

South Staffordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2009 in The Meeting Room,
Wedgewood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Staffordshire at 2.30pm

Members Present: Mr Dean Mr Bullock Mr Prokopa Mr Galt
 Mr Connolly Mr Siswick Mr Smith Ms Palfreyman
 Mr Wilson Mr Morrison Ms McCallum

In Attendance: Mr Phelan, Dr Goldstein
 Mr Allan Turner

In the Chair: Mr Dean

Mr Dean welcomed Ms Frances McCallum, new CCA representative, who was introduced to the members.

Business Agenda

129-1	<p>Apologies Mrs Lanes; Mrs Lanes has given notice that she will be leaving the Committee due to her taking up a new post and longer be eligible as CCA member representative. The Committee asked Mr Prokopa to forward a letter of thanks to Mrs Lanes for her service over the last two and a half years.</p> <p>No apology had been received from Mr Asaria, who was believed may no longer be employed by the contractor who he represented on the Committee; Mr Prokopa agreed to investigate and confirm whether Mr Asaria was still employed by the contractor and therefore still eligible to be a member of the Committee.</p>
129-2	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2009 were approved.</p>
129-3	<p>Matters Arising 119-4: Members were again reminded to sign up for email notification of PCL(S) communications from within the My Account section of the LPC Members area of the PSNC website. 119-8: Mr Phelan confirmed that Lynne Deavin would be a point of contact at the PCT for purposes of Information Governance (IG); although she was not the PCT Lead on IG contact had also been made with the Lead through Nazmeen Khideja – his name is David Lambert. Mr Smith noted that there were many unanswered questions raised by the Draft IG Workbook document, including how was the workbook & declaration to be of benefit to patients, and what would be the sanctions for contractors if they did not complete it?</p>
129-4	<p>Communications The correspondence listed in Appendix 1 was noted.</p>
129-5	<p>Finance The treasurer reported that the LPC account and Service Development account both had healthy balances.</p>

129-6	<p>Meeting Reports</p> <p>Peter Prokopa - West Midlands Regional LPC Forum – 18th November 2009: A full agenda included presentations by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chris Glass (Boots) on the Pivotell device & project; ii. Richard Seal (Programme Consultant in Medicines Management, WMSHA) on Swine Flu update ,Quality Innovation Productivity & Prevention (QIPP) and how this might allow LPCs to tailor services to PCT needs – Hospital admissions Related to Medicines (HARMs) being a good example of community pharmacy being able to have a major role. He also mentioned safety in dispensing & prescribing of specials. iii. Andrew Campbell, Pharmacy Workforce & NMP Specialist, WM Workforce Deanery spoke about a planned community pharmacy workforce survey in the West Midlands and about possible uses for identified training & development funds for community pharmacy iv. Mike King – PSNC hot topics update, including elections (LPC & PSNC), devolution of the Global Sum to PCTs, PNAs, possible new Advanced Services and a Costs Enquiry to be undertaken in 2010. <p>Also discussed was Harmonisation of Accreditation Group progress across the region and services updates from LPCs. The latter included Shropshire LPC sourcing funding from two pharmaceutical manufacturers for MUR-based projects, which Mr Prokopa thought could be worth investigating. Mr Dean asked if these were liable to “interference” from the companies concerned in respect of potential leading of outcomes towards their products. Dr Goldstein agreed to investigate the services with Lindsey Fairbrother, Service Development Officer at Shropshire LPC.</p> <p>Dr Goldstein summarized her meeting reports in item 129-9.</p>
129-7	<p>PCT Report</p> <p>Allan Turner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Devolution of Pharmacy Budgets to PCTs. Some information has been received by the PCT regarding devolution of Community Pharmacy budgets. Workshops for PCT’s are expected to be held in early 2010. ii) Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments. The questionnaire which will provide baseline information for the PNA has been sent to contractors. The next meeting of the PCT’s PNA working group has been planned for Thursday 14th January; a regional “listening event” has been advertised for Birmingham on Thursday 21st January, however Mr Turner was unable to confirm if the PCT would be represented at this event. Mr Prokopa confirmed his attendance on behalf of the LPC at the afternoon session on that date. iii) Mr Turner confirmed that the whole of the Primary care team would be relocating to the Springfields Health & Wellbeing Centre, Lovett Court, Rugeley with effect from Thursday 17th December 2009. Contact details would be sent to all contractors. iv) Confirmation had finally been received from the Department of Health that Monday 28th December was to be considered as a Public Holiday. v) Christmas & New Year Rota Pharmacy details were to be forwarded to contractors in East Staffs; those for Cannock Chase and Stafford areas had already been posted. <p>Mr Smith asked Mr Turner if there had been a decision at the PCT regarding</p>

	<p>those pharmacies requesting to close early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve in response to the decision of the PCT to allow GP surgeries to close early on those dates?</p> <p>Mr Turner replied that contractors may still apply to the PCT to close early in these circumstances, with each application being treated individually.</p> <p>Mr Prokopa agreed to get a definitive answer on this issue for 2010 from PSNC in good time to advise contractors appropriately.</p>
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Strategy Agenda

