



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Neil O'Brien MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public
Health*

Steve Brine, Chair HSCC
Professor Dame Jane Dacre,
Chair Expert Panel HSCC
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

03 April 2023

Dear Jane and Steve,

You wrote to the Secretary of State on 14 March to inform him that the Health and Social Care Committee has asked its Expert Panel to undertake an independent evaluation of progress the Government has made against its commitments in the area of pharmacy in England. You asked to be provided with information on the Governments commitments in this area.

A list of the public commitments made by the Government over the last five years is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL O'BRIEN MP

Annex: Government commitments in the area of pharmacy

Commitment		Source
1.	Commitment to spend £2.592 billion per year on community pharmacy in each of the five financial years between 2019 and 2024 providing stability and reassurance to the sector.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
2.	Move community pharmacies towards a much more clinically focused service.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
3.	Deliver a new Community Pharmacist Consultation Service with referrals from NHS111, GPS and A&E.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
4.	All Community Pharmacies to be a Level 1 Healthy Living Pharmacy	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
5.	Extend the reach of the mandated annual health campaigns that community pharmacies take part in and make better use of digital assets.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
6.	Deliver a new Hepatitis-C testing service in community pharmacy for people using needle and syringe programmes to support the national Hepatitis C elimination programme.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
7.	Test a range of additional prevention and detection services through the Pharmacy Integration Fund, which if found to be effective and best delivered by community pharmacy, could be mainstreamed within the CPCF.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
8.	Introduce a medicines reconciliation service to ensure that changes in medicines made in secondary care are implemented appropriately when the patient is discharged back into the community ('Discharge Medicine Service')	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
9.	Phase our Medicine Use Reviews with the funding recycled into the CPCF to fund other service developments. The MUR service will be replaced for patients by enhanced SMRs carried	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan

Commitment		Source
	out by clinical pharmacists working within PCNs as part of the new GP contract arrangements as they arrive from 2019/20.	
10.	Test a new service to improve access to palliative care medicines.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
11.	Introduce a new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (with a value of £75 million)	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
12.	Maintain a Pharmacy Access Scheme (PhAS) within the CPCF to continue to protect access to local physical NHS pharmaceutical services, in areas where there are fewer pharmacies. Update and improve the PhAS.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
13.	Undertake a full review of the Pharmacy Access Scheme before making changes and introducing a new, revised scheme from April 2021	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
14.	Review the funding model and the balance between spend on dispensing and new services within the CPCF as part of creating the capacity and funding necessary to deliver the wider shift towards a greater emphasis on service delivery.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
15.	A monthly transitional payment will be available to contractors to support preparations for a more service-based role.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
16.	Pursue legislative change to allow all pharmacies to benefit from more efficient hub and spoke dispensing, enabling increased use of automation and all the benefits that that brings.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
17.	Explore and implement greater use of original pack dispensing to support efficient automation	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan

Commitment		Source
		Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
18.	Propose legislative changes that will allow for better use of the skill mix in pharmacies and enable the clinical integration of pharmacists	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
19.	Explore the impact of changes to funding and fee structures, including for different types of prescription, and whether these could support the market to move towards more efficient dispensing practices, while increasing the clinical and public health content of any patient interactions.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
20.	Remove any unnecessary administrative requirements to reduce the regulatory burden on service providers wishing to consolidate under Regulation 26A of the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical) Regulations 2013 whilst maintaining fair and open competition and access to NHS pharmaceutical services.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
21.	Introduce revised terms of service to reflect the different way in which people use and access online services and the way these services are provided.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
22.	Protect patients' free choice of which community pharmacy they wish to dispense their prescriptions.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
23.	Joint annual reviews of the CPCF in order to ensure and show value for taxpayers and the NHS, and continued progress against the direction of travel set out	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan
24.	Improve the reimbursement arrangements.	The Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24: supporting delivery for the NHS Long Term Plan Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
25.	Cease distributing the paper Drug Tariff from mid-2020	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)

Commitment		Source
26.	Expand the New Medicine Service (NMS) to include the following additional therapeutic areas: Hypercholesterolaemia, Osteoporosis, Gout, Heart failure, Glaucoma, Parkinson's disease, Epilepsy and Urinary incontinence or retention	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
27.	Introduce the Hypertension Case-Finding Service	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
28.	Introduce a Smoking Cessation Service as an advanced service	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
29.	Work urgently with HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs to seek urgent resolution to ensure that pharmaceutical services delivered under pharmacist supervision are VAT exempt.	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111) Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
30.	A further 3-year programme of education and training for PCN and community pharmacy professionals is being commissioned from Health Education England and include independent prescribing training for existing pharmacists	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
31.	The model for commissioning and funding of trainee pharmacists will be reformed as part of the overall reform of the training and education of pharmacists. From 2022 to 2023 onwards, Health Education England will support the management of the training places in community pharmacy and responsibility for administration of payments to community pharmacy contractors for trainee pharmacists	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 3 (2021 to 2022) (referrals from NHS111)
32.	Introduce Tier 1 of a Pharmacy Contraception Service, enabling community pharmacists to provide ongoing management, via a Patient Group Direction, of routine oral contraception that was initiated in general practice or a sexual health clinic	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
33.	Expand the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service to enable urgent and emergency care settings to refer patients to a community pharmacist for a consultation for minor illness or urgent medicine supply	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
34.	Expand the New Medicines Service to include antidepressants to enable patients who are newly prescribed an antidepressant to receive extra support from their community pharmacist	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)

Commitment		Source
35.	A one-off £100 million investment in community pharmacy	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
36.	Launch a public consultation on legislative changes to allow pharmacy technicians to make use of Patient Group Directions	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
37.	NHSE to commission an economic analysis of NHS pharmaceutical services through an independent review	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
38.	Reviewing the implementation of the price concession process.	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
39.	An independent evaluation of PQS	Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework 5-year deal: year 4 (2022 to 2023) and year 5 (2023 to 2024)
40.	To optimise NHS aseptic services to deliver better clinical outcomes for improved patient experience and to achieve productivity gains. Various targets around standardisation, automation via hubs to increase capacity to 40 million units of aseptic preparation	Transforming NHS pharmacy aseptic services in England
41.	Trusts should, through a Hospital Pharmacy Transformation Programme, develop plans by April 2017 to ensure hospital pharmacies achieve their benchmarks such as increasing pharmacist prescribers, e-prescribing and administration, accurate cost coding of medicines and consolidating stock-holding by April 2020, in agreement with NHS Improvement and NHS England so that their pharmacists and clinical pharmacy technicians spend more time on patient-facing medicines optimisation activities;	Productivity in NHS hospitals (Lord Carter review)- Summarised here SofS committed to implementing all recommendations: https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2016-02-05/HCWS515
42.	Manifesto commitment of 26,000 more primary care staff to help improve patient access to appointments and reduce the coronavirus (COVID-19) backlog – pharmacist and pharmacy technicians are amongst the roles being recruited into general practice.	Conservative manifesto
43.	To eliminate paper prescribing in hospitals and introduce digital prescribing across the entire NHS by 2024.	NHS Long Term Plan