

Our Ref: PW/TLR/FOI/1225/1544

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Smithfield One  
Leonard Coates Way  
Hanley  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST1 4FA

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam

### **FOI/1225/1544**

#### **Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Further to your email dated Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We can now confirm that Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website. The ICBs response is provided below in **blue** text.

You have requested:

**I'd like to request the following records under the freedom of information act. By way of context, the requested records detailed below relate to the list of 16 national medicines optimisation opportunities published by NHS England each financial year since the summer of 2023. The current page is here:**

**<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-medicines-optimisation-opportunities-2023-24/>**

#### **1. A list of the national priorities you have been pursuing in 2025-26**

**Appropriate use, access and uptake**

- 1. Addressing problematic polypharmacy**
- 2. Addressing low priority prescribing**
- 3. Improving equitable adoption of the most clinically and cost-effective medicines**
- 4. Obtaining secondary care medicines in line with NHS England commercial medicines framework agreements -*Acute Trust led***
- 5. Standardising product formulations of aseptically compounded medicines - *Acute Trust led***
- 6. Using best value biologic medicines in line with NHS England commissioning recommendations. - *Acute Trust led***

**Specific clinical areas**

- 7. Addressing inappropriate antidepressant prescribing**
- 8. Appropriate prescribing and supply of blood glucose and ketone meters, and testing strips and lancets**

9. Identifying patients with atrial fibrillation and using best value direct-acting oral anticoagulants
10. Identifying patients with hypertension and starting antihypertensives where appropriate
11. Optimising inhaler use to improve respiratory outcomes and reduce carbon Emissions
12. Improving valproate safety
13. Optimising lipid management for cardiovascular disease prevention
14. Reducing course length of antimicrobial prescribing
15. Chronic non-cancer pain management without opioids
16. Switching intravenous antibiotics to oral. *Acute trust led*

**2. A list of any local priorities you have been working on in 2025-26, as distinct from those in point 1 above.**

Local priorities

1. Continuous Glucose Monitoring
2. Review provision of GLP1 across the system ensuring alignment with weight management roll out .
3. Ensure line of sight through EoL programme to access and availability of palliative care medication including prioritising out of hours access to medication including authorisation charts etc
4. SMRs for patients at risk of fall and post-discharge from hospital
5. Increasing the contribution of community pharmacy to primary care access and recovery plan eg Pharmacy first
6. High-Cost drugs prescribing budget: to reduce unwarranted variation in prescribing and ensure best-value medicine in line with NICE TA guidance
7. Shared Care drug monitoring

**3. A list of any national priorities you will be pursuing in 2026-27**

These have not been finalised

**4. A list of any local priorities you will be pursuing in 2026-27, as distinct from those in point 3 above.**

These have not been finalised

**I would like the information in an electronic format. Ideally in a CSV file but a Word document would do.**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

**To request an internal review**

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB FOI team by emailing; [staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk](mailto:staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk) or by post to the address at the top of this letter within 40 working days of the initial response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

**Paul Winter**  
**Associate Director of Corporate Governance**