

Councillor Hayden  
Chair of the Scrutiny Board  
(Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)

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9 August 2019

Dear Councillor Hayden

**Re: Harewood Surgery Dispensary**

We are writing to you to provide an update in relation to the dispensary at Harewood Surgery. OnePrimaryCare, who run Harewood Surgery and dispensary, is reviewing what services they offer in the Harewood and Leeds area. This review of services includes the possibility of closing Harewood dispensary.

For many years Harewood Surgery has dispensed medicines to its registered patients who are eligible to receive prescriptions in this way. Most dispensing patients are eligible on the basis that they live more than 1.6km (about a mile) from a community pharmacy.

NHS England received notification from Harewood Surgery of their decision to engage with patients regarding the potential closure of dispensing services at Harewood Surgery. Whilst formal notification was received from the Surgery in March this year, prior to this NHS England and Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were invited to brief local councillors in September 2018 on the position at that time.

To ensure the practice has considered the impact of closing the dispensary, Harewood Surgery is engaging with those patients which they dispense medicines to and with local stakeholders.

Dr Kirby, Clinical Director of OnePrimaryCare, and I had a further meeting Councillor Robinson on 2 July to advise of the process for a practice led engagement and to share the draft engagement documents. The documents were also shared in advance with the practice patient group.

The Surgery has sent a letter to each household registered as dispensing along with a questionnaire. A period of engagement has now commenced which will run until 28 August 2019 and during which two drop in sessions are being held at Harewood Village Hall where patients and stakeholders can come to share their thoughts and ask any questions. NHS England representatives will also be attending these sessions.

OnePrimaryCare has clarified that the engagement with patients is only in relation to the dispensing aspect of the service and although the practice may look at the wider



services in the future it is clear to patients that they are seeking views about dispensing. This is also covered within the question and answers section of patient engagement documents.

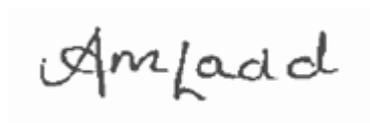
The feedback from patients and stakeholders will assist us in our decision making. We will also work closely with Leeds CCG to seek their view. However, the decision is for NHS England to determine as the responsible commissioner for pharmaceutical services.

As you will be aware the market for community pharmacies is determined by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for which the Health and Wellbeing Board are responsible. The PNA leads for Leeds have also been briefed and NHS England will work with Health and Wellbeing Board colleagues to understand the implications on the PNA document, should the dispensary close.

Please find enclosed briefing to provide further information in relation to dispensing services and about Harewood Surgery (Annex 1), along with a copy of the letter to dispensing patients and questionnaire. We hope this is helpful.

If you have any questions please contact me on [anna.ladd@nhs.net](mailto:anna.ladd@nhs.net) /07770 211573 or my colleague Samantha Cavanagh, Primary Care Manager, [samantha.cavanagh@nhs.net](mailto:samantha.cavanagh@nhs.net) / 07730391311.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Ladd". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**Anna Ladd**  
**Senior Primary Care Manager**

Cc Steven Courtney, Principal Scrutiny Adviser

Enc Annex 1 - GP Dispensing Services Briefing

Copy of letter from Harewood Surgery to dispensing patients and questionnaire

## **Annex 1**

### **GP Dispensing Services**

Dispensing doctors are general practitioners (GPs) who provide pharmaceutical services to eligible patients from their practice premises. There is only a small number of GP Practices in West Yorkshire that provide dispensing services. These are located within rural areas and areas where there are fewer or no community pharmacies. In Leeds there are 6 GP Surgeries which offer dispensing services.

Under NHS regulations, (NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013) dispensing doctors can only dispense prescriptions for patients who are eligible to receive dispensing services. To be eligible for dispensing patients must meet one or more of the conditions set out in the regulations. In summary these include;

- The patient lives more than;
  - 1.6km from a pharmacy, this is defined as 1.6km as the crow flies (in a straight line)
  - If the only pharmacy within 1.6km is a distance selling pharmacy (e.g. online pharmacy) the patient is still eligible to receive dispensing services
- The patient satisfies that they would have serious difficulty in obtaining any necessary drugs or appliances from pharmacy premises by reason of distance or inadequacy of means of communication.

Dispensaries can only dispense medicines listed in a prescription: they cannot sell other medicines 'over the counter'. They also cannot dispense medicines to patients who are registered with a different surgery.

Patients who are eligible for dispensing have choice as to whether to receive dispensing services from their GP practice or obtain their medicines from a community pharmacy instead.

Harewood Surgery is a branch surgery of Wetherby Health Centre. Dispensing patients are only able to collect their medications from the Harewood Surgery during the hours which the dispensary is open. Patients are unable to collect medications from Wetherby Surgery.

As at June 2019 Harewood Surgery had 1094 patients registered as a dispensing patient with the Surgery.

NHS Leeds CCG, under delegated responsibilities from NHS England, are responsible for the commissioning and contracting of primary medical services. NHS England, locally, are responsible for the commissioning and contracting of pharmaceutical services which includes both community pharmacy contractors and GP dispensing practices.

Community Pharmacy Provision and market entry to community pharmacy contractors is governed by the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). PNAs are refreshed every three years and the latest refresh for Leeds was published in April 2018. However, if there are changes in provision of services, which would have an impact on a market entry determination, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) may look to revise the PNA or publish a supplementary statement setting out the changes in provision.

There are 10 community pharmacies located within 5 miles of Harewood Surgery.

Patients have choice of which pharmacies they choose to access. Some local community pharmacies may offer a delivery service.

Distance selling pharmacies, commonly known as internet pharmacies, provide their services remotely (non-face to face) and are another type of pharmacy which patients can access to obtain their prescribed medication.