



Minutes of the Service Development Subcommittee meeting held on 19th November 2025 at Hosier Lane, commencing at 11.15am

Present: Fin McCaul (Chair), Beran Patel, Prakash Patel, Sami Hanna, Phil Day and Faisal Tuddy.

In attendance: Alastair Buxton, Rosie Taylor, David Onuoha, Vicki Roberts, Caline Umutesi, James Wood, Gordon Hockey, Rebecca Butterworth, Melinda Mabbutt, Michael Digby, Shiné Brownsell, Dan Ah-Thion, Jenny Harries, Janet Morrison, Anil Sharma, Has Modi, Mayank Patel, Dervis Gurol, Adrian Price, Niamh McMillan, Stephen Thomas, Peter Cattee, Ifti Khan, Gary Warner, Marc Donovan, Mike Hewitson, Jas Heer, Tricia Kennerley, Ian Strachan, Prakash Patel, Sukhi Basra, David Broome

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. A special welcome was extended to Has Modi and Mayank Patel who, following a period of being observers to the Committee, have become members and also to Dervis Gurol who has taken up the additional, interim independent representative place on the Committee.
- 1.2 The Chair also thanked Clare Kerr for her work on SDS and highlighted that a new member would need to be appointed to SDS by the People and Governance Committee and then a Vice Chair appointed for SDS.

Item 2 – Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jay Patel.

Item 3 – Conflicts or declarations of interest

- 3.1 No new conflicts or declarations of interest were raised.

Item 4 – Minutes of the October meeting and matters arising

- 4.1 The minutes of the subcommittee meeting held on 29th October 2025 were approved. The Chair also thanked the Committee members who had contacted the Services Team to provide feedback on their experience of the IP Pathfinder Programme.

Item 5 – Review of progress against the 2025/26 Workplan

5.1 The subcommittee was content with the progress made against the workplan for 2025/26.

Item 6 – Progress with CPCF 2025/26 service changes and PQS implementation

6.1 The subcommittee noted the progress with the CPCF 2024/25 and 2025/26 service changes and the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS).

6.2 Alastair Buxton highlighted several matters since publication of the SDS papers:

- Since the last SDS meeting, as a sector we have implemented the new Pharmacy First clinical pathways and Patient Group Directions (PGDs), changes to the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) including the expansion to include oral Emergency Contraception and the inclusion of antidepressants into the New Medicine Service (NMS).
- Discussions with NHS England continue on the Hypertension Case-Finding Service specification (Confidential item).
- DHSC cancelled the meeting they had planned on SCS earlier this week, therefore there was no update to provide on this service.

6.3 Feedback was requested on the provision of the new Pharmacy First clinical pathways and PGDs. The following points were noted:

- They have been quite well received by pharmacy owners.
- There does not appear to be a significant increase in the number of consultations, but it may be too early to see the impact of the change.
- Public awareness of the service is still poor and DHSC/NHS England need to do more to promote this. The NHS England Pharmacy First campaign that is currently running was highlighted; however, it was acknowledged that this may not be that visible depending on the communication channels people access.

6.4 Feedback was requested on the provision of the expansion of the PCS and NMS. No feedback was provided; however, Committee members were asked to feed any comments back to the Services Team via services.team@cpe.org.uk.

6.5 Feedback was requested on the Community Pharmacy England microsite for the promotion of clinical services to the public.

6.6 The microsite is in the process of being made live and once it is the Services Team will work

with GPC England and LPCs to try to encourage GP practices to use it, as well as highlighting the availability of the microsite to pharmacy owners who could also flag its use to GP practices.

6.7 The following feedback points on the microsite were noted:

- It was suggested that it would be helpful to have feedback from patients about Pharmacy First and their experience of the service. Alastair highlighted our joint Pharmacy First patient survey with Healthwatch England (this is available on the Pharmacy First page on the website). This has been highlighted through our communication channels several times, but few pharmacy owners are choosing to use this. Alastair encouraged Committee members to consider using this within their organisations. If Committee members are gathering feedback through other means on Pharmacy First, it would be helpful if this could be shared with the Services Team; this request will be emailed out to the Committee.
- It was suggested that resources should be produced to support LPCs to have conversations about how to get GP practices to switch or add a link to the Community Pharmacy England microsite on their website. Comms materials to support such local discussions were planned to accompany the launch of the microsite.
- It was suggested that the 'Find a pharmacy' link should be moved up to the top of the homepage.

Item 7 – Update on vaccination services

7.1 Alastair Buxton provided a brief overview of the paper.

7.2 Feedback was requested on the provision of the Childhood Flu Vaccination Service. The following points were noted:

- In general, the feedback was positive.
- There have been requests to expand the service from patients to include older children so those that have missed the school service, can also be 'mopped up' in pharmacies. This has also caused frustration and confusion for some patients as to why they cannot get their older children vaccinated at the pharmacy.
- The ordering of stock was highlighted as a difficulty, there is a lag of around five days

between ordering and receiving stock. The fact that the stock does not auto-replenish like the COVID-19 Vaccination Service has caused some operational challenges.

- Not having enough stock for walk-ins has, on occasion, caused issues.

7.3 The subcommittee was briefed on confidential discussions ongoing with NHS England on the expansion of Vaccination services and provided feedback on the latest proposals.

Item 8 – Independent Prescribing Pathfinder programme and future commissioning options

- 8.1 This was a matter of report. However, Alastair highlighted that this was a topic for discussion at the previous committee meeting and will be discussed at plenary the following day.
- 8.2 Due to time constraints, there was no time to provide feedback on the interviews that the Services Team had held with pharmacy owners and pharmacists who have been involved with the IP Pathfinder Programme. However, a short report on this would be provided the following day in the plenary session. Alastair asked Committee members to note the table on page 4 in the Independent Prescribing Pathfinder programme and future commissioning options in the SDS paper which lists our initial ideas along with those from other pharmacy bodies, pharmacists involved in the IP Pathfinder Programme and DHSC/NHS England.
- 8.2 A brief discussion was held on the IP Pathfinder Programme with mixed views being expressed around successes and failures of the programme.

Item 9 – Miscellaneous matters of report

- 9.1 This was a matter of report.

Item 10 – Any other business

- 10.1 There was no other business.