

PHARMACY PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Application by The Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd for inclusion in the pharmaceutical list in respect of the address, Smiddyhill Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 5WL. The Pharmacy Practices Committee met at 9.30am on Wednesday 20th August 2014 in The Findhorn Room, Staff Home, Woodend Hospital, Eday Road, Aberdeen to consider the above application in accordance with the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended.

Decision of the Pharmacy Practices Committee

The decision of the Committee was unanimous in that the provision of pharmaceutical services at the premises was neither necessary nor desirable in order to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services within the neighbourhood in which the premises were located by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list and that accordingly the application should not be granted.

Pharmacy Practices Committee

Mr Terry Mackie	(Chair)
Mrs Kim Munro	(Non-contractor Pharmacist)
Mr Ian Will	(Contractor Pharmacist)
Ms Barbara Lamb	(Lay Member)
Mr Brian McDougall	(Lay Member)
Mrs Leonora Montgomery	(Lay Member)

Observers

Mrs Samantha Melrose	(Contractor Pharmacist)
Mr Miles Paterson	(Lay Member)

In Attendance

Mrs Lesley Anderson	(Administrator to the Pharmacy Practices Committee)
Mr Andrew Jackson	(Board Legal Advisor)
Mr David Pfleger	(Director of Pharmacy)

1. The Committee convened to consider an application for inclusion in the pharmaceutical list, dated 24th February 2014, by The Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd in respect of the address, Smiddyhill Road, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 5WL. A copy of the application had been circulated in advance to the Committee and the interested parties.
2. Written representations had been received from Boots UK Ltd; the Area Pharmaceutical Committee, Baird's Pharmacy, Summers Pharmacy and Gardens Pharmacy. The applicant and the interested parties were entitled to comment on the

representations received. Copies of the written representations had been circulated in advance to the Committee, the applicant and the interested parties.

3. The Committee had before them maps of the area surrounding the proposed premises detailing the location of the nearest pharmacies and GP surgeries, deprivation categories and population density. They had details of the numbers of prescriptions dispensed during the months December 2013 – May 2014 by the pharmacies nearest to the proposed premises and the number of prescriptions they dispensed that were issued from the GP surgeries closest to the premises during the months December 2013 – May 2014. The Committee were also provided with “Pharmacy Profiles” of the nearest pharmacies detailing opening hours, premises facilities and services offered.
4. Under paragraph 5(10) of the Regulations the Committee was required to decide whether “the provision of pharmaceutical services at the premises named in the application is necessary or desirable in order to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list.”
5. It had been confirmed prior to the meeting that the members present did not have an interest to declare.
6. The Committee agreed to invite the applicant, the Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd and those who were present who had made written representations to attend before them. They were:
 - Emma Griffiths assisted by Alan Cargill in the presentation of the application, representing The Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd
 - Mrs Ann Smith, representing the Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC)
 - Mr Robert M Baird assisted by Mr Nicol Baird representing Bairds Pharmacy
 - Mr Jordan West assisted by Mrs Ruth Garden representing Gardens and Summers Pharmacies
7. The Chairman explained the procedure that would be followed and no person present objected.
8. The procedure adopted by the Committee was that the applicant made an opening submission to the Committee, which was followed by an opportunity for the objectors and the Committee to ask questions. The objectors then made their oral representations and the applicant and the Committee then asked the objectors questions. The parties were then given an opportunity to sum up. Before the parties left the meeting the Chairman asked all parties if they felt that they had had a fair and full hearing. They confirmed individually that they had.

9. Prior to the meeting the Committee undertook a site visit on Monday 18th August, 2014. The Committee noted the location of the proposed premises, the pharmacies nearest to the proposed premises, the nearest GP surgeries and the neighbourhood as defined by the applicant. The applicant defined the neighbourhood in their application as encompassing South Fraserburgh from Boothby Road to the open fields behind Banff & Buchan College to joining Alexandra Terrace to Saltoun Place into Links Road to the North Sea. From the North Sea across Fraserburgh Golf Course following the open land behind the housing at Pitblae to rejoin Boothby Road.
10. The Committee was required to and did take account of all relevant factors concerning the issues of neighbourhood, adequacy of existing pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood and whether the provision of pharmaceutical services at the premises named in the application was necessary or desirable to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located.

