

Gluten free food and over the counter medicines consultation

Luton

You said – we heard

Luton Clinical Commissioning Group undertook a 90 day public consultation on whether the prescribing of gluten-free food and over the counter medicines for short term conditions should be limited or stopped in Luton.

The consultation took place from September to December 2017, and received 275 responses and followed a month long period of pre-engagement consultation.

Luton is home to a wide range of people from different nationalities, cultures, and religions. To ensure that the impact of any potential changes in prescribing in Luton was fully assessed before any decisions we made, we ensured we consulted with a wide range of healthcare professionals, GPs, pharmacists, adult and children dieticians, Coeliac UK, voluntary and support groups as well as patients and the general public.

Here are the headline results:

We Asked	You said
Which of the areas do you have a specific interest in? (more than one option could be selected)	58.36% said gluten free foods. 47.21% said over the counter medicines. 54.28% said the way in which the local health care budget is spent.
Are you registered with a GP in Luton?	77% said yes 23% said no
When considering the prioritisation of healthcare funding, (i.e. more demand on our budget than we have the budget to spend) do you agree with the above proposal that LCCG should stop funding gluten-free foods on the NHS in Luton?	43.8% said yes 41.5% said no 14.6% said don't know or unsure

<p>If LCCG were to make the decision to stop funding gluten-free foods on the NHS, but there was opportunity to reinvest some of that saving, which of the below options do you think would be beneficial? (please tick all that apply)</p>	<p>58.1% said additional support from Nutrition and Dietetic service to ensure regular reviews of an individual's coeliac diet.</p> <p>41.13% said a recipe book/website which would offer suggestions on how to make healthy gluten-free meals and snacks from scratch</p> <p>39.5% said additional support for patients with coeliac disease, including regular, local events to share tips and receive advice from professionals</p> <p>26.2% said they preferred an 'other' option</p>
<p>Which of the following statements applies to you?</p>	<p>37.9% chose an 'other' option.</p> <p>25% said they were a health professional responding in a professional capacity.</p> <p>16.7% said they received gluten free foods on prescription.</p> <p>15.4% said they knew someone who received gluten free food on prescription.</p> <p>5% said someone they care for or look after received gluten free foods on prescription</p>
<p>When considering the prioritisation of healthcare funding, (i.e. more demand on our budget than we have the budget to spend) do you agree with the above proposal that LCCG should stop funding over the counter medicines on the NHS in Luton?</p>	<p>54.7% said yes.</p> <p>33.8% said no.</p> <p>11.5% didn't know or were unsure.</p>
<p>If LCCG were to make the decision to stop funding over the counter medicines on the NHS, but there was opportunity to reinvest some of that saving, which of the below options do you think would be beneficial? (more than one option could be selected)</p>	<p>73.3% said A self-care campaign to highlight the ways in which you can look after yourself and how community pharmacists can support you.</p> <p>27.6% said 'Other'.</p> <p>24.9% said self-care seminars for members of the public to attend.</p>

<p>Which of the following statements applies to you? (more than one option could be selected)</p>	<p>27.4% said: Someone I know receives over the counter medicine on prescription</p> <p>26.9% said: I receive over the counter medicine on prescription</p> <p>26% said: I am a healthcare professional responding in a professional capacity</p> <p>25% responded with 'Other'</p> <p>12% said: Someone I care for/look after receives over the counter medicine on prescription.</p>
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Next Steps

A full report of the consultation findings, comments and suggestions made during the consultation process, together with recommendations from LCCG's Head of Medicines Optimisation, is due to be presented at the public LCCG Board meeting on 8 May.

The Board will be asked to make a decision on the proposals based on the evidence contained in that report. The Board can either accept the recommendations, ask for more evidence to support the proposal, accept the recommendations with additional stipulations or limitations, or reject the recommendations.

If The Board decides there is enough evidence to support a change in prescribing policy in Luton, and if they agree with the recommendations, a change in prescribing policy will be agreed.

If a change in prescribing policy is agreed, the changes are expected to come into effect at the end of May 2018.