

If calling please ask for:
Karen Critchley
0151 443 4859

SR/KLC

3 February 2011

The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
Knowsley Constituency
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear George,

Process for considering applications for pharmacies that intend to open for at least 100 hours per week (Regulation 13)

Thank you for your invitation for the PCT to attend the public meeting tomorrow night to discuss the 100 hour pharmacy licence application made by Mr John Davey for 226 Pilch Lane, Huyton. I regret that it is not possible on this occasion for a senior officer from the PCT to attend this meeting, nor in any case would it be appropriate in the circumstances of the 'due process' of the application being underway for us to attend such a meeting whilst that 'legal' process was underway.

The process for considering applications for a pharmacy licence are governed by The NHS (Pharmaceutical Service) Regulations 2005, as amended. In Merseyside the application process is managed through the NHS agency Central Operations Mersey or COM that is hosted by Liverpool PCT. COM 'process' the application received on behalf of the local PCTs, including the receipt of any comments from interested parties and present the application to the respective local PCT Pharmacy Contracts Committee along with all comments or representations made. It is this local PCT committee that must then make the decision on the application for the pharmacy licence and the range of services to be provided.

The local committee in effect has two decisions to make firstly whether to approve the 100 hour application and then secondly what range of enhanced or advanced services that pharmacy will be commissioned or directed to provide over and above the essential range of services required from all community pharmacies.

improving people's lives

Sheena Ramsey – Chief Executive KMBC & Acting Chief Executive, NHS Knowsley
Health & Wellbeing Headquarters, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road,
Huyton, L36 6GA

Direct Line: 0151 443 4859
Fax: 0151 443 3670
Email: ChiefExecutive@knowsley.nhs.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

In reaching the first decision the committee must be satisfied that the limited requirements prescribed by the Regulations are met. These in essence require that the applicant will open the pharmacy for a minimum of 100 hours per week, will deliver the full range of essential services (required of all pharmacies) and will ensure that a pharmacist is normally available for the hours of opening. You will appreciate that the committee can only act within the boundaries set out in the Regulations in reaching this first part of the decision.

The second decision requires the PCT to act in a fair and objective manner, taking into account the local Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and any comments or representations made when considering what enhanced or advanced services it requires the licence holder to provide. The PNA was approved formally by the PCT at today's Board meeting and sets out a comprehensive assessment of local need, including that for advanced or enhanced services that will directly inform the PCT commissioners in making their recommendation to the committee as to what enhanced services should be commissioned. The decision of the committee once made will of course then be made public and can be the subject of an appeal by the applicant.

The deadline as I think you are already aware for comments on the current 100 hour application made by Mr John Davey for 226 Pilch Lane, Huyton is the 12th February and these can be sent to:

Charlotte Smith
Central Operations Merseyside
Bevan House
Wavertree Technology Park
65 Stephenson Way
L13 1HN

I hope that this letter assures you of the process that the PCT is following in considering and determining the application made by Mr Davey. At today's Board meeting a significant number of local residents attended the meeting and expressed their opposition to the application and I can assure you as I assured them that their views will be considered by the Pharmacy Contracts Committee when it considers the matter formally at the end of this month.

Yours sincerely,



Sheena Ramsey
Chief Executive - KMBC and
Acting Chief Executive - NHS Knowsley