



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board

Date: 19 November 2025

Subject: Gluten Free Prescribing

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board with an update from the ICB with regards to the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) review on how gluten-free (GF) foods are prescribed for adults and children who have been diagnosed with coeliac disease or dermatitis herpetiformis.

2 Recommendations

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board are recommended to:

- a) Review the paper and associated engagement report
- b) Support the decision of the C&W ICB that the information in the paper regarding the engagement undertaken, numbers of patients affected by the change and mitigations outlined are sufficient to go ahead with the proposed service change.
- c) Note that if the Board do not agree with the above recommendation, and that the proposals constitute a major service change this then requires further and wider public engagement to understand the impact of the change.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Outline information is provided in the appended briefing note (Appendix 2) and Engagement analysis (Appendix 3) and officers will be present at the meeting to share more detail and context on these topics.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 A national equality impact assessment found that risks associated with decommissioning GF prescribing were largely mitigated by the availability of naturally GF foods and retail access. Prescribing data across Coventry and Warwickshire shows no correlation between deprivation and prescribing rates, suggesting that prescribing is driven by clinical diagnosis rather than socioeconomic factors.
- 4.2 Concerns were raised during engagement about affordability and access for individuals, particularly for vulnerable groups. See Section 3 of Appendix 2 for further details.

Appendix 2: Briefing Paper – Gluten Free Prescribing

Appendix 3: Gluten Free Prescribing Engagement Report

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