

## SMOKING CESSATION

### **We have been given an indicative number of people to engage with our smoking cessation service – what is that about?**

As part of the contracts from 1 April 2016, Public Health Dorset gave all providers an indicative number of smokers with which to engage during the year. There are two reasons for this:

- During a period of considerable financial reduction across local authorities, Public Health Dorset needs to actively manage contracts to ensure they stay within budget. By setting indicative activity levels, this gives all parties an idea of the overall resource available and allows the commissioner to discuss and, if necessary, curtail activity levels with some providers should this be needed.
- Historically, we have had very few people engage with our services from areas where we know there to be a particularly high prevalence of smokers. The indicative numbers within your contract are reflective of local population need, as we try to make our services more equitable over time.

If you find you are approaching your indicative number of engagements, please do contact Public Health Dorset. It is not that we will necessarily ask you to stop delivering the service immediately, but it will allow us to monitor spend and make adjustments as required.

### **We have staff who need training, how do we get this?**

If you have staff that are new to delivering this service, they will first need to undertake the NCSCT online practitioner training <http://elearning.ncsct.co.uk/england>. They will also need to watch our webinar on delivering services from 1 April 2016, link below:  
<http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/providing/community-providers/information-on-services-april-2016>

If you have experienced staff that have delivered smoking cessation services in Dorset for some time, they should also watch the webinar presentation. The NCSCT training and webinar presentation is enough to get new practitioners up and running. During the year we will be organising additional face-to-face training with a particular emphasis on skills development and behaviour change. These opportunities will be advertised on our website and all our providers will be sent notification of the training dates in advance.

### **Can NRT be provided with Varenicline?**

Consistent with NICE guidance PH10 (updated November 2013), it is recommended that smoking cessation advisors do not offer NRT and Varenicline in combination. This is the current position of Public Health Dorset. We recognise that some recent evidence points to combined NRT/Varenicline increasing effectiveness of smoking cessation, however the safety of combination therapy would require further investigation prior to us considering any change to our recommendation.

**I have concerns about the new template on Pharmoutcomes.**

We have received a number of concerns regarding the new template from 1 April 2016 onwards. We are actively working on a new set of templates (more similar to the ones we had last year) and will be updating the system with these shortly. In the meantime, please do use last year's templates if you find those easier to use. We will pay you!

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