# Future Planning for Pharmacists in Primary Care

## Background

I am writing to update you on some recent developments in relation to preparing pharmacists to work across primary care. As you know the NHS England programme to grow a pharmacist workforce in general practice has been very successful and there is increasingly good population coverage across England.

Health Education England are now starting to think about longer term planning and sustainability of this workforce, and are committed to exposing pharmacy trainees to a reflective range of working environments prior to their registration and beyond. This will support students and trainees to make correct career choices and to have some basic skills and knowledge about the various sectors of practice, enabling a more robust inter-professional network across primary care.

We have some experience across England now of providing a range of types of placement from very short placements to longer placements of up to three months in total over the pre-registration year. This proposal has been developed to widen this approach and create a more consistentency.

### The Proposal

We have secured funding through the Pharmacy Integration Fund to develop pre-registration placements of 3-6 months in general practice. We would like to work with you to develop these longer placements as part of the pre-registration training year, linked to the wider Primary Care strategy.

* Funding has been secured for preregistration pharmacist training that would take place in the academic year 2019/20
* As pre-registration pharmacist recruitment is now undertaken centrally, the process of collecting details of available programmes for 19/20 is currently underway and will run until **March 16th 2018**. This means that we would **need to identify placement partnerships** i.e. GP practices that would take 3-6 month pre-reg placements plus their respective pharmacy partners for the other 6-9 months **by March 2nd,** to allow timeto confirm details before the closing date
* We would wish to place trainees in practices that have a practice pharmacist
* Trainees would be recruited into places via the National Pre-registration Pharmacist Recruitment Scheme (ORIEL) with selection centres being held in September 2018
* A fully-formed curriculum is not yet required, simply a firm expression of interest and the name/address of your partner pharmacy, who will assume the role of lead employer.
* The partner pharmacy could be from either the community or hospital sector or both
* Funding to support placements is available; please see table below
* A working group of placement providers to develop a suitable curriculum will be established, and is currently seeking members to attend face to face planning sessions. However, all placement providers will be expected to support curriculum delivery either at the design or implementation phase, or both. Funding will be provided per provider as per the funding table below.
* The exact placement structure will be informed by the working group, but is likely to consist of either block placements or a blended approach of fixed days per week in each setting, depending on the availability of the practice pharmacist to supervise the trainee

### Timelines

### Funding Available

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| **Placement Provider** | **Nature of Funding** | **Value of Funding** |
| All (GP/Community/Hospital) | Support to develop and implement a placement curriculum | £1400 per placement provider |
| General Practice | Pharmacy trainee placement support fee (payable to placement provider for educational support) | £7000 pro rata per annum, per practice, per trainee |
| Community Pharmacy | Pharmacy pre-registration trainee grant for employers providing pre-registration training | As per Drug Tariff Part XIII-Payments in respect of Pre-registration Trainees |
| Hospital Pharmacy | Salary support to recruit additional trainees for inclusion in this programme | As per current local arrangements via application to regional HEE teams |

**Next Steps**

Expressions of interest are sought **by March 2nd 2018. We would welcome expressions of interest from:**

* For any further queries please contact: [medicinesoptimisation.yh@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:medicinesoptimisation.yh@hee.nhs.uk) and will aim to answer your questions. Where possible, we will try to help match up sites.
* Sites willing to support trainee placements in 2019/20; please complete the form by clicking on the link: [Expression of interest form](https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/preregistrationpharmacistsinprimarycare)
* Any existing partnerships with community pharmacies are welcomed, but we would also like you to work with your LPC leads and hospital colleagues to create new partnerships by identifying local interest through your respective networks and pairing up those in close proximity to one another.