

Community Pharmacy Devon

Committee Meeting

held on

24th March 2025

Present: Rachel Fergie, Chair (IPA); Jackie Lewis (Ind); Lisa Jago (CCA); Ron Kirk (Ind); Ciaran McCaul (CCA); Ronak Maroo (Ind); Matt Robinson (CCA); Sian Retallick (Ind)

In attendance: Kathryn Jones (CPD); Sue Taylor (CPD)

Apologies: David Bearman (CPD)

Rachel welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes were shared.

1. Actions arising

Jackie queried the PharmOutcomes Pharmacy First data which had been shared by the secretariat team showing which pharmacies had met their thresholds, she stated that her pharmacy had never missed the threshold, but the data is showing otherwise. Ronak added that he had spoken to Amy Griffiths who was also sharing data sets about the discrepancies and was awaiting a response.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2025 were agreed to be an accurate representation.

Sue stated that the action around creating a consistent messages for all representatives of community pharmacy to use will be added to the agenda of the next daytime committee meeting in May. Virtual Outcomes training availability is being included in the Weekly Bulletin.

Sue added that there is a Devon community pharmacy conference planned for mid-September that has been funded by the ICB through the resilience programme. Tom Kallis will be running an online training session on maximising Pharmacy First in May.

2. Treasurer's Report

Ron gave a brief overview of the finances; we are above budget for the year. There was a discussion about the level of reserve that the committee should hold, currently at just over six months.

Sian noted that CPE have issued a reserves policy for committees to consider and that it is no longer a requirement to retain six months reserve. Sian added that she would prefer that the ICB funded the development of a new PGD rather than a conference. Sue confirmed that all non-levy funds are kept in a separate bank account and that there was ongoing discussion with the ICB regarding commissioning of further PGDs.

The secretariat team had submitted several proposals and business cases to extend PGDs or replace the ones that were removed following the commissioning of the national Pharmacy First service. Ronak asked if the LPC could commission a service as other LPCs have done through setting up a

provider company. Sue informed the committee that there had been plans developed to establish a provider company just prior to the Wright Review into pharmacy representation which had been put on hold and that the recommendations from CPE and CCA were for LPCs not to pursue setting up new provider companies. Rachel asked if Matt, Ronak and Sian could use their contacts to investigate the process of the LPC creating a provider company. Sue stated that funding needs to be obtained from the contractors and that the CCA stance needs to be established. Sue asked if Matt, Lisa or Ciaran would be able to investigate this further with the CCA.

Matt stated that CCA reps are asked for feedback every year on the challenges faced and successes that the LPC have had. The pharmacy closures have been the biggest challenge but also led to many successes such as bringing stakeholders together like PCN leads.

Sue shared the following challenges and successes with the committee:

Challenge - NHS Devon difficulties in commissioning community pharmacy services and the ICB being in NOF4 which means the focus has been on the acutes rather than primary care. Restructuring of NHS Devon still in progress.

Challenge - pharmacy closures but also the arrival of new pharmacy owners in Devon, can be an advantage but also very much a challenge to include them in the bigger picture.

Challenge - Ensuring the pressures in Community Pharmacies are brought to the attention of those with political influence.

Challenge - Difficulties in recruiting Workforce in the Southwest

Success - funding for PCN leads and better engagement with stakeholders through the PCN leads and funding agreed for 2025-26.

Success - membership of Devon MPOD and closer working with the other representative committees. This is giving us more direct input to the ICB senior leadership team.

Success - MP work programme and engagement with MPs leading to questions being raised in the house and in the recent Westminster Hall Debate, and a number of MP visits to pharmacies.

Success - Strong relationship with the local authorities' public health teams has led to Devon overall securing higher service fees than other parts of the country for public health services.

Ron shared a spreadsheet displaying the costs of the secretariat team including meeting costs and the PSNC Levy. Sue said that all meetings had been reviewed to determine their importance in terms of stakeholder engagement. The Devon Community Pharmacy Strategic Framework is being published this week and the PNA and resilience Programme are both progressing and will need reviewing.

Kathryn noted that members' reimbursement is increasing so the expenses policy needs to be updated and approved at the next meeting. A brief discussion followed regarding locum reimbursement and remuneration costs and whether they were comparable with other LPCs' costs.

Ronak asked if the next spreadsheet could include all the assets and any ringfenced money. This was agreed by all.

It was agreed that a vote on the expenses claim would be added to the next agenda.

A vote to accept the 2025-26 budget was proposed by Ron and seconded by Ronak. This was voted in favour of unanimously.

Actions: Ronak, Sian and Matt to look into the process of establishing a provider company. Sue to get a speaker on provider companies to the next committee meeting.

Matt, Lisa and Ciaran to investigate what the stance of the CCA is with regards to provider companies.

A vote on expenses claims is to be added to the next agenda.

3. Secretariat Report

The Torbay and Plymouth draft PNAs are out for consultation, closing date is 6th May. These have been sent out to contractors for feedback. The Devon PNA will be released in late summer/early autumn. A service for vitamin B12 injections for post bariatric patients had been planned with John Finn but has subsequently been halted. The Devon MPOD meeting will be held this week where more information will be given about the recent announcement regarding the restructuring of the NHS.

Sian queried whether an ombudsman could mediate regarding the Vitamin B12 injection service as she felt that patients were suffering. Sue thought that any patient feedback would need to go through the normal channels, e.g. Healthwatch.

CPE Update

Sian confirmed that the stance of CPE was very much in line with Wes Streeting's of moving from illness to prevention and secondary to primary care and that this will affect the trajectory for the next 10 years plus. CPE has been influencing political thinking to inform the spending review in June 2025 and the Drug Tariff always with the aim of obtaining the best deal for contractors.

4. PCN Leads Update

This subject will be discussed at the May meeting.

Ronak raised his concern that there may be duplication of effort happening between the ICB and CPD particularly with regard to the PCN lead engagement and asked that this be included in the agenda for the May meeting.

Jackie requested that CPD arrange some clinical gateway criteria threshold training for Pharmacy First from Tom Kallis. This could be delivered virtually for locums as soon as possible to assist with claiming for clinical pathways.

Actions: Add agenda item on ownership of work responsibilities

Jackie to send Sue a breakdown of what should be included in the training.

5. AOB

Sue confirmed the daytime meeting in May will focus on refreshing the strategy and developing KPIs for the committee and secretariat. She will be sending out the LPC self-assessment forms from CPE for all members to complete and send back before the meeting so it can inform the action plan for next year.

Date of next meeting: 14th May 2025, 9am-4.30pm, Kenn Centre, Kennford, Nr Exeter
