

Minutes of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee meetings

held on 25th and 26th November 2020

via Zoom

Present: Reena Barai, Richard Bradley, David Broome, Mark Burdon, Peter Cattee, Ian Cubbin, Samantha Fisher, Mark Griffiths, Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Clare Kerr, Sue Killen (Chair), Sunil Kochhar, Margaret MacRury, Fin McCaul, Niamh McMillan, Has Modi, Garry Myers, Bharat Patel, Indrajit Patel, Prakash Patel, Umesh Patel, Jay Patel, Janice Perkins, Adrian Price, Sian Retallick, Anil Sharma, Stephen Thomas, Faisal Tuddy

In Attendance: Simon Dukes, Shiné Brownsell, Alastair Buxton, Jack Cresswell, Mike Dent, Gordon Hockey, Zoe Long, Rhys Martin, David Onuoha, Layla Rahman, Suraj Shah, Gabriele Skieriute, Rob Thomas

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Rhys Martin who will formally be joining the Committee on 1st December 2020.
- 1.2 The Chair noted the fast-moving developments on COVID-19 vaccines that have occurred since the last Committee meeting. The Chair acknowledged the contribution that community pharmacy is making to help the country through the pandemic. The Chair welcomed the NPA's continuing public campaign on community pharmacy.
- 1.3 The Review Steering Group will be meeting in December when they will start work on the substance of the Wright Review. James Wood, who is joining PSNC in January as Director of Contractor and LPC Support, will be leading on this work, and will report progress to the Committee.
- 1.4 The Chair is enjoying her latest round of one-to-one meetings with the Committee. The discussions include what PSNC is good at, what it can do better and reflecting on the Committee members' role.
- 1.5 The Chair reminded everyone about confidentiality, which is part of the code of conduct for every Committee member. The Chair has asked Gordon Hockey to review how to make confidentiality more embedded in governance, practice and process.

Item 2 – Welcome and introduction from the Chief Executive

- 2.1 The Chief Executive commented on the Chancellor's spending review announcement for the next financial year, noting the importance of the funding settlement for the NHS. Once that is known, it is likely that DHSC and NHSE&I will share their plans for allocating funding in the next financial year. It therefore followed that there was no news on the bid for additional funding which PSNC had submitted.
- 2.2 The Chief Executive highlighted the importance of the last session of this meeting because the data the Committee agrees to capture will form part of the funding bid for years 4 and 5 of CPCF.
- 2.3 PSNC wrote to DHSC on 12th October 2020, asking for the £370m of advance funding to be written off. DHSC has informed PSNC that the proposal is with HM Treasury. DHSC has not provided any timeframe for a response from HM Treasury. The CEO is continuing to press DHSC for a response and the Committee will be updated when there is any news.

- 2.4 The focus of the meeting was on more strategic matters and the presentations and discussion sessions had been designed accordingly. The Chief Executive asked the Committee to provide feedback to the office on this approach.
- 2.5 Work is progressing well at Hosier Lane on the ground floor refurbishment and the office will circulate photos of the current situation to the Committee.

Item 3 – Apologies for absence

- 3.1 Apologies were received from Marc Donovan (afternoon), Jas Heer and Gary Warner on 25th November.
- 3.2 Apologies for absence were received from Richard Bradley, Marc Donovan and Gary Warner on 26th November.

Item 4 – Conflicts or declaration of interest

- 4.1 No new conflicts or declarations of interest were made.

Item 5 – Minutes of the May meeting

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting which took place on 9th and 10th September 2020 were approved.

Item 6 – Matters Arising

- 6.1 The following action points can be marked as complete:
 - Annual Review
 - Current and future funding model
 - Restoration and recover work
 - Discussing with DHSC C-19 costs, reconciling the £370m and the bid for additional funding
- 6.2 The risk register will be regularly circulated to the Committee.

Item 7 – Financial Risks

The Committee considered three areas during this session: CPCF and COVID-19 impact, CPCF in Years 3-5 and new business/funding models.

CPCF and C-19 Impact

- 7.1 Mike Dent provided an update on costs and negotiations.
- 7.2 The Committee discussed in groups what should happen if the Committee's funding requests are refused.

