

PSNC LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee Minutes
of the meeting to be held on Thursday 30 July 2020
by Zoom 2 – 4pm

Members of LCS present: Sam Fisher (Chair), Fin McCaul, Alice Hare, Indrajit Patel and Umesh Patel.

In attendance: Richard Brown (item 8 onwards), Mark Burdon, Peter Cattee, Gordon Hockey, Sue Killen, Mike King, Zoe Long, Layla Rahman, Stephen Thomas.

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

2.1 Niamh McMillan, Jay Patel and Sian Retallick gave apologies.

Item 3 – Conflicts or Declarations of Interest

3.1 None declared.

Item 4 – Minutes of the last meeting

4.1 The minutes of the subcommittee meeting held on 5th February 2020 were approved.

Item 5 – Actions and Matters Arising

5.1 The Actions were noted and there were no matters arising beyond those included in agenda items.

Action

Item 6 - LPC Conference

The written report from Zoe Long was received.

6.1 Zoe added that whilst the report from David Wright would be a key topic on the day, there were other important matters to discuss too. The subcommittee suggested these might include review of the contractual framework, audit, learnings from Covid-19, preparation for a second wave, and the changes resulting from the pandemic.

6.2 Other comments were that whilst delegates should have plenty of opportunity to discuss and give their views on the Wright report; PSNC must do so too, before and after the conference. The action on the recommendations should not be rushed and PSNC needs more

resources to make things happen. Based on feedback from previous events, more time should be given over for input from delegates and less on presentations.

6.3 It was reported that different software was being used to avoid problems with meetings rooms on the Zoom platform. The chat function can be distracting, and it was agreed that the working group planning the conference would consider that and keep LCS informed of its plans.

Item 7 – Equality and Diversity

7.1 Gordon Hockey introduced the discussion paper. The subcommittee endorsed the RPS approach which includes a broad range of issues relating to equality and diversity including ethnicity. It was also felt that more data was needed such as data on LPCs and the PSNC committee and staff, and how this reflects the contractor profile. However, it was noted that election processes can work against the balance unless positive discrimination is introduced, which the Wright Review did not encourage. Also, other work in this area should be studied in detail, including that carried out by the RPS.

Action 1: Office to follow the steer given by the subcommittee and provide a further paper for discussion at the next meeting.

Item 8 – Rapid Action Team

8.1 The information in the report from Richard Brown was received. It was noted that the RAT group will finish its work at the end of July and consideration was being given to the next steps. Richard has spoken to the LPC COs on the group and other LPC COs about value of the group and asked them to go back to their LPCs and regions for views. It was agreed that it was a good platform for LPC/PSNC communications, but contractor benefit must be paramount.

8.2 The subcommittee saw the benefits of the approach but there is a need to have consistency of messaging across all LPCs, which it was suggested has been patchy. It was also noted that multiples have their own communication channel. Clarity on the remit and terms of reference is needed.

8.3 It was noted that a posting on the Gaggle group will indicate the next steps.

Action 2: Consideration is given to the Terms of Reference for the next phase – whatever liaison is agreed, the group to be a standing item on LCS.

Report

Item 8 – Ongoing support for LPCs

8.1 Mike King introduced the paper. The discussion focussed on LPC training and the importance of LPC governance. There are still lessons to be learnt in some LPCs regarding governance. PSNC can support this by a strong and regular emphasis on governance – aimed at all LPC members, not just new members; use real examples to bring the topic alive, use best practice examples, and stress accountability.

Action 3: Office to consider what PSNC can provide to raise awareness and build better governance in LPCs, for review at the next meeting.

Item 9 – LPC expenses policy update

Gordon Hockey indicated that the issues holding up the publication of guidance, reported at previous meeting, remain unresolved and a further report will be given in due course. It was hoped that guidance could be considered by the LPC Treasurers.

Item 10 – LPC Review

This item was discussed at part of item 6

Item 11 – Any other business

There was no other business.

Summary of Action Points

Action 1	Equity and Diversity – Office to follow the steer given by the subcommittee and provide a further paper for discussion at the next meeting.
Action 2	Consideration is given to the Terms of Reference for the next phase – whatever liaison is agreed, the group to be a standing item on LCS.
Action 3	Office to consider what PSNC can provide to raise awareness and build better governance in LPCs, for consideration at the next meeting.