



The Healthy Living Alliance  
together making the most of life

## Guidance notes for Boots pre registration pharmacists

Boots are keen to introduce and capture the community understanding and experience of Healthy Living Centres and Initiatives (HLC/I's) across the country within their pharmacy training programme. This document will guide you through the process and will give you some helpful hints and ideas.

This is seen as a National programme and will be introduced and incorporated into Boots pharmacy pre registration training across the UK. Approximately 50 – 70 organisations or Healthy Living Centres and Initiatives (HLC/I's as they are known as) could potentially be involved across the UK.

You will be divided into small groups of approximately 10 – 12 students. You will be asked to use the Healthy Living Alliance website 'search facility' to identify an organisation (HLC/I) within the region that you are situated.

### **Step by step website guide**

1. Go to [www.healthylivingalliance.org](http://www.healthylivingalliance.org).
2. On the home page you will find a 'Boots link' on the right hand side of the page.
3. Click on 'search' and you will find a regional map. Click on the region that you would like to work in.

### **Researching for an organisation to work with:**

By clicking on the regional link, a list of HLC/I's located in that region will appear.

By clicking any of the HLC/I links, a profile of that organisation will appear.

After selecting an organisation (HLC/I) that you would like to work with, please contact the organisation directly. The HLC/I's on the search facility database are aware that you may be contacting them.

**Note:** We are continually updating our database, but you may find that some regions may only have a few organisations listed. For help to find one in your chosen region, please contact the regional representative directly.

**While you are researching and before you contact an organisation**, here are some things that you should consider.

Try not to have any fixed ideas about what sort of activity or 'team challenge' you would like to be involved with or what type of organisation. You may feel that this will be difficult, but remember that this is all part of your challenge and it's important that the 'team challenge' should be an equal partnership between yourselves and the organisation. The organisation may also have some ideas of how they would like to work with you. This may be a community health day or simply redecorating a room that is used by local people.

Please remember that the location of an organisation may not be close to where you live or studying. You should be prepared to travel within reason.

**Once contact has been made** with an organisation and you have both agreed to work together, both partners should consider the following:

- An event such as a 'community health day' will need to inform the local community of a variety of health information and the benefits of preventive measures that could help them become healthier or stay healthy.
- A 'hands on' challenge, for example, digging and clearing land to create an allotment, redecorating a room that is needed by the local community i.e. crèche, youth club, counselling room or planting trees and flowers for a sensory garden would need to incorporate and involve people in the local community or the 'users' of the HLC/I
- Identify the type of skills, experience and knowledge that already exists within the organisation (HLC/I) and what you can and will bring to the event.
- Consider the organisations targeted community's i.e. older people, children and families, unemployment, disabilities etc, and make sure that the 'team challenge' reflects this positively
- Consider inviting other local organisations to join in. This will help pre registration pharmacists understand the importance of working in partnership and getting to know other organisations that can be used to sign post and refer clients too.
- Try to get local publicity i.e. local paper, local TV news etc
- Ask for sponsorship. Local DIY, local Boots and other businesses are usually keen to support local charitable events
- Insure that organisational liability insurance, policies and procedures including health & safety are in place and adhered to
- Agree a time scale.

**While planning the event** (team challenge) it is important to think about the benefits to you, and what the benefits will be for the organisation (HLC/I) that you will be working with. i.e. outcomes. The following gives a guide to the outcomes and benefits that you should be aiming for when planning the event (team challenge)

Outcomes and benefits to the Boots pre registration pharmacists

- Pre-registration pharmacists will gain valuable experience of local communities and what health issues they may face
- Pre-registration pharmacists will gain knowledge and understanding of the local environment and the type of issues that may cause barriers to better health.
- They will have a better understanding of how preventative health measures such as social intervention can impact on the long-term clinical health of local people.

- They will develop a longer term relationship and commitment after qualifying, with HLC/Is and invest in the positive learning and partnership working they have gained
- They will apply signposting and referrals, using methods such as the HLA electronic signposting and referral facility to local HLC/Is and other organisations into every day working practice
- They will have a greater understanding of the voluntary sector working at a community level.

#### Outcomes and benefits to the organisation (HLC/I)

- Narrowing the gap of activity based corporate partnership working
- Increasing knowledge and awareness of the types of HLC/I activities that can be developed by working in corporate partnerships
- Increased recognition of the voluntary sector and ground level service providers as a delivery pathway to 'hard to reach groups'
- Increase the HLC/I's ability and opportunity to 'bring in' pharmaceutical clinical expertise and knowledge at a grass roots level
- Applying new skills and knowledge within the organisation to benefit local communities
- Increasing the partnership working practices within the organisation
- Develop long term relationships with local Boots pharmacists, for example, jointly promoting awareness campaigns.
- Building the confidence of other local or national businesses by providing 'evidence of successes' of this programme.
- Develop and increase the consultancy capacity of the organisation to advise other organisations and statutory services of the varying different methods that can be used to improve or develop healthy living services while working in corporate partnerships i.e. shared learning

**If you are anyway unsure of how to proceed please contact your  
Teacher Practitioner directly**

Remember - above all, the day should be a challenging fun community event!  
GOOD LUCK

[www.healthylivingalliance.org](http://www.healthylivingalliance.org)