.

Subscribe free to print or online editions [here](#).



New formulation of Rybelsus tablets

NovoNordisk has released [communication](#) of an impending formulation change of Rybelsus (oral semaglutide), which will eventually replace the original formulation.

This new formulation has greater bioavailability resulting in new lower strengths (1.5mg, 4mg and 9mg) being bioequivalent to the original formulation strengths (3mg, 7mg and 14mg respectively).

Both formulations will temporally co-exist on the market, this presents a risk of mix-ups resulting in overdosing and adverse events. To mitigate this, [a patient transition guide](#) highlights the new formulation of Rybelsus tablets replacing the original formulation; the difference between the two, as well as providing pictures of the new formulation and strengths.

Action: Clinicians are advised that where any switches are undertaken between formulations, patients are clearly advised of their new doses and that they are to continue with taking their 'new' Rybelsus tablet at a dose of ONE tablet daily.

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