

**Minutes of the PSNC Service Development Subcommittee meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at DoubleTree by Hilton London Angel**  
**Kings Cross, 60 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9LA commencing at 1.45pm**

Present: Gary Warner (Chair), Clare Kerr, Roger Nichols, Sunil Kochhar, Reena Barai

In attendance: Alastair Buxton, Rosie Taylor, David Onuoha, Stephen Thomas, Samantha Fisher, Marc Donovan, Rhys Martin, Ian Cubbin, Bharat Patel, Fin McCaul, Shiné Brownsell, Janet Morrison, Jay Patel, Has Modi, Sian Retallick, Prakash Patel, Jas Heer, Peter Cattee, Indrajit Patel, Ifti Khan, Adrian Price, Lindsey Fairbrother, Gordon Hockey, Mike Dent

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Faisal Tuddy.

Item 3 – Conflicts or declarations of interest

3.1 Marc Donovan declared an interest in the Community Pharmacy Suspected Cancer Referral Pilot Scheme as he has been involved in the thinking and progress through the Boots' partnership with Macmillan and via a Macmillan fellow who reports to him.

Item 4 – Minutes of the last meeting

4.1 The minutes of the subcommittee meeting held on 7th April 2022 were approved.

Item 5 – Actions and Matters arising

5.1 None.

Item 6 – Negotiations update – NMS expansion and CMS

6.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper.

6.2 The following points were made about the NMS expansion:

- It was felt that the expansion will be quite challenging to start with due to patients being used to online/phone consultations as a result of the pandemic and the nature of the condition being treated, so face-to-face consultations may take longer. As a result, pharmacists will need to have skills around closing conversations and consultation skills; however, concerns were raised as to whether this is reflected in the current training.
- In response to this, it was highlighted that one of the main aims of the pilot was to look at what skills/training is needed to be able to offer these consultations effectively.

- It is important to keep pushing for the pilot results, before we reach agreement on the training, timing, fees, etc.
- It will be important to know what other services are available locally, so patients who require further support can be signposted to these.

### 6.3 The following points were made about the CMS:

- Finding the time to complete all the training for all pharmacists who work at a pharmacy will be a heavy workload.
- In response to the above point, it was highlighted that there is not a requirement to offer the service during all the pharmacy's opening hours; contractors can choose to offer the service on certain days of the week and on an appointment basis.
- There was a discussion as to whether patients would find this acceptable as they are used to being able to walk into a pharmacy to access a service; however, currently women are used to having to make an appointment to access contraception at a GP practice so for this service, it may be more acceptable. This will, however, ultimately be a business decision for the individual contractor to make as to when they make the service available.
- Although the training looks 'heavy' many pharmacists will already have completed some of the training due to requirements when providing locally commissioned services or the Pharmacy Quality Scheme.
- The point was made that all the training needs to be available and IT suppliers need to be given adequate notice before the service starts; Alastair Buxton reassured the subcommittee that this point has been repeatedly made in negotiations.

## Item 7 – Negotiations update – Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2022/23

7.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper.

7.2 The following points were made by the subcommittee:

- There was a discussion with mixed views on the suggestion by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) to incentivise a higher number of referrals to the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme and local authority Tier 2 weight management services.
- The Subcommittee agreed that a hybrid approach to allocation of points was the preferred option for the 2022/23 Pharmacy Quality Scheme.

## Item 8 – Hypertension case-finding service

8.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper.

8.2 A discussion was held around whether contractors should be able to make a referral to another pharmacy, which could be in the same group or to another pharmacy, that is more local to where the patient lives to conduct the ABPM part of the Hypertension case-finding service.

8.3 Due to the risk of unintended consequences, the subcommittee concluded that in these circumstances, the patient should be referred to their local pharmacy for the whole service (BP check and if needed, ABPM) rather than contractors only being able to offer the BP check.

### Item 9 – Potential autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme

- 9.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper.
- 9.2 The subcommittee were satisfied with the Local Enhanced Service specification and therefore no changes were suggested for the National Enhanced Service specification.
- 9.3 Alastair Buxton also provided an update on the fees proposed for the service.

### Item 10 – Service development priorities in a new vision for community pharmacy

- 10.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper and the subcommittee then had a discussion on the topic.

### Item 11 – Community Pharmacy Suspected Cancer Referral Pilot Scheme

- 11.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief introduction to the paper.
- 11.2 A short discussion was held on the role of community pharmacy and cancer referrals.

### Item 12 – Health campaign topics for 2022/23

- 12.1 Rosie Taylor advised that discussions had started with NHSE&I on the health campaign topics for 2022/23. Rosie Taylor provided the subcommittee with the list of campaigns that NHSE&I is considering; however, NHSE&I will come back to PSNC to discuss these further, when more details around the campaigns are finalised.

### Item 13 – Any other business

- 13.1 Gary Warner highlighted the update on NHS IT workstreams paper that Dan Ah-Thion had written and commented that it was worthy of note to highlight the work that Dan does to support the Community Pharmacy IT Group.
- 13.2 Gary Warner advised that he would not be standing for re-election of the Chair of SDS and thanked the subcommittee and staff for all their support and hard work over the years.