129-8	<p>Quality and Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Prescription Pricing check – Mr Phelan noted an overpayment of £652 in April 2009 and in a further notification of May 2009, an underpayment of £1290.76. Concern over the large value of these over- and underpayments was expressed by the Committee and Mr Prokopa agreed to report these concerns to PSNC, and to seek information from other LPC's (regarding any similar figures being reported to them) via the Secretary's Forum and the Regional Meeting planned for February 2010. ii) GPs and CPs Joint Inquiry – joint Inquiry between RPSGP and Royal College of General Practitioners, examining current barriers to integrated working, arrangements which could facilitate more effective working in primary care, existing examples of good partnerships between GPs and pharmacists, and benefits for patients. Report to be released in February 2010. iii) Change in dose of Oseltamavir for children under 6 months of age. Mr Prokopa confirmed that GP's had started to use the new prescribing vouchers locally. The Chairman questioned what was the incidence of Swine Flu in this area? Dr Goldstein replied that there were a few "hotspots" in the PCT area, notably in Cannock in recent days. A peak in incidence was expected around Christmas, so the PCT had recruited 14 new community pharmacies as antiviral collection points for certain times over the festive season. iv) Improving Quality and Productivity through Innovation in the West Midlands. The SHA is to lead work to minimise hospital admissions related to medicines; the WM has been identified as a national pathfinder for this project by the DoH. All members agreed this was an area where community pharmacists could be well employed.
129-9	<p>Commissioning and Services</p> <p>Service Development Officer's Report.</p> <p>Dr Goldstein outlined her activity in recent weeks:</p> <p>School Nurses – talk with 40 school nurses including how they can work together with pharmacists in areas such as EHC & Chlamydia screening, plus possible future joint working on the safe use of medicines, drugs misuse, quit smoking services and support child carers of sick parents.</p> <p>Provider Staff Celebration Day – talk with largely specialist nurses working in different field within the community, eg heart failure & pain management. Examining how these nurses could work with community pharmacists to improve care for patients, eg by</p>

	<p>pharmacists referring in to them following an MUR. This may become the subject of local association training evenings in the New Year.</p> <p>Pivotell – update on progress. The project is moving forward with requests for confirmation of interest going out soon, and recruitment of patients probably in January.</p> <p>Lifestyle Team, East Locality – discussion of low rate of referrals to this team and how community pharmacists might refer people into the service. A letter has been sent to pharmacists in the area to get expressions of interest, and then be a subject of local association meetings in 2010, with a possible long-term goal of training pharmacy staff as “health trainers”.</p> <p>Area Prescribing committee – discussions on branded generics – the PCT accepted that it was unlikely to push more prescribing of branded generics due to supply chain issues. The committee had also reported problems with access to dressings for District Nurses in some areas, following the full introduction of the wound care formulary across the PCT. It was agreed that Dr Goldstein & Mr Prokopa would meet with Mark Seaton and Amanda Evans at the PCT to examine ways in which these concerns could be resolved.</p> <p>Noise In The System (NITS) - there is a need for the PCT to be made aware of any patient information that highlights problems with any other health and social care provider. These are not formal complaints but snippets that we pick up from patients about poor quality service. Dr Goldstein has scoped out with the quality team how to engage pharmacists in reporting these NITS.</p> <p>Dr Goldstein also noted that the Littleton Ward project was still keen to recruit more pharmacists to visit patients at home following discharge; it was also being considered as to whether a pharmacist should be employed directly by the PCT through the project team to undertake visits when no local community pharmacist could be found. Mr Prokopa said that maybe if there could be more flexibility on timing would help, the target of 7 days being difficult to achieve in practice. Dr Goldstein confirmed that this was being considered. A similar format was also being considered for patients being discharged from the PCT’s community hospitals, and Dr Goldstein would be talking to Amanda Evans from the PCT provider arm about this soon.</p>
129-10	<p>Regulation</p> <p>Confirmation had been received that the PCT had approved the application from Northwood Dispensing Chemists Ltd for inclusion in the Pharmaceutical List at Fradley; also that the re-examination of the Controlled Status in Eccleshall in relation to the application by LloydsPharmacy there had concluded that the area continued to be rural in character and therefore the application would have to pass the prejudice to medical & pharmaceutical services test in addition to the test of necessity and/or expediency. Finally, notification of Change of Ownership had been received from the PCT from LloydsPharmacy, 53 Greyfriars, Stafford to MEBA Services Ltd T/A Browning Street Pharmacy, 53 Greyfriars, Stafford with effect from 4th December 2009.</p> <p>Mr Phelan & Mr Prokopa attended the PCT contracts meeting on 25th November to discuss the three applications at Huntington. The PCT had approved the application by B&H Healthcare Ltd at premises adjacent to the new branch surgery (currently under construction).</p> <p>Fees for registration of pharmacy premises – RPSGB had recommended an increase of 4.16%, however after opposition from PSNC/AIMP & NPA the Department of Health have agreed an increase of 2.2%.</p> <p>Consultation on Regulations to Implement the requirement for PCTs to prepare and</p>

