

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR PRESCRIBING & PHARMACOLOGY

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

Section 12 Health and Social Care Act 2012 outlines duty for all upper-tier and unitary local authorities in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. Section 12 of the Act lists some of the steps to improve public health that local authorities and the Secretary of State are able to take, including:

- carrying out research into health improvement, providing information and advice (for example giving information to the public about healthy eating and exercise);
- providing facilities for the prevention or treatment of illness (such as smoking cessation clinics);

Section 6C of the NHS Act 2006 require local authorities to take particular steps in exercise of their Public Health functions, or aspects of the Secretary of State's Public Health functions.

Section 31 of the 2012 Act which requires local authorities to have regard to guidance from the Secretary of State when exercising their Public Health function and Section 237 of the 2012 Act which also requires local authorities to comply with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommendations to fund treatments under their Public Health functions

The NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, effective from 1 April 2013, now require each Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to:

- undertake a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment as soon as is reasonably practicable after identifying changes to the need for pharmaceutical services which are significant
- publish a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

In summary the Council is responsible for the cost of prescription (FP10) issued by the services it commissions. These services include substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation, alcohol misuse treatment and rehabilitation, stop smoking treatments and some elements of contraception.

The Council is also responsible for ensuring that the proper governance and regulation of prescribing locally for the supply and dispensing of medicines and/or appliances which are prescribed as part of Public Health commissioned services.

The Council is also responsible under regulation to ensure that there is a regular Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment undertaken as part of its duties to the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform the commissioning and provision of Pharmacy Services for the local population and its needs.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?

The Core Offer budget will continue to meet the Council's obligations by ensuring that the Council continues to fund treatments under their Public Health functions and provide access to medicines prescribed as part of their Public Health commissioned services.

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

No. This does not differ from the current service however this current expenditure reflects current demand. Prescribing costs are volatile and are dependent on a number of external factors. These include decisions by other bodies including the NHS, Department of Health in setting the costs (tariff) for these medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) or the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to licence new medicines. The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) may issue guidance in the use and access to different medicines and individual doctors and nurses make judgements whether to prescribe the medicines. The burden of disease, health behaviours or patient choice can also influence the level and demand for prescriptions including those related to those Public Health commissioned services such as substance misuse, stop smoking or the specific elements of contraception.

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?

2019/20 - £526,134

£450,000	Prescribing budget (FP10)
£60,000	Nicotine Replacement Therapy vouchers
£16,134	Overheads