

Minutes of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee meeting

on 9th and 10th September 2020

Zoom virtual meetings

Present: Reena Barai, Richard Bradley, David Broome, Mark Burdon, Peter Cattee, Ian Cubbin, Marc Donovan, 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, Gary Warner

In Attendance: Simon Dukes, Shiné Brownsell, Alastair Buxton, Jack Cresswell, Mike Dent, Jessica Ferguson, Gordon Hockey, Zoe Long, David Onuoha, Suraj Shah, Rob Thomas, Sarah Welbourne

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on what the Committee was discussing this time last year.
- 1.2 The Chair commented on how well community pharmacy had responded to the pandemic, going the extra mile, and this is reflected in PSNC's own audit. The Sunday Mirror also wrote a piece on the brilliant work community pharmacy was doing.

Item 2 – Welcome and introduction from the Chief Executive

- 2.1 The Chief Executive talked about two important funding issues: discussions with DHSC on COVID-19 costs and seeking to reconcile the £370m; and the bid for additional funding for the contract sum.
- 2.2 On the first issue of COVID-19 funding, the Chief Executive reported that we were still far apart with DHSC on costs discussions – we were pushing hard for the £370m to be fully written off against COVID-19 costs, both those that the sector has already experienced and those that are yet to come. PSNC was as a result being more hard-line in comments to the press – this has been picked up by Ministers and officials at DHSC. The Chief Executive believed PSNC was merely reflecting the mood of the sector in the press and would continue to do this appropriately.
- 2.4 On the second issue of the contract sum, the Chief Executive stated that PSNC had put in a strong bid for additional funding. That was timed to coincide with the Spending Review, which HMT is currently undertaking, and we were waiting to see what impact it has. There were two things the Chief Executive wanted to underline:
 - i. Pharmacy Audit. The Chief Executive stated that the audit was impressive reading with over 9,400 pharmacies surveyed (80+%). The sector was performing over 600,000 consultations for self-referred walk-in patients every week. Fewer than 50% resulted in the sale of a product – an important point to make to those within NHSE&I who were convinced that community pharmacy is conflicted in this area. Fewer than 10% of those

patients were referred on to a GP, yet 50% of the patients said that had the pharmacy not been available, they would have visited a GP. That is a saving of 57,000 extra GP appointments every week (or 65 extra appointments every week for every GP in England.) Unofficially, from the DHSC the Chief Executive has heard that the results landed well.

- ii. Matt Hancock's comments on LBC on Monday (7th September). They were positive and suggestive that if he had control of the NHSE&I budget, he would be putting more money into community pharmacy – albeit for more services and work. However, while the Chief Executive thought Matt Hancock and Jo Churchill were genuinely pro-pharmacy, he urged caution in reading too much into the Secretary of State's words.

2.5 At the last Committee meeting, the Chief Executive mentioned Black Lives Matter and the importance of PSNC taking action on the issues raised by the movement a few months ago. The Chief Executive is discussing this with the other pharmacy bodies, but is keen to sign-up to a statement of principles that NHSE&I has written, in brief supporting an initiative to:

- strive towards the pharmacy profession being an exemplar among UK health professions for equality, diversity, inclusion, fairness and belonging.
- value all people and adopt and promote a culture of zero tolerance to all kinds of harassment, bullying and discrimination in the workplace.
- learn and understand communities and cultures so that we can be more effective health and care practitioners and providers.
- champion national and local policies and initiatives to address health and workforce inequalities.

It is a first step in the right direction, and it is hoped the Committee will be happy to support it.

