



Minutes of the LPC and Contractor Support Subcommittee

Date: Wednesday 11th September 2024

Start time: 3:00 pm

Location: Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ

Members of LCS present: Ifti Khan (Chair), Sami Hanna (Vice Chair) Niamh McMillan, Sian Retallick.

In attendance: Zoe Long, James Wood.

Apologies: Beran Patel, Jay Patel.

Conflicts of interest: None received.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes from the last meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2024 were approved.

Actions and Matters arising:

The subject of external members and future of future scope of the subcommittee has been carried forward to the November meeting.

Community Pharmacy England & LPC Operations Team (CLOT) Terms of Reference were consulted on and no further suggestions or amendments were raised. These have now been published.

The LPC self-evaluation is being trialled by a small number of volunteer LPCs before finalising the formatting and making available to the network.

Item 1: Regional LPC meetings and pharmacy owner roadshows

- 1.1 The report and evaluation of the series of eight regional meetings held so far was noted, including the number of pharmacy owners reached.



- 1.2 The subcommittee discussed the main themes raised by attendees, including: Funding, pressures, negotiation tactics and potential sector action, Pharmacy First threshold and finally reimbursement issues and margin.
- 1.3 It was noted that the less common and featuring at some events were issues about GP/Pharmacy relationships, poor funding of locally commissioned services and at one event Community Pharmacy England governance and committee composition.
- 1.4 The feedback in the paper was noted, as well as the key learnings. Subcommittee members discussed wider feedback on the events noting the benefits of having met people in person and the need to do this regularly. Regional Representatives have received positive feedback on the events at recent LPC meetings, with pharmacy owners pleased to learn more about the work going on, and the long-term strategy and tactics. The Q&As were thought to be particularly helpful.
- 1.5 The future of regional events was discussed, including thinking about the pros and cons of spacing them through the year vs ensuring everyone gets the same messaging at around the same time, and also the possibility of further communications activity through the year to help to get some of the messages across.

ACTION: REGIONAL EVENTS ARE LIKELY TO NEED TO BE REPEATED ANNUALLY AS PART OF OUR ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR; THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL REVISIT PLANS FOR 2025 IN DUE COURSE.

Item 2: Conference of LPC Representatives 2024

- 2.1 The subcommittee discussed the plans for the Conference of LPC Representatives 2024, due to take place on Thursday 7th November 2024 as fully in-person event, at BMA House conference facilities, Tavistock Square in London.
- 2.2 Themes and ideas for this year were explored, including reviewing and addressing the feedback from last year, which has already started to be addressed.
- 2.3 This included inviting Stephen Kinnock MP, the Minister of State for Care, Department of Health and Social Care, and David Webb, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England.



- 2.4 New for this year will be an end of day 'pause for thought' drinks reception for LPC delegates and to invite a range of stakeholders, with a theme of the session being one year on since we commissioned The King's Fund and Nuffield Trust to report on a Vision for community pharmacy.
- 2.5 Other suggestions included thinking about the possibility of:
- Someone to talk about Labour's neighbourhood health service plans and what that is likely to mean locally – possibly an LPC speaker;
 - NHS England and DHSC panel speakers to take questions from LPCs; and/or
 - Time for an LPC soapbox session so that LPCs can raise any issues they want to.

ACTION: CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE PLANS FOR THE NOVEMBER CONFERENCE.

Item 3: Approach to LPC Observers at Committee Meeting

- 3.1 The subcommittee reviewed the approach so far to inviting LPC leaders (Chairs and Chief Officers) to observe some of the work of the committee to improve transparency and allow contractors to see into Community Pharmacy England meetings. The feedback on this has been that it is a positive development.
- 3.2 It was discussed that suggesting independent LPC members are prioritised from LPCs could be a useful development, especially in-terms of succession planning for future Community Pharmacy England elections.
- 3.3 It was agreed to continue with the approach so that we cover all 10 Community England regions during the 2023/2024 -2026/2027 term of office, using the format that we have now established. The next observers from the East of England region are due to join the November 2024 meeting.

ACTION: PUBLISH A ROTA OF INVITES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OF OFFICE TO 2026/27.



Item 4: Review of progress against the 2024/25 workplan

- 4.1 The report on the progress against the workplan was noted, including the publication of briefings on strategy and levy spends. Initial discussions are being held with PA Consulting about the possibility of negotiations training for LPCs.
- 4.2 An update was provided about the LPC self-evaluation, which is now being piloted by a small number of LPCs that volunteered to do so. Feedback on content suggestions, format and approach will then be incorporated and finalised for publication in October.
- 4.3 Whilst the Transforming Pharmacy Representation Programme (TAPR) has now concluded, in scope for LPC support for the rest of the year remains transformation resources for LPCs still undergoing discussions about the future. A further merger between Swindon Wiltshire LPC and Avon LPC has been approved from April 2025. An update on the North West was provided and they will continue to be supported in their discussions.

Item 5: Local Policy Support Work

- 5.1 The report was noted.

Item 6: LPC Entitlement to Claim Employment Allowance

- 6.1 The report was noted.

Item 7: Any other business

- 10.1 None received.

Date of next meeting: On/around Wednesday 11th November, to be confirmed.