



# Community Pharmacy England Minutes

**Date:** 25th September 2025

**Start time:** 9am

**Location:** 14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ

**Members present:** Jenny Harries (Chair), Sukhi Basra, David Broome, Peter Cattee, Phil Day, Marc Donovan, Lindsey Fairbrother, Sami Hanna, Jas Heer, Mike Hewitson, Tricia Kennerley, Clare Kerr, Ifti Khan, Fin McCaul, Niamh McMillan, Jay Patel, Adrian Price, Sian Retallick, Anil Sharma, Ian Strachan, Stephen Thomas, Faisal Tuddy, Gary Warner

**Observers present:** Has Modi, Mayank Patel

**In attendance:** Janet Morrison, Alastair Buxton, David Onuoha, Rosie Taylor, Vicki Roberts, Mike Dent, Rob Thomas, Suraj Shah, Gordon Hockey, Katrina Worthington, Zoe Long, Melinda Mabbutt, Gabriele Vickers, Daniel Fladvad, James Wood, James Davies

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Beran Patel and Prakash Patel.

**Papers for report:** The information in the agenda was noted.

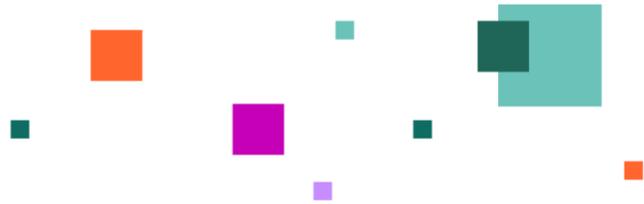
**Conflicts or declaration of interest:** Jenny Harries noted a recent appointment to a non-executive role at an investment trust.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2025 were approved by the Committee.

**Matters arising:** The Chair noted the action points from the last meeting, which had all been addressed.

**Welcome from the Chair:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She highlighted that there would be a number of difficult conversations in the meeting not just on current governance issues but in the context of future direction for the sector. The governance papers were noted for information, with a reminder of the requirements for confidentiality, shared team working and the code of conduct.

The more general papers on the World Pharmacy Council papers were noted, including their



position statement on dispensing and economic slides. There were no questions from the wider Committee on these.

## Item 1: Reports from Subcommittee Chairs

1.1 Key points of the discussion at the Audit and Risk (A&R) Subcommittee were presented by David Broome. The following points were noted:

- The depth of information and commentary on the annual accounts by Romali was noted, with a recommendation to speak to her should Committee members want further information on them. The management letter and auditor letter were also highlighted.
- The subcommittee had recommended the accounts be approved. There were no comments or questions on this, with the Committee formally approving the accounts.
- James Wood had indicated to A&R that the approach to sharing KPIs with LPCs was continuing and will be shared ahead of the LPC Conference in November.
- On resources, a new member of staff has been recruited to work in the LPC and Pharmacy Owner Support Team as LPC Engagement and Support Manager. It was also noted that James Davies would be joining the Leadership Team as Director of Research and Insights.
- There were no comments from the Committee on this, apart from the Chair wanting to record her thanks to Romali.

1.2 Key points of the discussion at the Funding and Contract (FunCon) Subcommittee were presented by Peter Cattee. The following points were noted:

- Peter highlighted the discussion on the accelerated advance payments, with the detail being in the minutes.
- The discussion on capping services was highlighted.
- The various proposals for margin calibration were also talked through.

1.3 Key points of the discussion at the Service Development (SDS) Subcommittee were

presented by Fin McCaul. The following points were noted:

- He thanked the team for the work done on services implementation.
- The addition of oral emergency contraception to the Pharmacy Contraception Service is still scheduled for 'go-live' on 29th October.
- Vaccine developments were also considered, including for 2026/27.

1.4 Key points of the discussion at the Legislation and Regulatory Subcommittee (LRS) were presented by Lindsey Fairbrother. Lindsey highlighted the extensive list of regulatory asks and potential asks that had been considered, with detail provided in the subcommittee minutes.

1.5 At the end of the update, the Chair noted the appetite for regulatory change within the wider overall system was extremely high at the moment, providing opportunities to make progress.

