

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Health & Social Care Sub-Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	12 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Update on Pharmacy First Scheme	
ITEM LEAD:	Matthew Kershaw – Croydon Health Service NHS Trust Chief Executive & Place Based Leader for Health	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	The attached update has been requested by the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee following the recent Government announcement of the Pharmacy First scheme.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. UPDATE ON PHARMACY FIRST SCHEME

- 1.1. On 31 January 2024, the Government and NHS England launched the 'Pharmacy First' scheme which aimed to give patients quick and accessible care while easing the pressure on GP services.
- 1.2. The key initiative introduced through the Pharmacy First scheme was to enable community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common health conditions without the need to visit a GP. The seven conditions are: -
 - Sinusitis
 - Sore throat
 - Earache
 - Infected insect bite
 - Impetigo (a bacterial skin infection)
 - Shingles
 - Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.
- 1.3. Given the scheme will place additional demands upon pharmacies, the Sub-Committee is keen to understand the readiness of Croydon's pharmacies to deliver these new requirements and the any potential areas of risk. A report has been provided by the Croydon Health Service NHS Trust, which is set out in Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. The Health & Social Care Sub-Committee is asked to: -

1. Note the update provided on the Pharmacy First scheme.
2. Consider whether its conclusions on the information provided and whether there are any areas in need of further scrutiny.

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Appendix 1: Update on the Pharmacy First Scheme