

## This issue covers:

### Local News:

- FAO Luton – CGL update and webinar – **16/4/26 19:00 – 20:30**.

### Training & Events:

- Primary care cybersecurity webinars.
- Ketamine Use & Harm Reduction webinar – **25/3/26 13:00 – 13:45**.
- Bringing Primary Care Together Conference – **21 & 22 June**.
- CPE Wellbeing & Support webinar available to watch.

### National News/Reminders:

- Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026 – open until **10:00 on 13/4/26**.
- FP34C and prescription bundles submission deadlines over Easter.
- Pharmacy Bank holiday opening hours.
- NHS England's Sexual Safety Charter.

---

## Local News

### **FAO Luton – Update on CGL contract and webinar.**

As a result of a recent tender process conducted by Luton Borough Council, Change Grow Live (CGL) and partners will continue to provide Drug & Alcohol treatment and Recovery services in Luton commencing on **1 April 2026**. Please ensure that you read the attached [letter](#) regarding the updates.

CGL will be holding an evening webinar on **Thursday 16 April 19:00 – 20:30** with an opportunity for feedback and contractors to ask questions. The invite will be sent from the LPC nearer the time of the webinar. The webinar **is open to all Luton contractors**, including those who currently do not offer the service and would be interested in doing so in the future.

---

# Training & Events

## **Primary care cybersecurity webinars: repeat sessions running.**

NHS England and City of London Police Cyber Griffin team are delivering a series of cybersecurity webinars for primary care. These webinars will share real-world intelligence on current cyber threats; offer simple, effective steps to protect organisations; help colleagues spot and respond to suspicious activity before it becomes a breach; and provide an opportunity to discuss how to address cyber actions on the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit](#).

Register to join:

- [Cyber Baseline](#) Part A: 2–3.30pm, 19 March
- [Cyber Baseline](#) Part B: 2–3.30pm, 14 April

## **Ketamine Use & Harm Reduction: A Webinar for Frontline Healthcare Professionals.**

With ketamine use rising among younger populations, pharmacy teams are increasingly likely to see the clinical consequences. To support frontline intervention, health charity Turning Point is running a webinar to help recognise the signs associated with chronic use.

The session, scheduled for **1pm on Wednesday 25 March**, will provide pharmacy owners and staff with straightforward harm reduction strategies and the clinical knowledge required to encourage timely engagement with drug and alcohol services.

## **Bringing Primary Care together 21–22 June 2026 – National Conference Centre Birmingham.**

The agenda for the first ever Community Pharmacy & General Practice Conference has now been published.

This two-day event aims to bring together pharmacy and general practice leaders to explore integrated care, service innovation, workforce development, and practical ways to strengthen collaboration across primary care. With a range of expert-led sessions and real-world case studies, the conference offers valuable insights for pharmacy teams looking to enhance joint working and patient outcomes.

## **Wellbeing and support.**

The recording of the Stress Management and Building Resilience Workshop, facilitated by Pharmacist Support on Thursday 26 February 2026, is available to watch now.

---

# National News/Reminders

## **Pharmacy Pressures Survey extended.**

The deadline to respond to Community Pharmacy England Pressures Survey has been **extended to 10am on Monday 13th April.**

### [FP34C and prescription bundle submission deadlines over Easter.](#)

With Good Friday (3 April) bank holiday occurring in the first five days of April 2026, pharmacy owners will be afforded an extra day, **6 April**, to submit their FP34C declaration using the [Manage Your Service \(MYS\) portal](#). However, this year, the 6 April is also a bank holiday (Easter Monday) which means that the benefit of the extended submission deadline may be lost for many pharmacies closed during the Easter holidays. For example, pharmacies closed during the long Easter weekend may only have two days (1 or 2 April) to submit their March 2026 declaration to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Therefore, Community Pharmacy England is providing advance notice to help pharmacy owners make arrangements to **submit their March FP34C declarations by the 6 April** to secure early advance payment on 10 April 2026.