Neighbourhood

11. The Committee noted that the applicant, the Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd, had defined the neighbourhood in their application as encompassing South Fraserburgh from Boothby Road to the open fields behind Banff & Buchan College to joining Alexandra Terrace to Saltoun Place into Links Road to the North Sea. From the North Sea across Fraserburgh Golf Course following the open land behind the housing at Pitblae to rejoin Boothby Road.
12. The applicant clarified this to the Chair as being correct.
13. The interested parties all stated in their presentations that they considered the neighbourhood to be the town of Fraserburgh.

Adequacy of Existing Pharmaceutical Services and Necessity or Desirability

Applicant's Case

14. Ms Emma Griffiths representing the Co-operative Group Healthcare Ltd

Ms Griffiths commenced her oral presentation by stating she believes the application is at least desirable in the area. The applicant went onto detail the identified neighbourhood as encompassing South Fraserburgh from Boothby Road to the open fields behind Banff & Buchan College to joining Alexandra Terrace to Saltoun Place into Links Road to the North Sea. From the North Sea across Fraserburgh Golf Course following the open land behind the housing at Pitblae to rejoin Boothby Road.

Ms Griffiths stated that it could be argued that Fraserburgh is one neighbourhood, but Ms Griffiths went on to disagree with this saying that those who reside in the north

along Quarry Road and Marconi Road would not consider themselves neighbours of those who live on Smiddyhill Road. Wherever the northern boundary is drawn it does not change the desirability of a pharmacy at Smiddyhill Road.

The proposed neighbourhood is formed by geographical and physical boundaries to the West, South and East. The northern boundary is roughly based on housing changes. The neighbourhood boundary is similar to the data zones for Smiddyhill and Lochpots. The population of this neighbourhood is 5882 according to the 2011 census data. Smiddyhill and Lochpots data zones experience a higher than the Scottish average number of hospitalisations related to asthma and coronary heart disease, drug related hospitalisations, alcohol related hospitalisations and smoking is prevalent, especially in pregnancy.

The other two wards in Fraserburgh, Central Academy plus Harbour and Broadsea also experience conditions which are significantly worse than the national average. This includes alcohol and drug related hospitalisations, asthmas, cancer and coronary heart disease, deaths from suicide, smoking during pregnancy, those aged 65 and over with multiple hospitalisations.

Aberdeenshire has only 3 data zones in the top 20% most deprived in terms of health, 2 of which are located in Fraserburgh. The high health deprivation which is measured in terms of mortality rates, comparative illness factors, emergency admissions to hospital, hospital admissions relating to alcohol and drug use and the proportion of prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression and psychosis.

Fraserburgh as a whole has high pharmaceutical needs as supported by the number of items per patient and the volume of items dispensed per pharmacy far exceeding that of the Grampian and national Scottish average pharmacy dispensed. The average pharmacy in Scotland dispenses 6000 items per month and the average pharmacy in Grampian dispenses 6200 items per month but the pharmacies in Fraserburgh are dispensing 8,000 items per month on average. This ranges from 12,000 items in one pharmacy to 3,000 in another. This is 29% more dispensing activity on average per pharmacy in Fraserburgh than the rest of Grampian (these figures are sourced from the Scottish Information Division).

Additionally, the number of addicts and dispensed methadone figures are far greater in Fraserburgh than the rest of Scotland. The pharmacies in Fraserburgh are dispensing for 317 methadone service users, equating to 79 on average per pharmacy. Whereas the rest of Scotland are dispensing to 32 service users on average per pharmacy. This is more than double the national average. This figure has stayed fairly static for over 10 years, which demonstrates a high level of need.

