



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 10 February 2022

Report of the Director - Public Health

Reimbursement of stop smoking pharmacotherapy costs
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned (this is currently defined as £0.500m) and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 This report seeks approval from Cabinet to:

- a) Reimburse the Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), for the costs of stop smoking pharmacotherapy products available on prescription only, throughout 2022-23. A maximum annual charge of £0.326m for 2020-21 has been agreed with the CCG based on historic prescribing costs and the same allocation is proposed for the 2022-23 financial year.

- b) Amend the Council's Scheme of Delegation to enable the Director of Public Health to authorise the reimbursement of stop smoking pharmacotherapy products available on prescription only from the financial year 2023-2024 onwards.
- c) Subject to the approval of the delegation, Cabinet notes that the Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal and Democratic Services has the authority to include this delegation in Appendix A to Appendix 1 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions and will report the amendment to the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee and full Council for noting.

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 Smoking is the main cause of preventable illness, disability, and premature death in England, it also accounts for half the difference in life expectancy between the most affluent and most deprived groups within society. In Derbyshire, it is a key issue with 12.6% of adults smoking compared to the England average of 13.9% (APS method, 2019). Smoking is a key contributor to health inequalities with a prevalence of 19.5% in Derbyshire (England 23.2%) in routine and manual workers (APS method, 2019).
- 4.2 In Derbyshire 11.8% of pregnant women are smoking at time of delivery, compared to the England average of 9.6% (2020/21 data). The prevalence remains even higher in people with mental health conditions, where more than 25% of adults in Derbyshire with a serious mental illness smoke.
- 4.3 In Derbyshire, during 2016-2017 there were 8,326 smoking attributable hospital admissions and the number of deaths during 2014-16 is estimated to be attributable to smoking was 3,991. The prevalence of smoking varies considerably across the county, from 8.6%, in North East Derbyshire to 15.8% in South Derbyshire, the highest in the county (APS method, 2019).
- 4.4 Live Life Better Derbyshire (LLBD) provides an evidence-based stop smoking service to support smokers who want to quit smoking. It is the most effective method of quitting smoking, with smokers four times more likely to quit smoking with a stop smoking service than if they tried to quit on their own. The support provided by the LLBD stop smoking service consists of behavioural support (advice on quitting, setting a date to quit and dealing with withdrawal symptoms/cravings) and advice and access to smoking cessation pharmacotherapy products.

- 4.5 There are a range of smoking cessation pharmacotherapy products available to help smokers quit smoking including nicotine replacement therapy (e.g. patches or gum) which are provided directly by LLBD, and others such as bupropion (Zyban) and Varenicline (Champix), which are only available on prescription. A local pathway exists to allow smokers to access bupropion and varenicline whilst receiving support from the LLBD stop smoking service.
- 4.6 The funding for smoking cessation pharmacotherapy products issued on a prescription did not originally transfer to local authorities when Public Health responsibilities transferred on 1 April 2013 under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and instead were included within CCG budgets. Following discussions with the Derby and Derbyshire CCG, it was agreed the County Council would hold the budgets associated with the cost of smoking cessation pharmacotherapy products issued on a prescription (Champix and Zyban only). Therefore, the budgets were transferred from the Derby and Derbyshire CCG by the Department of Health to Derbyshire's ring-fenced Public Health Grant with effect from 1 April 2016. However, prescriptions issued in general practice are initially charged to CCG prescribing budgets and therefore it is expected that CCG will invoice Derbyshire Public Health for these costs as they no longer hold the budget for prescriptions related to stop smoking (Champix and Zyban only).
- 4.7 Since 2016 a report has been submitted annually to the Council's Cabinet requesting permission to reimburse the Derby and Derbyshire CCG for smoking cessation pharmacotherapy. Given that Public Health have a budget and the amount allocated is not exceeded, in the interest of administrative efficiency consideration should be given to delegating to the Director of Public Health the authority to agree the reimbursement to the CCG.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation required

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do Nothing; up to 30 percent of LLBD clients use Champix to stop smoking. If GPs do not prescribe Champix for clients because of budgetary implications this would have a negative implication on the delivery of the LLBD stop smoking service. Failure to have this budget in place could result in the Council being unable to support individuals to stop smoking and this will adversely impact service performance.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None identified.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1 That Cabinet approves:

- a) The reimbursement of prescription only smoking cessation pharmacotherapy product costs (Champix and Zyban only) to the Derby and Derbyshire CCG to a maximum cost of £326,150.
- b) The delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health to authorise the reimbursement of stop smoking pharmacotherapy products available on prescription only from the financial year 2023-24 onwards.
- c) Subject to the approval of the delegation, Cabinet notes that the Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal and Democratic Services has the authority to include this delegation in Appendix A to Appendix 1 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions and will report the amendment to the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee and full Council for noting.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

11.1 To support work to improve the health of the population of Derbyshire by ensuring that people who wish to stop smoking are able to access stop smoking pharmacotherapy available by prescription only.

11.2 To improve administrative efficiency and support the Enterprising Council approach by delegating decision making down to an appropriate level.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No

Report Author: Hayley Gleeson

Contact details: Hayley.Gleeson@derbyshire.gov.uk,

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The maximum cost of £0.326m will be met by the ring-fenced Public Health Grant budget.

Legal

- 2.1 Cabinet may delegate a decision-making function to an officer in accordance with paragraph 1.3 (a) of Appendix 4 to the Council's Constitution.
- 2.2 Paragraph 1.4 of Appendix 4 to the Constitution provides (a) that the Council's Scheme of Delegation may only be amended by the Council except (b) where Cabinet is able to decide whether to delegate its functions in which case, Cabinet must give written notice to the Director of Legal Services and the person concerned setting out the extent of the proposed amendment to the scheme of delegation and whether it entails the withdrawal of delegation from any person, body, committee or the Cabinet as a whole. The Director of Legal Services is then required to present a report to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, setting out the changes that have been made by Cabinet.

Human Resources

- 3.1 Not applicable

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 This proposal supports the council priority 'Increase the number of people taking part in stop smoking and weight management programmes' set out in the current Council Plan through providing a stop smoking service to Derbyshire residents that includes access to stop smoking pharmacotherapy available on prescription.