



## **PRIMARY CARE FUNDING – PHARMACISTS IN GP PRACTICES**

### **Aim**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government circular (PCA (P)(2017) 4) advises of funding of up to £12m from the Primary Care Fund to NHS Boards for 2017-18, to both continue with the commitment to fund 140 WTE Pharmacists to work with GP's, in GP practices and to work towards the Programme for Government objective that every GP practice in Scotland should have access to Pharmacist with advanced clinical skills.

### **Background**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport announced on 25 June 2015 details of how the Primary Care Fund will be used to support the primary care workforce, including GP's, and improve patient access to these services.
- 2.2 Circular PCA (P) (2015) 16 advised Boards that over three years £16.2m would be allocated to recruit up to 140 whole time equivalent additional Pharmacists with advanced clinical skills training, or those undertaking the training. The year three element of this funding, now £12m, will be baselined in 2017-18.
- 2.3 NHS Borders could receive up to an extra £85,800 from this fund by continuing to build on the plans already in place to recruit, or enter into arrangements with, Pharmacists to work directly with GP's to deliver patient facing care. These Pharmacists will be trained to work as Pharmacist Independent Prescribers, managing caseloads of patients with complex medicines needs, carrying out medicines reviews for a range of patients, and supporting the care of patients with long term conditions.

### **Priorities and targeting**

- 2.4 Funding is to be prioritised on Pharmacist recruitment or sessional arrangements with local pharmacy contractors. There may however be instances, in consultation with the GP's, where a skill mix of both Pharmacist and Technician time is more appropriate.
- 2.5 GP practice capacity pressure is the highest priority in terms of targeting resource and meeting patient need. Boards are expected to target resources towards those practices and localities facing the greatest pressures. Priority populations continue to include areas with a greater proportion of elderly patients, deprived areas, and patients with multiple morbidities who receive a significant number of prescriptions and who have been identified as being statistically more at risk of hospital admission or readmission. In previous years, the focus has been on priority

populations. Using SPARRA & NRAC weighting, NHS Borders Prescribing Support Team (PST) has targeted key practice populations; this change in targeting will allow us to also target practices under pressure. All practices receive some element of PST cover. The PST is working with a number of practices on more specific projects and will review the impact of this and reassess over the coming months.

## Summary

- 3.1 NHS Borders PST will continue to develop and roll out their program of Polypharmacy reviews and clinics, specifically targeting priority groups of Respiratory, Care Homes and Community Hospital patients. We will also recruit and train extra Pharmacists and Technicians to the team to increase the current service provision to more practices.
- 3.2 The Prescribing Support Team is required to submit regular updates to Scottish Government on request, on:
- Progress towards recruitment;
  - How the additional funding is supporting the Programme for Government commitment; and
  - Details of training plans (National Education Scotland have produced templates).

## Recommendation

The Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board is asked to **note** the report.

<b>Policy/Strategy Implications</b>	Continuation/expansion of existing policy
<b>Consultation</b>	Consultation with LNC and individual GP's, Primary Care Prescribing Group.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	May have difficulty recruiting as other Boards also receiving funding and this is now the third round.
<b>Compliance with requirements on Equality and Diversity</b>	Full
<b>Resource/Staffing Implications</b>	None – all funded externally

## Approved by

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
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