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## PSNC Meeting February 2020: Summary Report for Contractors and LPCs

PSNC met in London on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th February 2020. This briefing summarises some of the key topics discussed for community pharmacy contractors and LPCs.

### CPCF: Negotiations for 2020/21

PSNC is in the final stages of negotiations with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) on the details of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) for the financial year 2020/21. As such, the full Committee had detailed discussions on elements of the settlement from April 2020, including the Transitional Payments and Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS). We hope to be able to make announcements on this topic to contractors later this month.

### CPCF: Community pharmacy funding

PSNC's Funding and Contract Subcommittee considered the emerging data on remuneration and retained margin, looking at how this is impacting contractors and what PSNC could propose to DHSC to help smooth cashflow. Discussions with DHSC on this take place on an ongoing basis. PSNC also discussed the significant financial and capacity challenges being faced by contractors, looking at how PSNC can work with the other pharmacy organisations to best gather evidence of this. This work will feed into the CPCF annual review process, and into work to make the case for further investment in the sector. PSNC also discussed the approach to pricing new services within the CPCF and the need for Government to take into account the full costs of delivery.

### CPCF: Service developments

PSNC's Service Development Subcommittee reviewed the latest proposals (including service specifications) on the upcoming service elements of the CPCF, including the Hepatitis C testing service and medicines reconciliation service. These elements will be finalised as soon as possible. The subcommittee also discussed in detail the Government's final proposals for next year's PQS, including the allocation of points, and reviewed the progress of the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS).

### Independent review of contractor representation and support

PSNC's LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee received a report on the progress of the independent review, which this month has seen the launch of national surveys for contractors and LPCs. The subcommittee discussed the concerns raised by LPCs and agreed that PSNC Members will attend the conference on 5th May 2020; that a working group including LPC Members and CEOs will be set up to plan the agenda for the conference; that livestreaming of the event so that as many LPC Members as possible can join in, would be beneficial; and that LPCs should have access to Professor Wright's report at the same time as PSNC Members do. Further communications have already been sent to LPCs on this topic, and a reminder that the contractor survey can be completed at: <https://uea.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pharmacy-representation-review-contractor-survey-final>

### Primary Care Networks

Good progress had been made with the LPCs in collating a list of pharmacy PCN Leads, which has subsequently been used to pre-populate the Manage Your Service portal which contractors will use to submit their PQS declarations. PSNC is

working to gather best practice and learnings about the selection of and support being made available to PCN Leads, to inform future work with the other national pharmacy organisations to support PCN Leads and engagement.

### LPC Guidance and Resources

PSNC's draft expenses policy for LPCs is being updated following advice from HMRC, who have confirmed that the rules that apply to GPs on Local Medical Committees can be applied to pharmacists. We will share this with subcommittee members and then LPC Treasurers as soon as possible, but conversations with HMRC can take considerable time. PSNC is also developing guidance for LPCs on Competition Law which may be helpful given the changing local environment and some of the new collaborative relationships being formed between contractors within PCNs. This guidance will be finalised as soon as possible.

### Consultation responses

PSNC's Service Development Subcommittee considered a response to the draft Quality Standard 'Community pharmacies: promoting health and wellbeing' which the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has put out for consultation. PSNC has now responded to the consultation and the response is available at: <https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PSNC-response-NICE-CP-promoting-health-and-wellbeing-Feb-2020.pdf>

PSNC's Legislation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee also considered the consultation currently being undertaken by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) on pharmacy premises fees. PSNC believes that the GPhC needs to be properly funded but is concerned about the level of the increase to fees; a full response to the consultation will be submitted.

### Legislative changes

The Legislation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee discussed the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill, which states that a consultation will be held on Hub and Spoke Regulations this year. It was agreed that, whilst the widening of regulations to allow for Hub and Spoke arrangements between legal entities is inevitable, PSNC must continue to fully explore the issues to identify potential risks and consider how to mitigate them; and ensure that the new arrangements are fair for the sector as a whole, as agreed in the five-year deal in July 2019. The issues around supervision, including the Responsible Pharmacist Regulations, were also considered by the subcommittee.

### PSNC Communications

PSNC's Communications and Public Affairs Subcommittee considered expected upcoming communications about the CPCS: these will aim to cover how changes to the CPCS will feel to contractors on the ground, as well as mapping out a timeline of the year ahead. A discussion was also had about PSNC's website which will be reviewed, alongside PSNC's other communications, following the conclusion of the independent review of contractor support and representation.

### Work with other stakeholders

The following key workstreams with other organisations were also discussed by PSNC:

- GP communications – engagement with GPs will be crucial as referrals to the CPCS from GP practices are rolled out. PSNC will work with the other pharmacy organisations, GP representatives, LPCs and NHSE&I on this.
- Work with NHSE&I to set up a working group to tackle violence in pharmacy – this follows on from the valuable work to raise this issue by the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA).
- Parliamentary engagement – PSNC has issued guidance to LPCs on engaging with MPs and is contacting supportive MPs to help build the number of advocates in Parliament. The All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) is expected to be re-established shortly and to host a Parliamentary reception to promote pharmacy before Easter.

For any queries about this PSNC Briefing please contact [Zoe Long, PSNC Director of Communications and Public Affairs](#).