

2016-17 The Year in Summary

Healthcare landscape

I would like to place on record my thanks to all those who have served on the LPC during the last months, particularly Secretary Lindsey Fairbrother and Treasurer Jane Davies.

The year has continued to be very challenging for Community Pharmacies and during the year the LPC continued to try to influence key stakeholders with regards to the “Community Pharmacy in 206/17 and beyond”. It also supported the Judicial Review but a disappointing outcome.

We have maintained the relationships with NHS North Midlands, Shropshire CCG, Telford & Wrekin CCG the two local councils and both Healthwatchs with the aim of promoting pharmacy engagement.

The landscape continues to be challenging with budgets within the commissioning organisations limited, therefore limited service development unless savings can be achieved. However with the continued working with the South Staffs LPC, North Staffs LPC, Stoke LPC and the Local Professional Network for Pharmacy, NHS North Midlands agreed to continue to commission Pharmacy First Emergency Supply, Common Ailments, UTI and Impetigo. We do however need to ensure that contractors who are signed up to deliver the service do so. Pharmacies need to demonstrate delivery so that we can influence the Commissioners to commission other services.

Pharmacies also continue to deliver smoking cessation, supervised consumption, emergency contraception, needle exchange and the Primary Eye Care Assessment Referral Service.

Pharmoutcomes is proving to be very successful with the commissioners allowing full audit of service provision and accurate remuneration. This year it is being used by the local authorities for completion of the Pharmacy Needs Assessment.

The LPC organised four Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) Champion Training sessions and two Leadership Training sessions to assist pharmacies working towards HLP status.

There has been continued development and use of the LPC website and we would encourage contractors to view this.

Following the vote at the EGM held on 29th November 2016 to support the setting up of a West Midlands wide provider company Central Health Care Services Limited (now Central Health Solutions Ltd) the LPC signed the Loan Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

Under the Loan Agreement the LPC have made loan payments of £3185 in February 2017 and £910 in April 2017.

Regulatory

With the uncertain financial future for many pharmacies, contracting, whether new applications or relocation has been very quiet in the year April 2016 to 2017. The main activity was the pursuit of HLP accreditation, SCR access and NHS mail for pharmacies to assist in their ability to meet the new quality criteria.

The financial imposition on contractors resulted in a 12% cut up to April 2017, with further cuts to single activity fees and Category M due beyond the financial year. The LPC supported PSNC's judicial review of the Government's position by providing extraordinary funds. We also continued to lobby local councillors, NHS England, Healthwatch and Parliament, with a visit by the local MP to Cleobury Mortimer pharmacy and a press call with opposition MPs at the PSNC conference.

Lindsey Fairbrother continues to support the LPC as Secretary and lead for regulatory issues including responding to contract applications and regulations and communicating with national and local bodies.