There is an issue with drugs, specifically heroin, experienced within Fraserburgh. It highlights that it is just not the deprived who are accessing drugs, but those from an

affluent background are also using.

The registered patient list shows that 18000 patients access medical facilities within Fraserburgh and this is 6000 more than the resident population. This demonstrates there is a significant amount of transient population from the hinterland accessing services in the town. Therefore having a pharmacy on the edge of town would improve access.

Ms Griffiths stated that two of the four data zones for Fraserburgh are in the top 20 percent overall in terms of deprivation.

Aberdeenshire is fairly affluent, but there are significant drug misuse issues which need to be addressed. The generalisation is that drug misuse is driven around poverty but research shows another side of drug misuse that affluence drives addiction. The mix of housing within Fraserburgh shows that drug misuse is not isolated to one area, yet the pharmacies are limited to one area.

Ms Griffiths went on to say the residents of Fraserburgh have no choice apart from going into the town centre, paying for parking (parking charges in the town centre are 60p for the first hour and involve a walk) or a bus journey to access a full range of pharmaceutical services when Tesco, Asda and the retail park has been established on the outskirts of town. Therefore there is no longer a need to go into the town centre to access a full range of services and amenities. Car ownership levels show that households with zero cars and one car would find it difficult to access pharmaceutical services.

This application is not taking anything away from the existing services, but they are not easily accessible for the population outwith the centre of Fraserburgh. Supported by the high number of families with young children or multiple children who have either one car or no car.

Knocking houses and flats down and re distributing the population over a large area to the south is not improving access to pharmaceutical services. This is supported by health getting worse since 2009 to 2012. Those of poor health have historically lived towards the centre of town, but as houses have been knocked down and redistributed need is spreading outwith the town centre.

Ms Griffiths went onto discuss local housing development plans and how they show Fraserburgh as a target area for regeneration. This includes accessibility to affordable housing which has been ear marked for the south side of Fraserburgh in the vicinity of our application site for Kirkton and the Merryhillock area. Both areas already have a supermarket in the environs and Kirkton is to have its own health facilities and school therefore would not require to access services and amenities in the town centre.

The transient population into Fraserburgh also require easy accessible pharmacy services. The resident population is around 12,000, but the registered patient list for the GPs is 18,000. This shows that there are people travelling into Fraserburgh from the hinterland to access medical and pharmaceutical services, as well as a range of other services and amenities. For whom having a pharmacy located off the ring road which is clearly visible would be a significant advantage. With the development of the Tesco and the small retail park to one side and Asda to the other there is little reason to go into the town centre in the course of normal day to day living to access services and amenities.

Ms Griffiths said she felt there are disabled parking and physical barriers to access Gardens and Summers pharmacies and only one has a buzzer for the automatic door, whilst access to the other is up a step resulting in limited access to the pharmacy to access services.

It would be at least desirable to grant the application in Smiddyhill Road for the provision of supply of pharmaceutical services to the defined neighbourhood.

Questions From Interested Parties

15. Mrs A Smith of The Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC) had no questions.
16. Mr R of Bairds Pharmacy had no questions.
17. Mr West of Gardens & Summers Pharmacies had no questions

In Answer to Questions From the Committee

18. Confirmation on how the public consultation was carried out was requested. Ms Griffiths confirmed there was an advert placed in the local Herald newspaper on 9th January 2014 and members and shareholders of the co-op were contacted directly. Ms Griffiths stated that under the 2011 regulation, applicants are required to carry out a public consultation and the letter sent to co-op members highlighted the advertisement in the Herald and was not linked to dividend points etc. as under the pharmacy contract it is unlawful to offer points for using pharmacy services as this is seen as an inducement.

Ms Griffiths confirmed that a financial viability exercise had been carried out.

Ms Griffiths confirmed the co-op had been sold and will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bestway Group as of October 2014.

