

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

BRIEFING NOTE

HEALTH & WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2011

BRIEFING NOTE FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

OUT OF HOURS PHARMACY PROVISION

1. Purpose of Briefing Note

1.1 To advise members of the arrangements for out of hours Pharmacy provision within the District.

2. Background

2.1 Members have raised concerns regarding the availability of Pharmacy services outside of normal opening hours. Pharmacy provision is commissioned by South Staffordshire PCT who advise that the following arrangements are in place within the District:

Pharmacy Provision

2.2 There is one "100 hour" Pharmacy located within Sainsburys supermarket in the Orbital Centre. This Pharmacy is open 0700 to 2300 Monday to Friday, 0700 to 2200 on Saturday, and 1000 to 1600 on Sunday.

2.3 The remainder of Pharmacies are "40 hour" Pharmacies. These are contracted to provide core hours, typically 0900 to 1300 and 1400 to 1700 Monday to Friday, and Saturday am. With the agreement of the PCT individual Pharmacies may provide supplementary hours in addition to these core hours. This would typically include extended opening hours Monday to Saturday, plus Sunday opening.

2.4 There is no 24 hour Pharmacy within the District or in any neighbouring areas.

GP Out of Hours Service

2.4 Anyone in urgent need of medication when a Pharmacy is unavailable can contact the GP Out of Hours Service. They access this service by telephoning their own GP and the call will then be diverted or a contact number given. The service is based at Cannock Hospital and is accessed via telephone referral only. A walk-in service without a referral is not available.

2.5 The GP Out of Hours Service operates from 1830 to 0800 the following morning Monday to Thursday; and from 1830 on Friday to 0800 the following Monday. These hours are extended to cover bank holidays. The duty GP has access to a comprehensive range of drugs and should be able to provide most medication required.

2.6 The PCT advise that these arrangements should accommodate the vast majority of people and anyone requiring further assistance will probably need to attend a hospital A&E Department.