CPCF in Years 3-5

- 7.4 The Committee looked at item growth /Period of Treatment change, service volumes and unallocated funds.
- 7.5 The Committee considered in groups what PSNC's strategy should be on unallocated funds.

New Business / Funding Models

- 7.6 A proposal on a patient registration-based approach to the contract was put to the Committee earlier this year. The Committee looked at progress and the next steps.
- 7.7 The Committee also discussed in groups what they believe the commissioner wants from the contract, competition vs collaboration between pharmacies, whether new disruptor models will emerge in the market and the impacts of parallel or tiered 'contracts' and how they can be managed.

Item 8 – Regulatory

8.1 Gordon Hockey provided an update in his presentation on Hub and Spoke, end of the transition period (Brexit), supervision, DSPs and Advanced services, and patient access.

Item 9 – Reputational

- 9.1 The Committee looked closely at the reputation of pharmacy and what the reputational risks are for the sector with patients, politicians and NHSE&I.
- 9.2 The Committee talked about how pharmacy can mitigate against those risks and what PSNC's role should be in managing the reputational risks to the sector.

Item 10 – CPCF Services

- 10.1 Alastair Buxton provided a presentation on CPCF services, looking at services which have already been implemented and those that are in progress.
- 10.2 The Committee also looked at what is upcoming in 2021/22 and potential longer-term options for service development.
- 10.3 The Committee discussed in groups whether anything had changed over the past year in terms of priorities for CPCF service developments. Also, whether we want to change any of the service developments, or their priority for implementation. The Committee also considered additional services that could potentially be commissioned via the CPCF.

Item 11 – Reviewing our progress and performance

11.1 In the CPCF five-year deal we agreed to a joint annual review of the CPCF to ensure, and demonstrate, value for taxpayers and the NHS. The Committee discussed what good performance looked like, what we want to measure and the risks.

Item 12 – Discharge Medicines Service

- 12.1 The Committee considered a proposal from NHSE&I and DHSC for DMS funding.
- 12.2 The proposed funding was a £400 upfront payment for all contractors, to recognise the training required to prepare staff for the service and the need for an SOP. Each fully completed DMS would attract a fee of £35. Where only part of the service was provided by a contractor, e.g. the patient is readmitted or dies, a partial fee would be paid.
- 12.3 After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to take back the following concern to NHSE&I and DHSC:
- The inequity of the partial payment where contractors provided parts 1 and 2 or 2 and 3 of the service.

Item 13 - Margins and January Cat M (Confidential)

Item 14 - PPE reimbursement

14.1 DHSC and NHSE&I have consulted PSNC on a proposal to reimburse contractors for the cost of PPE purchased during the pandemic. The broad shape of the proposal is to allow all contractors to claim a banded payment aimed at covering the cost of specific types of PPE purchased between the end of February and end of October 2020. An exceptional claim can be made to cover higher amounts or PPE purchased before the end of December 2020, which will need to be used by end of March 2021. Claims would be made in January / February and paid by end of March 2021. From January 2021, any PPE sourced by contractors will not be reimbursed, but PPE will be available free of charge from the DHSC portal.

14.2 The full proposal will be shared with the Committee following further discussions to clarify certain points.

Item 15 – Subcommittee reports

15.1 Key points of the discussion at the Legislation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee meeting were presented by Ian Cubbin.

15.2 Key points of the discussion at the Communications and Public Affairs Subcommittee meeting were presented by Tricia Kennerley.

15.3 Key points of the discussion at the LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee meeting were presented by Sam Fisher. Gordon Hockey was also thanked for picking up the work on this Committee.

15.4 Key points of the discussion at the Funding & Contract Subcommittee meeting were presented by Peter Cattee.

15.5 Key points of the discussion at the Resource Development and Finance Subcommittee meeting were presented by Mark Burdon. Referring to item 5a in the minutes, Mark noted that any thoughts the Committee has on the KPIs would be gratefully received.

Item 16 – Any other business

16.1 The Chair thanked the office for all their hard work.