The applicant was asked to confirm if they felt there is a deficiency in the services provided by the current pharmacies. The applicant confirmed there was no deficiency,

but felt access to the services would be desirable for residents in their defined neighbourhood.

The applicant was asked to confirm if they felt an additional pharmacy in Fraserburgh is necessary. Ms Griffiths said the co-op felt having an additional pharmacy in this location would be beneficial.

Having being very practiced in public consultations, one of the committee members asked if Ms Griffiths felt 32 responses was a very poor return for an 18,000 population. Ms Griffiths responded saying there were 33 responses to the public consultation carried out by the co-op and 32 were positive with one 1 unsupportive. These responses indicated a pharmacy within their neighbourhood would be of benefit.

The applicant was asked about parking being an issue for families. However, people will still have to travel to the proposed new pharmacy. The applicant confirmed they felt there is adequate parking with a designated disabled bay outside the front door of the proposed new pharmacy.

Interested Parties

19. Mrs A Smith of the Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC)

The APC members felt that it is neither necessary nor desirable to have a fifth pharmacy within Fraserburgh as the existing four pharmacies provide a comprehensive service across Fraserburgh and the adjoining neighbourhoods.

In Answer to Questions From the Applicant

20. The applicant asked the APC to confirm the neighbourhood defined and this was confirmed as being the town of Fraserburgh.

In Answer to Questions From the Interested Parties

21. Mr R Baird of Bairds Pharmacy had no questions.
22. Mr West of Gardens and Summers Pharmacies had no questions.

In Answer to Questions From the Committee

23. The Committee had no questions.

24. Mr R Baird, Bairds Pharmacy

Mr Baird began by stating he would keep his oral presentation brief and that he had

submitted a comprehensive letter outlining Baird's Pharmacy's objections to the proposed new pharmacy at Smiddyhill Road, Fraserburgh. Mr Baird asked the members to read the letter of objection dated 20th June, 2014 for a fuller understanding of his reasons for objecting to the proposed new pharmacy at Smiddyhill Road, Fraserburgh. Mr Baird also stated that pharmacy services provided in Fraserburgh have evolved over the years to meet the needs of the population of the town and surrounding villages.

Mr Baird said he found it hard to understand the applicant's definition of neighbourhood, as the residents of Fraserburgh consider the town as one neighbourhood. Mr Baird stated he objected to the Co-op defining their area to be served by their Smiddyhill pharmacy as the South of Fraserburgh as Baird's community pharmacy served an area from Crimond to Fraserburgh to Rosehearty.

Mr Baird objected to Ms Griffiths stating that the residents to the south of Fraserburgh are having to travel too far to access a pharmacy, when the Co-op's neighbourhood would result in residents near the Golf Club (in the Co-op's "neighbourhood") having to travel even further to access their proposed Smiddyhill pharmacy.

To counter Ms. Griffith's claims of how the Co-op would help residents of "deprived" areas in Fraserburgh, Mr Baird pointed out that the four current Fraserburgh pharmacies are participating in The Keep Well Project, initiated by the Scottish Health Service to try and improve the health of the population in "deprived" areas, where the pharmacies give patients a free health check and some lifestyle advice. (Mr Pfleger also offered additional factual information about the Keep Well Project being age specific at this point and provided it at the request of the Chair).

Mr Baird felt that the data presented by the Co-op with reference to prescriptions dispensed by Fraserburgh Pharmacies compared to prescriptions dispensed by the average Scottish Pharmacy, reflected how well Fraserburgh pharmacies had responded to the challenge of delivering quality pharmaceutical care to their patients. Baird's pharmacy along with two other pharmacies in Fraserburgh, provide a collection and delivery service of prescriptions to patients in Fraserburgh and the surrounding areas.

Mr Baird stated that free car parking was available in Fraserburgh town centre and that he had parked outside Baird's pharmacy the previous day.

Mr Baird also stated that the town council were trying to regenerate Fraserburgh town centre and with the major supermarkets Tesco and Asda being situated on the edge of town, had helped town centre parking. Mr Baird also stated that parking issues should be based upon verified factual data and not opinions.

