

Item 12: Follow up from previous meeting – the funding of community pharmacies

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 21 July 2021

Subject: Follow up from previous meeting – the funding of community pharmacies

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the follow up from the previous meeting.

1) Introduction

- a) At its last meeting on 10 June, HOSC received an update from Healthwatch Kent and the Kent Local Pharmacy Committee (LPC) about the role of community pharmacies during the pandemic.
- b) During that meeting, the LPC raised an issue around the treatment of a £370m covid support loan provided to pharmacies early in the pandemic. The money had been badged as a loan, but the implication was that it would not need to be paid back. Negotiations were ongoing. Ms Shilpa Shah from the LPC invited Members to lobby their local MPs and offered to send the clerk further information after the meeting, which she did.
- c) Following the discussion, Members agreed the following:

RESOLVED that the Committee note the update, and the chair undertook to consult with officers as to the best way to show support for pharmacies on this issue. Members agreed to this suggestion.
- d) Following the meeting, the clerk circulated the additional information received from the LPC along with a draft letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Chancellor of the Exchequer. The letter was subsequently sent (attached as Appendix 1) and a response from HM Treasury has been received (attached as Appendix 2).
- e) These letters are attached for Member's information.

2) Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the update.

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Background Documents

Kent County Council (2021) 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/06/21)',
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8501&Ver=4>

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