***Position statement regarding Supervised Consumption from Dr David Bremner, Medical Director, Turning Point***

Turning Point remains committed to supporting our community pharmacy partners during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supervised consumption rates have fallen dramatically as a result of our service users complying with social distancing, shielding and isolation as well as in response to availability of this service in community pharmacies.

Turning Point has decided to pay the average costs of the last 6 months of supervised consumption to their community pharmacy partners.

So in April 2020, we will pay the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for October 2019 to March 2020 and May 2020 the equivalent of the average of our supervised consumption spend for November 2019 to April 2020.

We feel this is an accurate predictor of this spend compared with a “stand-alone” monthly figure.

Given the considerable cost implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, Turning Point remains committed to paying the average of the previous 6 months of supervised consumption spend, for  the next 6 months i.e. April 2020 to September 2020.

We remain hopeful that within 6 months, prescribing practices will have returned to being fully resourced and we will have then approximated the “actual” supervised consumption spend.

Turning Point will not pay supervised consumption costs for new prescriptions that have previously never been supervised, prescriptions that are new to a pharmacy, nor will we pay for supervised consumption to pharmacies that do not dispense the prescription at all due to extended closures. So these are legacy payments based on previous prescriptions being live in the pharmacy where these were initiated.

Should the “actual” supervised consumption spend ever exceed the average of the previous 6 months, then Turning Point will pay the higher amount.

Turning Point welcomes open dialogue with our LPC partners to review our ways of working together in the post-Covid-19 clinical landscape. There are opportunities to improve what we jointly offer service users that we are most optimistic about such as our innovative take home naloxone programme which we have just launched in Somerset.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dr David Bremner