In answer to questions from the Applicant

25. With regard to the Keep Well project, Mr Baird confirmed the project is postcode specific and targeted at deprived areas as selected by Scottish Government.

In Answer to Questions From the Interested Parties

26. Mrs A Smith of the APC had no questions.
27. Mr West of Gardens and Summer's Pharmacies had no questions.

In answer to questions from the Committee

28. A point was raised regarding developments involving new housing or a new surgery. Mr Baird stated there are no current planning applications with Aberdeenshire Council. However, there is word of plans being submitted for 53 new houses. The current population of the newest housing developments are generally young professionals.
29. **Mr Jordan West Representing Gardens & Summer's Pharmacies**

Mr West stated he wished to strongly object to the application in question on behalf of Gardens and Summer's pharmacies, as they believe it is neither necessary nor desirable to secure the provision of pharmaceutical services in the designated area.

The following information demonstrates why Gardens and Summer's pharmacies are objecting to the application.

- a) The population of the pharmaceutical neighbourhood (Fraserburgh) has remained fairly static over the last 10 years as illustrated by Aberdeenshire Councils profile of Fraserburgh dated August 2013. The population in 2001 was 12,454 and in 2013 is had risen marginally to 12,540. If adequate pharmaceutical provision is being provided already, why would it be necessary to provide an additional pharmacy contract when the current contractors have adequate facilities and workforce to increase provision?
- b) Fraserburgh's population has also remained level despite new housing developments in the area. The pharmacy to population ratio indicates that granting an application would substantially waste NHS resources.
- c) Each of the contractors individually and collectively provides adequate and comprehensive pharmacy services to the population of Fraserburgh. Mr West stated his belief that the pharmaceutical needs of the neighbourhood relating to the application are fully met and that contractors have the capacity to handle an

increase in population likely to arise from proposed developments. This includes all the relevant pharmacy services outlined in the NHS pharmacy contract, plus additional services such as deliveries to the whole neighbourhood in question.

- d) Mr West agreed with Baird's pharmacy's point regarding the public consultation that the Co-operative Group conducted for this application. Mr West reported discovering that specific Co-operative Group members were targeted through letters to gather support for an application that they could possibly benefit from financially. Mr West felt that this incentivised approach to gathering support weakens the already minimal response from the Fraserburgh population.
- e) Gardens, Summer's and Baird's pharmacies all deliver to patients who live in Fraserburgh or the surrounding areas such as Inverallochy, St Combs, Rosehearty and Sandhaven. There has also recently been a new pharmacy contract granted at Crimond, which also covers some of the provision to the Inverallochy and St Combs areas.

Mr West asserted his belief that it's possible for any patient whether they are disabled, poor or elderly to access pharmaceutical services in the identified neighbourhood. This is a result of the high quality and comprehensive services offered by the existing four pharmacy contractors in Fraserburgh.

With regard to methadone patients, each of the existing pharmacies has an allocated allowance for methadone patients. Neither Gardens nor Summers pharmacies have reached their allocation and can take on more clients if required.

With regard to the two out of town supermarkets, there is an equal distance between Asda and Tesco from the town centre. Mr West also confirmed residents of Fraserburgh don't have a problem finding parking within the town centre and the population of Fraserburgh are aware of all the free parking areas within the town centre.

In summary, Gardens and Summer's pharmacies feel that there is significant evidence to demonstrate that the new pharmacy contract at Smiddyhill Road is neither necessary nor desirable.

In answer to questions from the Applicant

30. The applicant asked if Mr West is a member of the co-op. Mr West confirmed he was not, but stated one of the staff had received a letter. Mr West was asked if the letter had targeted any specific area of the population. Mr West stated the letter had been sent specifically to members of the co-op to make them more aware of the application. Mr West stated that only 2.7% of the population are members of the co-op and therefore this excluded the remainder of the population of Fraserburgh. Mr West felt

there was a bias on the situation as only the co-op members had received letters.

