

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to extend the Herefordshire Stop Smoking Services Pharmacotherapy – a county-wide provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	20/03/2023
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director Public Health
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Authority is granted under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation SA04: To discharge any functions in relation to the corporate public health duties of the council authorised to the director of public health under the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, including responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual report on the health of the local population;</li> <li>• Improving public health, including commissioning alcohol and drug misuse services, sexual health services, child health services, smoking cessation services;</li> <li>• Planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health;</li> <li>• Promoting safer communities by working with local criminal justice partners and police and crime commissioners, the probation service and the prison service;</li> <li>• The council’s public health response to licensing applications;</li> <li>• Developing wellbeing, implementing the health and wellbeing strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Informal consultation has taken place with partner agencies and they are in favour of the continuation of the service. No consultation with service users completed due to time constraints. The market for the supply of NRT is limited to pharmacies. The price for NRT is not market driven therefore re-approaching the market at this time would not result in better value for money.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To award an extension of the open framework contract for NRT supply by Community pharmacies for 1 year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>A review of the service model was planned in conjunction with the NHS long-term plan and local healthcare services provided by WVT, this work has been delayed, but is due to commence in 23.24.</p> <p>COVID-19 has affected the demand for this service since identification of Smoking as an indicator of more severe disease. The service has been opened up to all residents of Herefordshire where previously it was targeted. It is important that we continue to provide this service.</p> <p>Behavioural support is provided by healthy lifestyle trainers (in-house); this element of the contract is for the supply of nicotine replacement therapy.</p>

	<p>Generally, this is only available from pharmacies and this is the most convenient method of obtaining NRT for service users – increasing engagement and success rates.</p> <p>An extension of 1 year to the current AQP framework would allow for the uninterrupted continued provision of NRT and also the increase in suppliers to the framework which is important as some areas of the county do not currently have a pharmacy signed up to the AQP framework agreement.</p> <p>This extension period would allow the service to continue to be made available universally following the covid-19 pandemic and beyond allowing for a review of the service delivery model in 23.24.</p>
<p><b>Equality Considerations</b></p>	<p>Smoking contributes to and amplifies health inequalities, and reduces the life expectancies of vulnerable groups within the population.</p> <p>Continuing to provide this service will provide valuable support and reach groups within the population who are more at risk, ensuring equity of support and avoiding discrimination.</p> <p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</li> <li>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</li> <li>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</li> </ul> <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>Low financial risk</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Going out to procurement for a new framework or DPS at this time would not make good financial sense as there are plans to review the smoking cessation model in 23.24, and provision of NRT needs to align to the smoking cessation delivery model and the future plans of this service.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the review will take place in 23.24, and as part of the review, we will determine whether the AQP can be decommissioned or</p>

	reprocured.  As provision of NRT is limited to pharmacies within the County, we would expect no market interest from other parties.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed..... Date: