

Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Meeting held on 7th July 2021

Virtually using Microsoft Teams

1/1702	Present: Pedro Carvalho, Mike Charlton, Rachel Fergie, Ali Hayes, Andrew Howitt; Rafal Korona, Matt Robinson, Rob Skornia, In Attendance: Sue Taylor, Kathryn Jones.
1/1703	Apologies: Ron Kirk, Sian Retallick
1/1704	Welcome and Introductions Matthew Robinson chaired the meeting at the request of Andrew Howitt (Chair) and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A declaration of interest will need to be completed by Rafal Korona; otherwise all members have submitted.
1/1705	Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 th May 2021 were approved.
1/1706	Matters arising from the minutes PSNC Survey – PCN Leads encouraged to complete the survey, but we have not seen the feedback. Action: Sue to follow up. 1/1699 Community Pharmacy & Primary Care Strategy and workforce The Devon IMPO is developing a workforce strategy which will be a priority workstream. The plan is being finalised ready to go to the Integrated Care System. Funding for PCN Leadership – the bid has gone in to NHSE&I and an early decision hoped for. 1/1701 – Devon LPC The New Normal – The next LPC daytime meeting is now due to be held on 15 th September at Exeter RaceCourse. This was delayed from 7 th July due to lack of availability of members who could attend. A survey of members for attendance at the new date to be undertaken.
1/1707	Treasurers Report A verbal report was given to the meeting. Discussion around the current reduction in the monthly income for levy.
1/1708	PSNC COVID Funding Claims There is a new section in the Drug Tariff and a five week window in which a claim can be submitted by 15 th August 2021. The eligible time is 13 months from March 2020 to April 2021. The window for claiming is 5 th July to 15 th August. There are four categories: Additional staff costs

		<p>Costs for premises – COVID secure, less £300.00 for screens installed previously paid to contractors. IT and Communication costs for remote working and webcams. It will be important to have evidence for any costs claimed. Notified closures to have been agreed by NHSE for infection control purposes, to a maximum of 14 days claim.</p> <p>Payment to be made October 2021 after reconciliation.</p> <p>Contractors have been contacting the LPC regarding Category M clawback and COVID costs processes and it is important to be aware of extra burdens on people making claims, may need to publicise the PSNC events particularly to independents. Contractors could find difficulty justifying and/or evidencing extra hours worked.</p> <p>PSNC have published guidance around the claiming back of COVID costs. There are two virtual contractor workshops organised by PSNC.</p> <p>Matt Robinson queried pharmacy closures and wondered if there was any leniency/relaxing of rules. NHSE&I are focused on the COVID sites, no mention of closures has been made at all in meetings attended recently, however in the future maybe it is possible that pharmacy contractors will be fined for being in breach of contractual requirements. The latest NHSE weekly e-communication has included a form for reporting closures. The practice for dealing with closures adopted by the local NHSE in the SW have been adopted across the country.</p>
1/1709	RSG Update	<p>An update on the Independent Review Steering Group was given to the meeting. Community pharmacy contractors and LPCs attended event in May to provide feedback on the programme design principles and draft plan. The report was undertaken two years ago. The “At a Glance Guide” has been published to help communication with key messages to contractors and updated FAQs. Simplified communications and slides – making it clear to contractors how to get involved. Questions were raised on topics like voting, representation, implications of NHS changes etc. The latter is really important as the NHS environment is changing at quite a pace. All providers in Devon will be in ICS. The RSG is asking LPCs to draw on experience and access to contractors – LPCs will be critical to help with this element. They are also asked to help with ensuring draft proposals are shared widely, and that communication are effective and engaging. There is also a need to encourage contractors to get involved and engaged with the work of the</p>

