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The first meeting of the new committee was held in mid-July. It was a successful and productive day, and the Secretariat team is looking forward to working with the new committee over the next few years. If any contractor would like to attend a future LPC meeting, please do let us know. We have also welcomed a new member of our team, Sascha and she has written a brief introduction below:

*“Hi, I’m Sascha, and I started at Devon LPC just a few weeks ago in my role as Business Officer. I have a background in marketing and PA work and will be managing projects, assisting with the newsletter and minuting meetings among other things. I’ve found the job to be very fast-paced so far and the LPC itself to be exceedingly busy. I’m very much looking forward to the upcoming challenge of marketing and re-branding the LPC in line with Community Pharmacy England...and all that entails, and working with and supporting the pharmacy network across Devon!”*

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### Discharge Medicines Service

We recently hosted two Discharge Medicines Service Masterclass events in Exeter and Torbay. Leah has collated the [feedback](#) from the events with some [FAQs](#), hints and tips and some locations to obtain more data should it be required to help complete the service.

**REMINDER:** The Discharge Medicines Service is an essential service and should be completed within 72 hours of receipt. The trusts who spoke were all keen to increase this service as they can see the benefit of the service.



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### A Big Shout Out to Devon Pharmacy Teams who have completed the following:

1172 DMS referrals since 1st March 2023 to August 1st, 2023, with 14% interventions recorded at stage one with a further 11% interventions made at stage two.

### Pharmacies in the Devon County Council area

After working with the local commissioners for Devon only, we have been able to ease the amount of paperwork and details that are required on PharmOutcomes for Needle and Syringe provision. You will see this change come into effect in September 2023.

A local online training event will be hosted on Microsoft teams on the 21st September 7pm - 8:15pm. You may also receive a follow up call from Orion. To book your place at the training follow the link to the Single Use Kits training which is now available (this will be hosted on Teams on 21st September 7pm-8:15pm).

**Emergency Hormonal Contraception local training for pharmacies in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth – 19th September 2023 19:00 – 21:00 online. Emergency Hormonal Contraception local training for pharmacies in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth – 19th September 2023 19:00 – 21:00 online.**

The above session is part of the training requirement for pharmacists wishing to deliver the EHC under the new Patient Group Direction for 2021. This session will also cover 'Chlamydia Screening', 'C-Card Scheme', and 'Talking to Young People'. Please let your pharmacists, relief pharmacists and locums who have not completed the local training in the last five years; and for all new pharmacy contractors in Devon; this one is for you!

Please register <https://devonlpc.org/our-events/emergency-hormonal-contraception-ehc-training-session/>

Please contact [ndht.cso@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.cso@nhs.net) if you need any further information or have any issues booking a place.

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**New clinical skills training offer for community pharmacists launched:**

**Don't miss out - NHS England is making available 10,000 module places which will be delivered by CliniSkills until March 2024.**

This exciting new training offer will give community pharmacists the opportunity to build on their existing clinical examination and consultation skills – to assess, treat and manage common health problems.

This offer is available to community pharmacists, including part-time staff and locums working in community pharmacy.

The training is delivered both through e-learning and face-to-face workshops. To register and find out more visit the CliniSkills website – [CliniSkills | Transforming care training](#)

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**Local Leadership – Community Pharmacy PCN Integration leads**

We are delighted to announce that the important role of the Community Pharmacy PCN Leads will continue to be funded in Devon for another year. To reflect the importance of the role in supporting the integration of community pharmacy within the local system, we have renamed the role as the Community Pharmacy PCN Integration Leads.

We are hoping that all of our current established leads will continue their leadership journey with us, but we do also have some gaps across the county.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been sent out to all pharmacies within PCN areas without a current established Community Pharmacy PCN lead. The funding also includes a joint South-West leadership training and development programme delivered by Captivating Training Solutions (CTS).

If you are interested in taking on the role or would like further information, then please get in touch with us at [Devon LPC](#) and look for the EOI email which has already been sent to the pharmacy shared NHS mail account. All of the specific information about the EOI is on our [website](#). We'd love to hear from you.

(P.S. The CTS programme delivered last year has just been shortlisted as a finalist for a Training & Development Award at the [Chemist and Druggist Awards](#) which is very exciting!)

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## The Vision for Community Pharmacy

**Pharmacy Vision: Please share your views** The Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund are seeking feedback on their proposals for the future of community pharmacy.

The online survey is the latest opportunity for commissioners to engage with [Community Pharmacy England's project to develop a Vision for Community Pharmacy](#). The Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund want to hear your views on their proposals, ahead of the publication of the final report later this year. The vision is critically important, as it will be used to develop the future strategy for the sector and lay the groundwork for the next Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework negotiations.

[Find out more about how you can participate](#)

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## GLP-1 Supply

[The Medicines Supply Notification](#) issued at the end of June 2023 confirmed that GLP-1 supply is constrained and will be until summer 2024. This has been repeated in the national press so patients should be aware of the supply issue. For more information about current availability, [refer to the SPS website](#).