Mr West was asked if he accepted that if people weren't going into the centre of Fraserburgh to access food services, would it not be beneficial to have a pharmacy on the edge of town. Mr West replied by stating most services are located within the town centre, excluding food services. Mr West also stated Finlayson Street medical practice was located 500 yards from Summer's Pharmacy.

In Answer to Questions From the Interested Parties

31. Mrs A Smith of the APC had no questions.
32. Mr R Baird of Bairds Pharmacy had no questions.

In Answer to Questions From the Committee

33. Mr West was asked how he felt the addition of a fifth pharmacy in Fraserburgh would impinge on the current pharmacies business. Mr West stated he felt there is a town culture and patients tend to be very loyal with their pharmacy and felt there wouldn't be a dramatic impact on the pharmacies. However, there is no factual information to back this up, but there is a lot of professional services funded by the NHS and feels the addition of a fifth pharmacy would not be cost effective for the NHS. With regard to collection and delivery services, Mr West felt an additional pharmacy would not impinge on this.

Summing Up

34. **Mr Jordan West of Gardens and Summer's Pharmacies summed up by making the following points:**
 - Gardens and Summer's pharmacy would like to object based on the relatively static population of Fraserburgh, remaining level despite new developments in the area. The current pharmacies really do provide an excellent service and readily adapt to new contractual requirements. The collection and delivery service is crucial to Fraserburgh to ensure patients get adequate and easy access to pharmaceutical services and strongly being any patients, disabled, deprived or elderly.
 - There is no significant evidence to demonstrate the additional pharmacy was either necessary or desirable.
35. **Mr R Baird of Bairds Pharmacy summed up by making the following points:**
 - Mr Baird stated the Fraserburgh population was static and was predicted to remain so.

- Fraserburgh had more pharmacies per head of the population than all other similar towns in Aberdeenshire.
- Mr Baird stated he objected to the Co-op lobbying for support from their members from outwith the neighbourhood this proposed pharmacy was hoping to serve.
- Mr Baird stated that Baird's pharmacy would be willing to provide a Sunday service if NHS Grampian felt such a service was needed and pointed out that Baird's pharmacy had provided such a service for nearly thirty years before lack of demand caused a closure and that Community Pharmacists were still on call 24 hours a day.
- Mr Baird felt that 32 responses in favour of the application out of a population of 18,000, (Co-op data), was a reflection of how pleased the public were with their pharmacies who had invested heavily in their premises, their equipment and their staff, to enable them to provide excellent pharmaceutical care to their patients.
- Mr Baird stated that he did not believe the proposed pharmacy at Smiddyhill was necessary or desirable.

36. Mrs A Smith of the APC summed up by making the following points:

- The APC feels the addition of a fifth pharmacy in Fraserburgh and the granting of this application is neither necessary nor desirable.

37. Ms Griffiths of Co-operative summed up by making the following points:

- The granting of this pharmacy is not necessary, but it is at least desirable.
- The distance from the proposed site into the town centre is unacceptable for patients to travel to access pharmacy services.
- Over the last 10 years, the population has remained static but the pharmaceutical need has increased.
- On the basis of the above, the co-op asks for the application to be granted on the basis of desirability.

Before the applicant and interested parties left the hearing, the Chair asked the applicant and interested parties to confirm they had had a fair and full hearing. All parties confirmed individually that they had and then left along with the contractor pharmacists, non-contractor pharmacist, Legal Advisor to the Board, Director of Pharmacy, observers and Clerk to the PPC.

