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Hampshire & Isle of Wight LPC SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY PHARMACY

LPCs in the spotlight– Hampshire and Isle of Wight LPC

Hampshire and Isle of Wight LPC is a committee representing 357 contractors with a small office in Odiham Hampshire, which is the base for the recently appointed Chief Officer Paul Bennett and Office Manager Jo Addison.

The LPC covers a diverse area from cities such as Southampton and Portsmouth to the more urban areas of Winchester and Basingstoke as well as the scenic rural villages of Hampshire. There are 8 CCGs and 4 Health and Wellbeing Boards in all and an NHSE local area team that covers the whole of Wessex (which includes Dorset). There are areas of wealth and deprivation across the geography and each provides its many healthcare challenges.

The committee of 13 members (comprising 4 independently elected members, 1 AIMp nominee and 8 CCA nominees) works through 6 subcommittees each with an LPC member lead: Market Entry, PNA, Remuneration, Governance, Service Development and the Community Pharmacy Wessex Academy (CPWA).

The CPWA is a new joint initiative with Dorset LPC to help community pharmacy adapt and compete in the new commissioning environment; it is a central information hub, aiming to support the skills and knowledge development of local community pharmacy staff by bringing together relevant tools and useful resources.

CPWA offers contractors' face to face workshops, online training, facilitated networking and social media. The Academy has a dedicated website www.cpwacademy.org.uk/ with information on the services available from community pharmacies across Wessex, and the specific accreditation requirements for delivering them. The website is also available to support commissioners with local communications, and to coordinate resources on locally commissioned pharmacy services and share practice.

In addition to signposting pharmacy teams to external training and development programmes, the Community Pharmacy Wessex Academy also plans to host its own education and training activities delivered by Local Academy Leads. Chief Officer Paul Bennett sees the Academy as providing a strategic approach to meet the changing training and development needs of pharmacy teams and an information source for both providers and commissioners across Wessex. The Academy will be overseen by a Board (currently in formation) which will include representatives from CPPE, Academia, Heath Education Wessex and local contractors (through their LPC representatives). Funding is through sponsorship contributing to an Academy central fund.

Because of the size of the area the Academy operates through seven local academies each with a budget and a local lead (who need not be an LPC member). There is a real opportunity to bring not only pharmacists and their teams together, but also other members of the primary healthcare team. By way of example, local Academies and the RPS Local Professional Forum held very successful joint events recently with local optometrists and pharmacists getting together to discuss 'red eye' and its treatment.

LPC meetings

Hampshire and Isle of Wight LPC has daytime meetings every two months and as part of its open governance arrangements its agenda and minutes are posted on the LPC website. The meetings include feedback from subcommittee leads and LPC members who lead on specific areas of work. Governance is taken very seriously and engagement with contractors is a high priority. The LPC website plays an important part in communicating with contractors and provides comprehensive up-to-date information keeping them informed and supported. This is supported by email and fax as necessary.

The website is maintained by the Chief Officer and by Office Manager, Jo Addison, who deals with a wide range of LPC administration, including direct communication to contractors and provision of telephone support. She also supports the Finance Officer in ensuring that finances are controlled and expenditure against budget accurately recorded. Accounts are produced annually and published on the web site after formal adoption at the AGM.

The LPC takes a strategic approach to its activities. The strategy for 2014 -17 has four key pillars: '*Leadership*' of the local pharmacy agenda, '*Effectiveness*' of the LPC, provision of '*Support*' for pharmacy teams and building productive '*Relationships*' with key stakeholders in order to maximise opportunities for contractors. To achieve these four objectives the LPC has established an annual plan of work that focuses on what is needed during that 12 month period, makes best use of resources and delivers tangible benefit for contractors.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight LPC is a dynamic organisation with a highly motivated membership and a clear plan for the future. With a reputation for innovation, notably as a pioneer of the Healthy Living Pharmacy concept, the LPC is keen to champion the role of community pharmacy as provider of health and wellness services. To find out more visit the LPC website at www.hampshirelpc.org.uk/

If your LPC would like to contribute to this series contact mike.king@psnc.org.uk