A [NPSA alert](#) was issued on 18/07/2023 further detailing the issues and actions required.

A lot of the actions required will be managed by primary care supported by the Medicines Optimisation Team at NHS Devon, but please bear in mind the messages in the guidance in particular around the points:

- Avoid switching between brands of GLP-1 Ras, including between injectable and oral forms.
  - Where a higher dose preparation of GLP-1 RA is not available, do not substitute by doubling up a lower dose preparation.
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## Let's Communicate Out of Stocks Medicines

During a recent Devon ICB and Devon LPC meeting, the issue of out-of-stock notifications was brought up. As out of stocks are still apparent, rather than just sending the patient back to the GP for an alternative, the LPC was asked to readdress the notification routes.

Many PCN's use WhatsApp to communicate with each other but we know of some that don't. There was a ICB form produced a while ago that has recently been updated and amended by the Devon LPC and reviewed by the Devon LMC. This form can be completed by the pharmacist and sent to the practice (with the patient or via email). It has been made clear that this is not prescribing advice but a stock availability notice, with alternatives that are available rather than a 'recommendation'. The aim of this is to help improve communications with the practices to build relationships and trust, and to make it easier for patients to access available suitable medicines in a timely manner. The form has been uploaded onto our [website](#) for you to download and use as needed.

[\(https://devonlpc.org/pharmacy-resources/resources-g-l/medicines-shortage-guidance/\)](https://devonlpc.org/pharmacy-resources/resources-g-l/medicines-shortage-guidance/)

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## Supervised consumption Pharmacy Survey

We have been contacted by the local commissioners of the harm reduction services across Devon, who are looking for an update on community pharmacy capacity for supervised consumption patients. Please take a few minutes to complete a service survey (link below) with regards to this service, whether or not you are currently commissioned.

This will help give a picture of the community pharmacy position and if we are at near capacity for our supervised consumption clients. It will also indicate to the public health commissioners if there are other community pharmacy contractors who would be willing to offer the service.

Please also feel free to feedback on survey to help improve the service further. You will find the service [survey](#) here. Deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Thank you for your help with this.

## Drug Alert Information Update

In the past couple of weeks there has been an unusually high number of overdoses (with some deaths) in people who use drugs, primarily heroin, in some parts of the country. There is evidence that the heroin used in some of these cases contains a “nitazene”, one of a group of potent synthetic opioids, most likely isotonitazene or N-pyrrolidino etonitazene (also called etonitazepyne), or perhaps fentanyl (testing is still underway in some cases).

There is good evidence from reports that naloxone, the ‘antidote’ to opioid overdoses, worked in these cases, strengthening the belief that they involve an opioid. The treatment required for an overdose that may be related to a potent synthetic opioid is the same as for other opioid overdoses, but delivering it rapidly and completely is even more critical, as progression to respiratory arrest, and recurrence of respiratory arrest, are more likely.

Those in contact with heroin users should be alert to the increased possibility of overdose arising from ‘heroin’ containing synthetic opioids, be able to recognise possible symptoms of overdose and respond appropriately. There is no good evidence for absorption of synthetic opioids through the skin but usual precautions, including masks, should be taken when handling unknown substances.

All organisations where staff may encounter people who use drugs should ensure those staff are:

- made aware of the risk of severe toxicity resulting from adulteration of heroin with potent synthetic opioids
- made aware that the potency and toxicity of nitazenes is perhaps similar to, or more than, fentanyl, and much more than heroin
- alert to the symptoms of opioid overdose in known and suspected opioid/heroin users
- communicate these risks to people who use opioids/heroin during any contacts but avoid referring to “strong” or “potent” heroin as this may lead them to seek it out
- ensure people who use opioids/heroin and others who might encounter an opioid overdose have naloxone available.

All organisations that provide emergency care for opioid overdose should ensure staff are supported to:

- Treat suspected cases as for any opioid overdose, using naloxone and appropriate supportive care.
- Recognise that appropriate monitoring and further doses of naloxone may be required since the duration of action of naloxone is shorter than that of many opioids.

The situation continues to be monitored, while further confirmation of the substance involved and their likely spread is sought, and if further action is necessary, you will be contacted.

**Please could we urge you to share any concerns with our dedicated mailbox <https://devon.cc/drugintel> which should be used for all drug alerts and related intelligence.**

## Devon LPC Database

If you would like to be added to the LPC database to receive copies of our newsletters and details of events we are organising, please let us know by emailing [admin@devonlpc.org](mailto:admin@devonlpc.org). We are particularly keen to hear of new pharmacists/locums who have moved to Devon recently.

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### DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE [www.devonlpc.org](http://www.devonlpc.org)

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*If you would like us to add or remove your email address from our database, please email [admin@devonlpc.org](mailto:admin@devonlpc.org)*