		RSG and the whole process. The Programme timeline was shared with the meeting. They are looking at contractors voting on final proposals in December 2021, but hoping it is pushed back to early 2022.
1/1710	LPC Elections	<p>PSNC has postponed elections for the 13 independent contractor regional Representatives which will now take place in a year's time for April 2023. The purpose for the delay is to give time for the RSG to complete the work programme reviewing the structure of both PSNC and the LPCs. Advice is to LPCs who use the model constitution and follow the four-yearly election cycle, to postpone their elections until 2022. This follows preliminary advice from the RSG that it expects to propose changes for contractors to vote on by the end of 2021. LPCs need to make an amendment to their constitution to give the LPC the power to delay elections and sufficient time needs to be factored in. Ratification required at a Special meeting which can be aligned with the AGM</p> <p>Recommended by the management Executive: To delay the election by twelve months Arrange a special meeting to be incorporated within this year's AGM – proposed date 27th September 2021.</p> <p>Amend the constitution: Proposed Andrew Howitt Seconded Matt Robinson – All in favour. Members felt they would prefer the AGM to be incorporated into the LPC meeting on 15th September.</p> <p>NB: Rachel Fergie agreed to help organise pharmacy awards in the new year.</p>
1/1711	LPC Website templates upgrade	<p>The intention is to update the website to make it easier for contractors to navigate and use. A new PSNC website is being developed which will include an update to the LPC website templates. LPCs were surveyed at the end of 2020 to capture broad views and ideas. A PSNC LPC working group has been established – Kathryn has been nominated as a member of the group. A digital agency has been appointed to support the work called MAKE. An implementation plan is now in place.</p> <p>Devon LPC does currently use the free template offered by PSNC. We have been asked to make a decision on which support option the committee would like to move to the new templates. A decision is needed by 23rd July. We also need to indicate in which wave we would like to upgrade the site to i.e. (September/October)</p> <p>The Management Executive have recommended that we go for the managed Setup+ at a cost of £2000. + VAT which would include MAKE to install and implement full website and training. All in favour.</p>

1/1712	PSNC Update	No update available
1/1713	GP CPCS Devon Implementation Update	<p>The NHSE&I implementation manager, is training the practices but we are trying to gain support from within the CCG – currently we have a nominated CCG lead who is fielding emails and passing to NHSE&I but more work to be done on their role and how the process works. GPCPCS is being talked about at a high level and it is coming up in CCG, Meds Op and urgent care meetings. Also featured in recent webinar with Avon talking positively about their experiences. We are still coming up against some resistance within the Devon system but the LPC are working hard to overcome the difficulties and drive progress. It is very difficult to know which practices are going live and we do not have sight of data in real time, which makes it difficult to pick up issues early enough. We receive a report from NHSE&I once a month. GPs have no incentive to refer as they seem to like dealing with minor ailments, and by managing them through e-consult are able to see more patients.</p> <p>In Somerset there is a whole system approach and practically all practices are signed up. Avon had 10K referrals and have a wholetime member of staff working on the service. In Devon the numbers will not improve as going live in practice by practice. Lobbying for a project implementation lead, the CCG need to put resource in. If the CCG do not buy in, GPs will won't. Need to get the message across that GPs should engage and then it will be win/win. We need to keep on at Devon to replicate Avon and Somerset and push harder, but finding the right person at the CCG is difficult. We either do nothing and the service flounders or we implement and getup and running and make it a success. Sue won't give up lobbying, unable to understand the CCG's attitude, NHSE&I think the service is working well There will be a huge number of visitors to the area very shortly, the service could have been up and running to help ongoing pressure in the system.</p>
1/1714	VirtualOutcomes Licence Renewal 2021-22	The LPC currently pay for VirtualOutcomes to be available to contractors for training, and we are due to renew the annual licence at a cost of £3336.00 including VAT. The training has been useful and we are currently third from the top on the ski-slope for viewings. The Management Executive recommend paying for another twelve months. Members agreed to renew for a further twelve months.
	Any Other Business	New members meeting – PSNC have organised a new members meeting – it is very informative. If anyone would like to attend they will find it valuable. Dates available on the PSNC website.
	Date of next meeting	Next meeting 15th September 2021 – daytime meeting to be held at Exeter Race Course