

## **Healthy Living Pharmacies progress after national summit**

Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLPs) took a significant step forward this week, with pharmacy bodies agreeing a coordinated plan of action at a national summit.

Healthy Living Pharmacies are making a real difference to the health and wellbeing of people in Portsmouth, by consistently delivering a range of high-quality public health services such as stopping smoking, weight loss, the treatment of minor ailments, contraception and sexual health and advice on medicines. Other areas across England are now looking to replicate these outcomes.

The Government in its *Healthy Lives Healthy People* white paper recently described pharmacy as “a valuable and trusted public health resource.” With millions of direct contacts with the public each day, community pharmacy teams have great potential to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities on a national basis. The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 encourages NHS organisations to maintain and develop pharmaceutical services, as the evidence for pharmacy’s contribution to public health grows.

Recognising that HLPs can be both an inspiration and a template for pharmacy public health development, the pharmacy bodies committed to facilitate a number of pathfinder sites across England, supporting the identification, collation and interpretation of evidence. Together, the group agreed that local and national leadership would be critical to success and that pharmacy teams would need support to put in place the enablers of workforce development and engagement with others. Furthermore, the bodies will work together to optimise their resources and identify what, in detail, can be done to encourage wider uptake of the HLP concept and who will do what.

The organisations represented at the meeting were: Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE), Company Chemists Association (CCA), National Pharmacy Association (NPA), Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), NHS Employers and the Department of Health.

### **Notes to editors**

Healthy Living Pharmacies offer services such as stopping smoking, weight management, emergency hormonal contraception, chlamydia screening, advice on alcohol and reviews of the use of their medicines. Early indications show that HLPs have greater productivity and offer higher-quality services. Early evaluation results include a 140% increase in smoking quits from pharmacies compared with the previous year; and 75% of the 200 smokers with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who had a medicines use review accepted help to stop smoking. A person walking into an HLP in Portsmouth is twice as likely to set a quit date and give up compared to a person walking into a pharmacy which is not an HLP. Over 3500 patients received brief advice on safe alcohol consumption; 36% were at increasing risk and 10% at high risk from current levels of use. Over 820 patients with a respiratory condition have been supported in the effective use of their medicines. Initial outcomes show that 74% were not optimally controlled and 37% had not seen another healthcare professional in the previous 12 months; 70% of patients showed an improvement in the management of their condition as a result of the pharmacist intervention.

For further information about this release please contact:

Pharmacy Voice Press Office on 01727 795901 or 07920 203 051 email [communications@npa.co.uk](mailto:communications@npa.co.uk).

The Society Press office on 0207 5722476, [pr@rpharms.com](mailto:pr@rpharms.com)