

Item 11: Healthwatch Kent & Medway – “Pharmacies and Covid: the reality” - update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 June 2021

Subject: Healthwatch Kent and Medway – “Pharmacies and Covid: the reality” - update

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report written by Healthwatch Kent and Medway.

1) Introduction

- a) In November 2020, Healthwatch Kent and Medway published a report about the lessons learnt by local community pharmacies during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- b) Representatives from Healthwatch Kent and the Kent Pharmaceutical Committee attended HOSC in November 2020 to introduce the report to HOSC members.
- c) Key points raised included:
 - i) The staffing and financing of pharmacies had been particularly negatively affected by the pandemic.
 - ii) An initial shortage of PPE had been resolved.
 - iii) Uncertainty around the impact on operating capacity of any vaccination rollout.
 - iv) The total number of pharmacies in Kent had decreased, with the delay between spending on pharmaceuticals and remuneration and the cost of delivery services being given as contributing factors.
- d) Following discussion, the Committee RESOLVED that they:
 - i. note the report;*
 - ii. support the achievement of community pharmacies during the pandemic and express its appreciation for the work undertaken to keep the residents of Kent safe; and*
 - iii. request a further update on the work of local pharmacies after the roll-out of the NHS 111 First service.*
- e) Representatives from Healthwatch Kent and the Kent Pharmaceutical Committee have been invited to attend today’s HOSC to provide an update on the work of community pharmacies in combatting the pandemic.

2) Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee consider and note the report.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2020) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (24/11/20)
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8498&Ver=4>

Healthwatch Kent and Medway (2020) Pharmacies & Covid: the reality,
<https://www.healthwatchmedway.com/sites/healthwatchmedway.com/files/Healthwatch%20Pharmacies%20%26%20Covid%20the%20reality.pdf>

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