

## **Proposed collaboration between Leicester School of Pharmacy at De Montfort University and Leicestershire and Rutland LPC.**

Over several years, Leicester School of Pharmacy has been working in partnership with local community pharmacists on our community pharmacy placement programme.

Approximately 25 community pharmacies are currently involved in hosting our first and second year students on half day placements. We are now looking to engage further with both the LPC and more local community pharmacies to enhance the good relationship that already exists and try to further benefit our local patients.

We are proposing further collaboration in 3 areas:

- Audit
- Health Promotion
- Adopt a Student

### **Audit**

We propose that final year pharmacy undergraduate students spend approximately 15 hours during November conducting an audit in local pharmacies. Students will be working in groups and will be provided with the necessary paperwork, in conjunction with the LPC, to complete the audits. We have discussed topics for this audit, which include an audit on acute kidney injury (AKI), NSAID use and gastroprotection, or an audit on overuse of asthma treatment, however would also be willing to consider other areas which you may feel are relevant to local practice currently. The audits are designed to allow final year undergraduate students to carry out research in a real life environment but also to benefit both the local community pharmacies and patients. The overuse of asthma is a very topical example as the BTS guidelines have changed recently so is applicable clinically but is also part of the Quality Payments scheme so is applicable to all community pharmacies. We would envisage that this audit would potentially make it easier to identify those patients that fit the criteria for referral, making it easier for the pharmacists to either refer or review these patients. The hope is that by involving a large number of pharmacies in the audits we can use the information to create a larger piece of work, showing collaboration between the School of Pharmacy, the LPC and local pharmacies, that can be published.

### **Health Promotion**

We propose that third year undergraduate students would spend a day at a community pharmacy engaged in health promotion activities under the supervision of the pharmacist or relevant pharmacy staff. We propose that this occurs during the academic calendar, between October and March. One of the areas that has been discussed in relation to this is 'Influenza Vaccination'. The flu season fits conveniently around the university timetable and is also an important health promotion area for most community pharmacies. We would propose that students would be assigned to a local pharmacy and be involved with promoting the influenza vaccination programme under the supervision of a member of staff, either in the pharmacy itself or away from the pharmacy if appropriate. An area of interest highlighted by Public Health England is the uptake of the vaccination in certain high risk populations, and there may be scope for the students to assist in targeting these patients. We hope that this would be a valuable exercise for the students and also decrease the burden for local contractors, as well as contribute towards the health promotion aspect of being a healthy living pharmacy. Again, if there are other areas of health promotion that you feel would be more beneficial to yourselves, the students or the patients these can be discussed.

### **Adopt a future pharmacist**

Whilst with both the audit and health promotion we would be looking to start this academic year (2017/18) if there is sufficient interest, our adopt a future pharmacist scheme is currently in its planning stage and so we would like to gauge interest and opinions with a view to starting this in September 2018. We propose that local community pharmacies 'adopt a future pharmacist' for their four years of undergraduate study. This would be an opportunity for students to gain experience in a local community pharmacy throughout their time at university, building relationships with staff and patients. It would also be an opportunity for local pharmacies to help develop these students into pharmacists of the future that they may employ one day. The aims, outcomes and logistics of this initiative would need to be agreed with stakeholder involvement but we firmly believe that this initiative would be good for the students and local pharmacies.

**Kind Regards**

**Luvjit Kandula – Chief Officer Leicestershire LPC**

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