- 2.1 The Chief Executive noted that as autumn approaches our minds turn not only to flu but also to EU Exit. The fact that it has knocked the pandemic off the headline news bulletins suggest that it is getting serious. An upsurge in COVID-19 coupled with flu and medicines shortages this winter (as a result of a heavy-footed EU exit) could be extremely concerning.
- 2.2 The Chief Executive also apologised for some of the agenda papers arriving last minute and for making changes within 24 hours of the Committee meeting. Unfortunately, the Executive team continues to deal with a significant number of live issues with NHSE&I which means resources are stretched.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive asked the Committee to use the chat facility on ZOOM to ask questions throughout the meeting. This will help with the flow of the meeting and keep the agenda to time. The Chief Executive was keen to see what the Committee thinks of this approach.
- 2.4 The Chief Executive reported on the advert for a new Director at PSNC to lead on LPC support. This has been financed by combining two vacant roles and the job advert closes on 14th September.
- 2.5 Finally, on behalf of the whole Executive team, the Chief Executive thanked the Committee for their continued support, advice, guidance, patience and sheer hard work over the summer. As

seen from subcommittee minutes and the upcoming agenda, there is still a huge amount to do: none of it possible without the Committee's valuable input.

Item 3 – Apologies for absence

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were received on 9th September from Alice Hare, Margaret MacRury and Faisal Tuddy.
- 3.2 Apologies for absence were received on 10th September from Alice Hare, Niamh McMillan and Faisal Tuddy.

Item 4 – Conflicts or declaration of interest

- 4.1 David Broome declared that he owns a PhAS pharmacy.

Item 5 – Minutes of the May meeting

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting which took place on 24th and 25th June 2020 were approved.

Item 6 – Matters Arising

- 6.1 The Chair requested that there should not be too many ongoing action points listed and to be clearer when actions have been completed and to have a realistic timetable to complete these actions by.
- 6.2 The Chief Executive confirmed that the action point on the annual review will be looked at again, to get NT views on what should be included.
- 6.3 Mike Dent confirmed that his team had started work on the funding and business model, however we could not share anything yet because the office had to prioritise margin and COVID-19 costs which are currently a higher priority at present.

Item 7 – COVID-19 costs

- 7.1 Mike Dent and Rob Thomas provided a presentation to update the Committee on COVID-19 costs. Following that the Committee considered questions in breakout groups.

Item 8 – Pharmacy Access Scheme

- 8.1 Gordon Hockey provided a presentation on PhAS, providing options for a revised PhAS and asked the Committee to consider questions on eligibility and calculation criteria.

Item 9 – GP Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

- 9.1 Alastair Buxton provided an update on discussions with NHSE&I and DHSC on the rollout of GP CPCS.
- 9.2 The Committee agreed that the service should be rolled out this year and provided feedback on what an acceptable approach should be.

Item 10 – Hub and Spoke

- 10.1 Gordon Hockey provided a presentation on Hub and Spoke and asked the Committee to consider issues they want DHSC to address in any public consultation on Hub and Spoke between different legal entities.

10.2 The Committee considered notes of CCA and NPA-led discussions and considered questions in breakout groups.

Item 11 – The Wright Review – Next steps in preparation for the LPC conference

11.1 Zoe Long provided an update on the Independent Review and talked about the Committee's views on the 33 recommendations.

11.2 Michael Twigg who was part of the original review team, provided a summary on responses received from the LPC on the four questions they were asked to answer, which covered funding, exploration of findings, governance and contractor oversight.

Item 12 – Subcommittee reports

12.1 Key points of the discussion at the Service Development Subcommittee meeting were presented by Gary Warner.

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

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

12.4 Key points of the discussion at the LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee meeting were presented by Sam Fisher.

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

12.6 Key points of the discussion at the Resource Development and Finance Subcommittee meeting were presented by Mark Burdon.

Item 13 – Scenario planning for the remainder of 2020/21

13.1 The committee discussed in groups what our position should be if we get pushed back on COVID-19 costs and our bid for an uplift to CPCF funding. The comments were collected and would be used to inform the NT's direction and approach to future negotiations.

Item 14 – Any other business

14.1 The Chair would like to do another round of 1-to-1s with the Committee from October on ZOOM. The office will be in touch to arrange this.

14.2 The Chair thanked the Committee and the office for all the hard work that they are doing.