Decision

The PPC were required and did take into account all relevant factors concerning the issue of:-

Neighbourhood

38. Having considered the evidence presented to it, the Committee's observations from supporting documents, maps and site visit undertaken prior to the meeting, the Committee had to decide the question of the neighbourhood in which the premises to which the application related were located.
39. The Committee's observations from their site visit conducted on Monday 18th August, 2014 were that the neighbourhood as defined by the applicant has access to the following facilities:
 - Bowling green
 - Putting green
 - Football ground
 - Cricket ground
 - Golf club
 - Cemetery
 - Tennis courts
 - Two primary schools

However, the Committee determined the neighbourhood as being the town of Fraserburgh, bordered to the North and East by the North Sea, to the South and West by green fields and open land behind Boothby Road and Pitblae. There are three major roads, the A90 to the South heading to Peterhead and Aberdeen, the A981 to the South West heading to Strichen and New Deer and the A98(T) heading to Banff and Inverness.

This neighbourhood as noted by the PPC has access to the following facilities:

- Football Ground
- Bowling green
- Putting green
- Football ground
- Cricket ground
- Golf club
- Cemetery
- Tennis courts
- Primary schools
- Banff & Buchan College
- Secondary School
- Hospital
- Local supermarkets (co-op, spar)
- Pubs
- Two major supermarkets (one to the North and one to the South of Fraserburgh)

- Hairdressers
- Leisure centre, including swimming pool
- Hotels and guest houses
- Recycling centres

Adequacy of Existing Provision of Pharmaceutical Services and Necessity or Desirability

40. Having reached the decision regarding neighbourhood, the Committee then required to consider the adequacy of existing pharmaceutical services in that neighbourhood, and whether the granting of the application was necessary or desirable in order to ensure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in that neighbourhood.
41. The Committee considered all the evidence submitted from both the applicant and interested parties prior to the hearing and the oral presentations made by those present at the hearing. The Committee also took into consideration, the applicant's emphasis on the desirability of an additional pharmacy within Fraserburgh during her oral presentation summing up.

In making their decision, the Committee also considered:

- The locations of the nearest existing pharmaceutical services.
- The locations of the nearest existing medical services.
- Demographic information regarding post code sector AB43 5WL.
- The poor health of the population within two of the datazones in Fraserburgh.
- Information regarding the number of prescription items and Minor Ailment Service activity undertaken by the four pharmacies within the consultation zone.
- The Pharmaceutical Care Services Plan.

In particular, the Committee noted the low level of responses to the applicant's survey of the need for a fifth pharmacy – only 33 out of a population of 18,000 – which tended to show that the current level of service available was adequate. The Committee further noted that people would still have to travel to the proposed pharmacy. The fact that 3 out of the 4 current pharmacies provided a collection and delivery service met many of the demands of the affected population and indicated a high level of adequacy of the services available. Whilst it had been stated that the average dispensing of items per month in Fraserburgh was considerably higher than the rest of Grampian, there had been no evidence of current problems with the present pharmacies dealing with the larger number of items dispensed. It was felt that it would not be viable for a fifth pharmacy to open within the neighbourhood and that the viability of the new pharmacy if granted could impact not only on the long term success of the new pharmacy but also on the existing pharmacies.

The Committee took cognisance of the fact that over the last 10 years there had been a virtually static population in the neighbourhood and that 2 of the 4 existing pharmacies had not yet reached their allocated allowance for methadone patients.

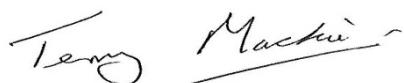
With regard to the reference to 6000 "transient" residents contained in the GP lists but felt that these were not truly "transient" but were patients in outlying areas who might possibly have access to pharmaceutical services within Fraserburgh.

In light of all of the foregoing evidence, the Committee felt that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that the existing services were adequate and were likely to remain so in the future.

Decided

42. The Committee agreed unanimously from the information made available, both written and via oral presentations, that the existing pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood were adequate.
43. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the provision of pharmaceutical services at the premises was neither necessary nor desirable in order to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood in which the premises were located by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list.
44. In these circumstances, it was the Committee's unanimous decision that the application should not be granted.

Signed:



Date: 30th April 2015

Mr Terry Mackie, Chair
Pharmacy Practices Committee