1.6 Key points of the discussion at the LPC and Contractor Support (LCS) Subcommittee were presented by Ifti Khan. The following points were noted:

- Discussions had taken place on whether we could extend how much of the Committee meeting LPC members could observe, with a recommendation to allow this on the second day.
- The opportunity to widen the observing opportunity in September and November 2026 to potential future Committee members (appointed and elected) was discussed. It was recommended this should be taken forward to help Committee succession planning, subject to discussions with the Governance and People Subcommittee and as part of the pre-election phase.
- Ifti confirmed that advice on provider companies had been discussed and recommended that the previous Committee policy remains largely unchanged.
- On LPC incorporation, it was noted that due to existing mitigations there is minimal benefit to be had from incorporation, but that updated legal advice is being sought.
- On LPC mergers, the provision of updated LPC maps was also noted.



1.7 Key points from the discussion at the Communications and Public Affairs (CPA) Subcommittee were presented by Tricia Kennerley. Given the synchronisation of the meetings, the last meeting was in June, immediately after the last Committee meeting. The following points were noted:

- Tricia highlighted the annual report, the nine regional events, plus the Pressures Survey with the associated media interest. The MP briefing pack had also been updated and was starting to be used at conferences and events. A recent parliamentary event had seen 27 MPs attend.
- The Pharmacy Show was upcoming and there was a lot of preparation ongoing for panels and speaking slots.
- The need to horizon scan given potential political change was noted, including by the Chair.

1.8 Key points of the discussion at the Governance and People (G&P) Subcommittee were presented by Adrian Price. The following points were noted:

- Adrian shared that the subcommittee had met twice since June, with a focus on constitutional change.
- Adrian noted that this and the maintenance of critical confidentiality would be covered later in the meeting.

## **Item 2: Committee composition recommendations**

2.1 Gordon Hockey talked through a presentation on the interim constitutional changes to set the scene for discussing the topic. The following areas were covered in the presentation:

- Background;
- Independent governance expert, Victoria Finney and her revised proposal;
- Key issues – problems resolved;
- Interim Community Pharmacy England composition;
- Market composition update – NHS dispensing data May 2025 using August 2025 NHS eDispensary data to assign ownership (both data sources are latest published)

as at 04.09.25. Methodology same as for last update);

- Proposed changes to the constitution;
- Clarifications; and
- Future – composition from April 2027.

- 2.2 Gordon also highlighted that this item was discussed at the Governance and People subcommittee meetings in July and September. The minutes from these subcommittee meetings had been emailed to Committee members on 17th September 2025 to provide background to the discussion at the Committee meeting.
- 2.3 Gordon talked the Committee through a presentation on the proposed changes and the Committee then discussed the proposals.
- 2.4 Gordon summarised the changes: the quorum for constitutional and rule changes changing to three-quarters, the changes to introduce for the appointing bodies declaration, the interim Committee composition points 1 and 2, and the additional issues for agreement and, in principle, Victoria Finney's recommendations 3–6. A vote was held; 23 Committee members were in favour of the proposal; one Committee member voted against the proposal.

### **Item 3: Confidential matter**

### **Item 4: Political context and background**

- 4.1 Zoe Long talked through a presentation to provide political context ahead of considering the negotiations strategy. The following areas were covered in the presentation:
- The Government Spending Review;
  - The 10 Year Health Plan for England;
  - Responses and outlook;
  - Negotiations inputs; and
  - Negotiation strategy.
- 4.2 The Committee then discussed the points raised in the presentation.

### **Item 5: Objectives for the 2026/27 negotiations**



- 5.1 The Chief Executive and colleagues talked through a presentation which summarised the previous Committee discussion, input from sector bodies, the regional engagement events, contractor polling and further consideration by the Negotiating Team. The clear consensus is that the top priority for the sector has to be closing the funding gap identified by the Independent Economic Review. This is needed to secure stability, ensure quality of services, and stem closures and the collapse of the sector.
- 5.2 The Committee considered a set of principles, benchmarks and other alternative asks for the negotiations.

### **Item 6: Negotiations next steps**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive set the scene, followed by a discussion on the topic.

### **Item 7: Period of Treatment project findings**

- 7.1 James Davies gave an update on his Period of Treatment work, followed by a Committee discussion of the topic.

### **Item 8: Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Adrian Price, the Vice–Chair, thanked Gordon for his work on Committee composition, and bringing the debate to an agreed conclusion about interim arrangements and the way forward.
- 8.2 Adrian thanked Has Modi and Mayank Patel for their time as Observers – the composition changes meaning that this would be the last meeting where they would attend as observers.
- 8.3 Adrian thanked Clare Kerr for her longstanding contribution to the Committee, following her announcement that she was stepping down from the Committee due to her upcoming retirement.
- 8.4 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20th November at 14 Hosier Lane, London, EC1A 9LQ.