	<p>publish a PNA</p> <p>It was agreed to list this as an agenda item in February following the Listening Event on 21st January and time for Mr Prokopa to prepare a draft response to the consultation.</p> <p>For information – The LPC had received notification of a minor relocation of 150m by LloydsPharmacy in Penn, Wolverhampton.</p> <p>National consultation on the new legal rights for patients within the NHS Constitution – email from Richard Seal (Programme Consultant in Medicines Management, WMSHA) regarding the right to treatment within 18 weeks from GP referral to a specialist (2 weeks for cancer specialist) and NHS Health Checks for those aged 40-74 to assess risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes & kidney disease. Consultation runs until 4th February 2010.</p>
129-11	<p>Information</p> <p>Supply chain obligations clarified – PSNC & NPA have raised awareness of supply chain issues and how community pharmacists can help manage problems, including advising patients to order supplies in good time, arranging locally to have procedures in place to “borrow” stock if necessary, discuss problems with local prescribers and being aware in the pharmacy of “contingency” ordering arrangements.</p> <p>Update on EPS Release 2 Dr Goldstein noted that the PCT had set up a working group on this, and was seeking Community Pharmacy involvement, not just from within the LPC but also directly from contractors. Ms McCallum agreed to represent the LPC on this group; the Chairman would seek to recruit contractors via the newsletter. Mr Smith noted that the second “live” EPS R2 pharmacy site near Nottingham had withdrawn after only two weeks due to operational difficulties.</p> <p>Update on NHS Mail The meeting heard that in addition to the guidance issued by PSNC more work on this subject was being undertaken by AIM and CCA on how issues identified by PSNC could be overcome. More guidance is expected from PSNC early in 2010. Mr Galt noted that despite his Company’s pharmacies being registered for NHS Mail, in practice it was hardly being used.</p>
129-12	<p>Local Associations</p> <p>Since the last LPC meeting East Staffs LA had the Pivotell presentation, and all three groups had joint presentations on EPS & NHS Mail, Fraud and Child Protection (ES & BLT only). Future events: The Time to Quit service had already asked for a slot to present, plus Dr Goldstein planned a “How not to annoy your GP” session. It was agreed that Dr Goldstein would meet with Mr Prokopa, Mr Bullock & Mr Smith to formalise plans for a programme of meetings to take place in the New Year.</p>
129-13	<p>LPC Election 2010</p> <p>The timetable for the election is in appendix 2. The Committee noted the need to appoint a Returning Officer who was not a pharmacy</p>

	contractor elector. Mr Bullock proposed that Dr Goldstein be nominated as returning Officer; seconded by Mr Galt. The appointment was unanimously approved.
129-14	<p>Meetings 2010</p> <p>Proposed meeting dates for 2010 were presented to the Committee, with meetings continuing for the time being on the second Wednesday each month except for April, when this date corresponded with the last day of the school Easter holidays; this meeting was moved back one week to 21st April. Dr Goldstein noted that she would be unable to attend for more than a short period on most of the proposed dates due to PEC meeting commitments at the PCT. The Chairman suggested and the Committee agreed that the first meeting of the new committee in April should discuss the proposals on changes to meeting formats from the 2009 Strategy Day.</p>
129-15	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Chairman reported Derby County PCT had informed one of his pharmacies in that area that all items endorsed as "not dispensed" should also be crossed through on the FP10 prescription form. Confirmation of this would be sought through the PSNC website and publicised in the December newsletter. ii) The Chairman sought views from the Committee regarding the appointment of officers for the new committee. Mr Phelan confirmed that the current Committee was now operating under the constitution approved at the Special Meeting in September. However it was unclear as to whether only the new Committee sitting for the first time in April would be able to appoint officers. The Chairman asked if it would be appropriate for the LPC to seek permission to appoint members before the new committee was formed? There was no dissent to this view. Mr Galt confirmed that any appointees would have no voting rights on the committee. Mr Phelan stated that care would be needed to ensure that any appointed Chair should not be seen to be guiding any discussions in a particular direction. Mr Connolly agreed to seek the views of the CCA to the appointment of officers. Mr Prokopa is to check with PSNC regarding the timing of appointments. iii) Dr Goldstein reported that although far from all data from the 2009-10 PCT Multidisciplinary Waste Audit had come in the administration assistant inputting data was "astounded" at the volume and value of waste being reported. The report from the 2008-9 audit on missing prescriptions was being printed currently & would be circulated to all community pharmacy contractors when available. iv) There continued to be concerns regarding direction of prescriptions, particularly in one part of the PCT area. Dr Goldstein affirmed that any anecdotal evidence that this was happening could be reported to the PCT through the "Noise In The System" channel described in her report above. The contact for this was Heather Johnson at the PCT.
129-16	<p>Next Meeting 13th January 2010 at Dean & Smedley, Horninglow Road, Burton upon Trent at 2.00pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 4.35pm.</p>