

Minutes of the Service Development Subcommittee meeting held at Hosier Lane on 5th February 2025 commencing at 2.25pm

Present: Fin McCaul (Chair), Phil Day, Sami Hanna, Jay Patel, Olivier Picard, Beran Patel, Faisal Tuddy

In attendance: David Broome, Peter Cattee, Ian Cubbin, Marc Donovan, Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Ifti Khan, Niamh McMillan, Prakash Patel, Adrian Price, Sian Retallick, Anil Sharma, Ian Strachan, Gary Warner, Lindsey Fairbrother, Stephen Thomas, Janet Morrison, Shiné Brownsell, Alastair Buxton, Mike Dent, Gordon Hockey, Melinda Mabbutt, David Onuoha, Rosie Taylor, Katrina Worthington

LPC members in attendance: Rita Bali, Karen Cox, Helen Musson, Karen Samuel-Smith, Lauren Seamons, Rachel Solanki

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Clare Kerr.

Item 3 – Conflicts or declarations of interest

3.1 No new conflicts or declarations of interest were raised.

Item 4 – Minutes of the September meeting and matters arising

4.1 The minutes of the subcommittee meetings held on 11th September 2024 were approved.

Item 5 – Review of progress against the 2024/25 Workplan

5.1 The subcommittee noted the progress on the workplan for 2024/25.

Item 6 – 2025/26 Draft Workplan

6.1 Alastair Buxton advised that the draft workplan for 2025/26 is derived from the overall Community Pharmacy England workplan which will be talked through tomorrow; the SDS workplan pulls out the elements that are relevant to services.

- 6.2 There were no additional comments on the workplan and the subcommittee was content with it.

Item 7 – SDS skills gap analysis

- 7.1 Thanks were given to all committee members who contributed to the SDS skills gap analysis and in particular Clare Kerr who managed the process.

- 7.2 Alastair Buxton provided an overview of the paper and highlighted specifically that:

- Following the last SDS meeting, the Governance and People Subcommittee decided to appoint two additional Committee members to SDS: Beran Patel and Faisal Tuddy; and
- The Services Team has also recently had a valuable meeting with Tesco pharmacists, facilitated by Adrian Price, to discuss grass-roots feedback on the Pharmacy First service. David Broome (who sits on the clinical pathway working group) joined the meeting to hear the feedback and also share insights with the pharmacists on the discussions within the clinical pathways working group, when it was undertaking the initial development of the pathways.

Adrian has also recently shared feedback that he has gathered highlighting issues that pharmacists have had with the service as well as positive examples of patients being helped via the Pharmacy First service. Alastair asked if anyone else had been gathering similar feedback if they could share this with the Services Team; the Services Team, DHSC and NHS England would all be interested in this information.

- 7.3 It was suggested that in a similar way to the 'Report product over Drug Tariff price' tool on the Community Pharmacy England website, it would be helpful to have a similar tool for Pharmacy First for reporting back problems and positive stories.
- 7.4 It was agreed that at this stage, given there are two new subcommittee members and the Services Team has committed to holding more of the 'user group' type meetings, that there is not a need to appoint external members to SDS.

ACTION: If Committee members have been collecting data on positive outcomes of Pharmacy First or issues with the service that pharmacists are experiencing, they are asked to email this to the Services Team (services.team@cpe.org.uk).

ACTION: The Services Team to explore the idea of adding a tool to the Community Pharmacy England website to allow pharmacists to feed back positive stories from Pharmacy First and issues with the service that they have experienced.

Item 8 – CPCF developments

- 8.1 Alastair provided some background on the clinical pathway short life working group meetings and thanked David Broome and Fin McCaul for their involvement with the group. Fin McCaul advised that the work was limited to reviewing the current pathways, for example, feedback had been given about increasing the age of the acute otitis media clinical pathway. However, in adults they would be more likely to present with otitis externa, which would be a new pathway. Alastair also highlighted that the work of this group has been separate to negotiations; it has been a clinically led process.
- 8.2 The updated clinical pathways were talked through by Fin and David and comments were collated on them that would be fed back to NHS England.
- 8.3 The following additional points were noted during the discussion of the updated clinical pathways:
- A question was asked as to whether there have been discussions on increasing the number of clinical pathways; it was confirmed that nothing has been shared by NHS England, but we have fed back our ideas on proposed additional clinical pathways.
 - There had been a medicines recall on nitrofurantoin 100mg prolonged-release capsules; this may impact on availability for Pharmacy First. Alastair Buxton advised that NHS England and DHSC has been considering processes for if medicines go out of stock.
 - Concern was raised about the number of GP notifications not being received in a timely manner. Alastair Buxton advised that for the majority of cases, this is probably related to the switching off of GP Connect: Update Record. Alastair Buxton advised that he is currently waiting for data that can be shared on this, so that we can discuss this further with GPC England as beyond the patient safety risk, this is creating a huge amount of manual work for GP practices. It was also noted that IT system suppliers has seen some issues with NHSmail messages not going to certain mailboxes, due to issues with the NHSmail system; that was being followed up by IT suppliers and NHS England.



Item 9 – New Medicine Service – Ongoing maintenance and governance of the NMS drugs list

9.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief overview of the paper. The proposed process was acceptable to the subcommittee, but the following points were noted:

- Six months is a long time to wait if a new medicine has come to market for pharmacists to then be able to offer NMS to patients; however, the bureaucratic processes that NHS England have to go through to mobilise actions was noted.
- The new process should be reviewed again in due course to ensure it is working effectively.

Item 10 – Vaccination services update

- 10.1 This was a matter of report; however, Alastair flagged the strategic importance of the commissioning of the RSV and pertussis vaccination programmes and thanked the East of England LPC colleagues who were present for their work supporting the early adopter sites.
- 10.2 Alastair Buxton also highlighted that NHS England has advised that from 1st April 2025, there will be a new Community Pharmacy Point of Care (PoC) Supplier Contractual Framework, initially for the Flu and Covid-19 vaccination services.

Pharmacy owners will be able to choose a PoC supplier from the list of assured providers to make their clinical records, notify the patient's GP and submit data to the NHSBSA. PoC supplier costs will be paid for by NHS England for 2025/26.

Item 11 – Implementation update: Pharmacy First and the other clinical services

11.1 This was a matter of report; however, Alastair highlighted a couple of points:

- The good work that LPCs have been doing on promoting the service to schools, etc. was highlighted as well as the Services Team's work on promoting the service to school organisations and businesses as highlighted in the SDS paper.
- The myth-busting series that the Services Team has been publishing was noted.
- We are still waiting for the publication of NHS England's guidance on off-site provision of the Hypertension Case-Finding Service.
- It was agreed that the issue of an NHS indemnity for ABPM meters could be discussed



at the plenary meeting on the following day.

Item 12 – Miscellaneous matters of report

12.1 This was a matter of report.

Item 13 – Any other business

13.1 Vicki Roberts, Chief Officer of Community Pharmacy South Yorkshire will be joining the Services Team in March; her role will be focused on local commissioning and working with LPC colleagues on local service development.