

Secretarys report April 2012 /March 2013

Firstly I must explain why I am giving the Secretary's report in place of Gareth who has acted as your committee's secretary for almost 10 years.

It was mutually agreed in November that Gareth would relinquish the Secretaries position at the end of January and the LPC approached me to stand in as interim secretary until the appointment of a permanent secretary.

Gareth and I acted jointly for one handover month and I acted as your LPC secretary from February till the appointment of Rosemary Plum in April, who was chosen from five applicants.

The background to the year was the reorganisation of the Health Service, the end of the PCTs and the transference of the Public Health agenda to the Local Authorities. Staff within the PCTs and Health Authority were demoralised not knowing where or whether they would have a job at all. This resulted with a general unwillingness to look at the development of new services. Much of the year was spent in trying to find out who was going to be in what post and to maintain as much contact as possible particularly with the Local Authorities.

During the Year The Committee had a hard look at their way of working to ensure the committee's organisation was ready for the new challenges. The Committee met 10 times in the year and Gary Miles, the Area PSNC representative attended two LPC meetings and one Contractors meeting which unfortunately was poorly attended by contractors.

The committee was represented at a full range of local meetings, prescribing forums, authority and contractual and also interprofessional meetings to ensure the Pharmacy voice is heard often. Representatives also attended National Conferences and Branch Secretaries meetings.

Contractors poorly supported the two Local pilot initiatives, Bowel cancer and the healthy living Pharmacy pilot. The first failed perhaps largely because of the design of the pilot. The Healthy Living Pharmacy project, which I believe is so important for the development of contractor's services, received enthusiastic support only from a few contractors.

I would encourage you all to support pilots where possible

Rurality, which should have been finally settled for both counties with the Appeal Authority determination still needs to be watched. The LMC instigated conversations with the PCT relating to the identification of Dispensing patients that could have been to their advantage. The PCT use a system of postcode identification and then correctly applied the regulations. Contractors affected by dispensing doctors should remain vigilant and report to the LPC any concerns.

We now have a new energetic secretary in post and I wish her well for the future.

John Hind
Sept 2013