### [Pharmacy bank holiday opening hours in the remainder of 2026 and in 2027.](#)

Pharmacy owners must ensure that their pharmacy's [NHS website profile](#) and [DoS profile](#) are accurate and up to date. In addition, pharmacy owners must ensure they verify the profiles at least once each quarter\* [using the NHS Profile Manager](#). This includes updating information on opening hours for bank holidays, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Pharmacy owners are encouraged to do this as early as possible for any holiday period. Even if no changes have been made, pharmacy owners must still verify the information contained in their NHS website profile and DoS profile, at least once each quarter\*, as a requirement for the Terms of Service.

\*Financial quarters are 1 April – 30 June; 1 July – 31 August; 1 September – 31 December; and 1 January – 31 March.

### [NHS England's Sexual Safety Charter: What pharmacy owners need to know.](#)

To help prepare for new legislation, pharmacy owners are being encouraged – although not legally required – to sign up for **NHS England's Sexual Safety Charter**.

Signing up to the NHS Sexual Safety Charter and completing the [self-assessment checklist](#) are not part of pharmacy owners' Terms of Service and are not mandatory for pharmacy owners. They have been developed as support for NHS organisations and are designed to help pharmacy owners comply with the legislative changes. NHS England expects that organisations will find it helpful to achieve compliance with the new legal duties.

Community Pharmacy BLMK and Northamptonshire, supports the principles behind this activity, as there may be benefits to contractors (and it might possibly find a way into CPAF this year). However, currently this is not funded activity, nor is it a requirement within either the NHS Terms of Service or any essential or advanced service specification. Therefore, ICB teams or NHS England contract monitoring teams cannot mandate this activity nor add a deadline for completion at this stage.

Ensure that all staff are aware of, and have access to, speaking up routes – staff should know to reach a Freedom To Speak Up (FTSU) guardian, and can use the following [National Guardian](#) link. Staff in **BLMK** can email the following guardians [Lana.Haslam@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk](mailto:Lana.Haslam@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk) and [speakuptoclive@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:speakuptoclive@ldh.nhs.uk). Staff in **Northants** have different contacts for each PCN or area of the county and should use the [National Guardian](#) link.

### [Drug Tariff Resources.](#)

The Drug Tariff, published on a monthly basis, outlines what will be paid to pharmacy owners for NHS services provided. It can be a fairly complex document to navigate with numerous sections for pharmacy teams to refer to.

To make it easier to understand and use in day-to-day practice, the Dispensing and Supply team (at CPE) has prepared a practical [guide](#) that breaks down each section of the Drug Tariff, explaining what it includes and where to find the key information.

### [Did you know that Community Pharmacy England \(CPE\) have a Special Container Database?](#)

The CPE website contains a Special Container Database enabling pharmacy teams to quickly identify products that have special container status for dispensing purposes.

### [Update on care leavers entitlement to free NHS prescriptions, dental and eyecare](#)

In December 2025, the government announced [support for care leavers with free NHS prescriptions, dental and eyecare](#). The intention is to make the necessary legislation and operational changes to allow care leavers to access these services by the **end of 2026**. Further information on when and how this help will be available for care leavers will be issued once available.

Until then care leavers should continue to pay NHS charges unless they are exempt. More information about help with health costs can be found [on the NHS.uk website](#). Care leavers are encouraged to ask their personal adviser about any other locally available support.

---

### [Useful Links:](#)

<https://cpe.org.uk>

[Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)](#)

[Alerts recalls and safety information: medicines and medical devices.](#)

[Drug Safety Updates.](#)

[Timelines for PQS Domains 2025/26.](#)

[Translation Services – Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants.](#)

[MECC – BLMK.](#)

[MECC – Northants.](#)

[Community Pharmacy BLMK-N LinkedIn.](#)

Email: [office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk](mailto:office@blmk-n-communitypharmacy.org.uk)