

Agenda Item 5

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 12 MARCH 2024 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Disposable Vapes Ban

On 29 January 2024, the government announced plans to ban disposable vapes as part of the plans to tackle the rise in youth vaping and to protect children's health. The measure comes as part of the government's response to consultation on smoking and vaping, which was launched in October 2023. Disposable vapes have been a key driver behind the alarming rise in youth vaping, with the proportion of 11 to 17 year old vapers using disposables increasing almost ninefold in the last 2 years.

New powers will be introduced to restrict flavours which are specifically marketed at children, and to ensure manufacturers produce plain, less visually appealing packaging. Shops will have to change the way they display vapes, moving them out of sight of children and away from products that appeal to them, like sweets.

To crack down on underage sales, the government will bring in new fines for shops in England and Wales that illegally sell vapes to children. Trading Standards officers will be empowered to act 'on the spot' to tackle underage tobacco and vape sales. This is in addition to the (maximum) £2500 fine that local authorities can already impose.

Pharmacy First Advanced Service

On 31 January 2024, the *Pharmacy First Advance Service* (PFAS) was launched by NHS England having confirmed that 10,000 pharmacies in England had registered to deliver the service. The new service will enable community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients without the need for the patient to visit their general practice. NHS England states that this service, alongside an expansion to pharmacy blood pressure checking and contraception services, will save up to ten million general practice team appointments a year and help patients access quicker and more convenient care, including the supply of appropriate medicines for minor illnesses.

NHS England states that the Pharmacy First Service builds on the previous Community Pharmacist Consultation Service by enabling community pharmacies to manage patients for these seven common conditions: impetigo (for ages one year and above); infected insect bites (for ages one year and above); shingles (for ages 18 and above); sinusitis (for ages twelve and above); sore throat (for ages five and above); uncomplicated urinary tract infections (for women aged between 16 and 64); and acute otitis media (for ages one to 17).

Patients will access the service by walking into the pharmacy or, when appropriate, by video consultation. In addition, patients will access the service via referrals from:

- NHS 111 (online, telephone and NHS App);
- integrated urgent care clinical assessment services;
- urgent treatment centres;
- emergency departments;
- 999; and
- general practice.

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

At our last meeting in December 2023, the Board received an update on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority - Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing. During the discussion, Members requested additional information regarding CYP online mental health support service (Kooth), specifically focusing on the East Lindsey area. Appendix A provides the additional update.