

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

11 March 2021

Report of the Director of Public Health

REIMBURSEMENT OF STOP SMOKING PHARMACOTHERAPY PRODUCT COSTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek Cabinet approval to reimburse the Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), for the costs of stop smoking pharmacotherapy products available on prescription only for the 2021-22 financial year.

2. Information and analysis:

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). 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).

In Derbyshire 13.5% of pregnant women are smoking at time of delivery, compared to the England average of 10.4% (2019 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.

In Derbyshire, during 2017-18 there were 8,138 smoking attributable hospital admissions and around 16 out of every 100 deaths in Derbyshire can be related to smoking. The number of deaths during 2015-17 estimated to be attributable to smoking was 3,995.

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 access to smoking cessation pharmacotherapy products.

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 and varenicline, which are only available on prescription. A local pathway exists to allow smokers to access bupropion and varenicline whilst receiving behavioural support from the LLBD stop smoking service.

The monies 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 (bupropion and varenicline 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 products (bupropion and varenicline only).

3. Social Value considerations:

Supporting smokers to quit will support healthier communities and reduce health inequalities. Smoking is the leading cause of premature mortality nationally. Smoking accounts for half the difference in life expectancy between the most affluent and most deprived groups within society. Therefore reducing smoking prevalence can help to close the health inequality gap.

4. Financial considerations:

A maximum annual charge for 2021/22 has been agreed with the CCG based on historic prescribing costs. The table below provides the value for Derbyshire CCG:-

CCG	Maximum Annual Charge
Derbyshire CCG	£326,150

The cost will be met by the ring-fenced Public Health Grant budget.

5. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

6. Background papers:

None

7. Key Decision:

No

8. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

9. Officer's recommendation:

That Cabinet approves the reimbursement of prescription only smoking cessation pharmacotherapy product costs (bupropion and varenicline only) to the Derby and Derbyshire CCG to a maximum cost of £326,150.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health