**Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee**

**Meeting held on 5 September 2022**

**Virtually using Microsoft Teams**

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| **1/1774** | **Present:** David Bearman, Kelly Dawkins, Rachel Fergie, Ali Hayes, Andrew Howitt, Ron Kirk, Sian Retallick, Matt Robinson.  **In Attendance:** Sue Taylor, Kathryn Jones, | |
| **1/1775** | **Apologies**: Mike Charlton, Kelly Homan, Tom Kallis, Anna White | |
| **1/1776** | **Change of Meeting Date** | There is a daytime meeting booked for 5th October 2022 at Exeter RaceCourse starting at 9am. The intention is to use this meeting to start work on the Transforming Pharmacy Representation Workstream.  The LPC AGM is scheduled for 10th October 2022, 7.15 pm to be held on Zoom. |
| **1/1777** | **Declarations of Interest** | Declarations of interest need to be completed by everyone for the new financial year. This year there is still outstanding declarations from Matt Robinson and David Bearman |
| **1/1778** | **Minutes of the last meeting** | The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2022 were approved as a correct record. |
| **1/1779** | **Treasurers Report** | A verbal report was given to the meeting by the Treasurer. |
| **1/1780** | **Secretariat Report** | Sue Taylor presented the Secretariat Report to the meeting.  There has been a lot of activity focused on strategic work with the ICB which is very positive.  However, there are a lot of issues around pharmacy closures, complaints from pharmacies, the public and other providers to be dealt with, and supporting some specific contractor issues.  Sue had been asked to sit on the interview panel for the ICS System Pharmacist.  Workforce development – a bid was submitted to HEE for training technicians across the system; this was successful and funding made available to train seven technicians. These will be placed in community pharmacy and primary care working together, and one role with the RD&E.  GPCPCS – is a major workstream for the whole team.  Smoking Cessation Service (advanced service). There has been quite a delay until now; but the Trusts are keen to go live; the RD&E planning to go live in October. Currently 57 pharmacies in Devon signed up but only four in Exeter so Anna is working to increase that number. |
| **1/1781** | **PSNC Update** | Sian gave a brief update regarding the work of PSNC who are also focussed on the reviewing the PSNC Committee size. |
| **1/1782** | **LPC Working Groups** | It was noted that the Devon LPC has been called up before the Scrutiny Committees for both Plymouth and Devon; the former in response to a request for a presentation on the current situation regarding community pharmacy; and the latter looking at challenges and opportunities. There is a suggestion that a Task and Finish group be established in Devon to improve understanding and knowledge of the current issues that community pharmacy is facing onto in relation to funding, workforce and demand and to review potential solutions for a way forward.  North Devon – intense lobbying has been taking place by local communities. We had reported that some companies are having to put security guards in place. It was suggested that concerns be raised by the LPC with some parish councils regarding the behaviours of some of their members. The PNA in Devon has been a particular trigger for complaints and aggression.  Workforce is one of the main considerations and has been recognised.  Devon ICB – Sue and David have attended three accelerator events for the Devon system which is aimed at designing the operating framework for the ICB. This workstream is ongoing.  Workforce Strategy – we have been linked into the ICS Workforce Strategy which is currently being developed. Sue will be attending a forthcoming workshop followed by David and Sue meeting up with the Devon Workforce Strategy leads.  Urgent and Emergency Care Workstream hosted by Nigel Acheson, Chief Medical Officer, to be attended by Sue and David.  PCN Leadership Academy and Primary Care Networks – another PCN lead has stepped down. Devon now has 18 PCNs covered. No information has been released about the PQS for 2022-23. Matt requested a list of PCN vacancies – sent.  LPC Masterclasses – Barnstaple event moved to 5th October. The uptake has been quite good with several LPC members speaking about their favourite topics!  Nicky Slight – PCN lead for Mewstone has agreed to speak about GP CPCS at the Plymouth Masterclass.  Action: Revisit Working Groups activities at the October meeting. |
| **1/1783** | **Annual Report & AGM** | Annual Report has been completed for signing off by the Committee prior to going out to contractors.  It was proposed by Andrew Howitt, and Seconded by Ali Hayes to accept the Annual Report. All voted in favour.  The annual accounts would now be sent to the CCA, AIM and indepedent contractors for approval with the result of the vote being announced at the AGM.  The AGM is due to be held on 10th October virtually. Janet Morrison, the new CEO of PSNC has agreed to be the guest speaker.  Requested that the LPC would like Janet to include in her talk –   * Shortages and challenges, * How her discussions with the Government about costs have progressed. * Her vision for the next pharmacy contract * Inflation – major issue staff need to be paid significant uplift in the next few months. |
| 1/1784 | Pharmacy Unplanned Closures | It was reported that huge amount of time is being taken up by dealing with these problems. Sue and Andrew have also been called to meetings with NHSE with Devon being held up as the worst affected area in the South West. The closures are impacting on the confidence of other providers and impacting on services particularly GP CPCS. The ICB has surveyed all the PCNs regarding increase in the uptake of GP CPCS, with identification of potential barriers and challenges. The feedback in the main is that community pharmacy don’t have capacity, it is not known when they will be open, no regular pharmacists.  We know there are a few hot spots across Devon, but the majority in fact are working well, and there is a tainted impression being given. Members were reminded that it is not the Secretariat that are being referred to regarding the closures, it is the reputation of Devon LPC.  Regarding closures – the lack of workforce is the main consideration, and the commissioners need to be realistic about the current position. Support and help is needed, pharmacies are not being shut on purpose. There is no income for a pharmacy if it is closed. Many pharmacists are undertaking exceptional work, and maybe the LPC should be asking for these stories which can be used to feedback. Sue to put a request on the PCN leads network asking for positive stories and feedback.  Constant negativity is not good for anyone.  Members had a robust discussion including ascertaining if NHSE can help out and support pharmacies in times of crisis. What will it take before action is taken to support community pharmacies – patient safety etc. is c concern. It would be helpful if commissioners put themselves in the shoes of a vulnerable patient, who are constantly supported by community pharmacy contractors who often go above and beyond the requirements of the contract. |
| **1/1785** | **Transforming Pharmacy Representation** | To be discussed at the next LPC daytime meeting. The toolkit is to be presented at the PSNC conference. There will be a tight timescale and the proposed levy increases are not yet known.  Sue outlined her understanding of the process between now and the beginning of April 2023. |
| **1/1786** | **Any Other Business** | **Teach and Treat –** Potential bid going in for IP prescribing mentorship.  **GP CPCS –** GPs asking for expansion of Pharmacy First services. |
|  | **Date of next meeting** | **Next meeting: 5th October 2022 starting at 9am – DAYTIME to be held at Exeter Race Course.** |