

The Annual Report

Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes LPC



Anne-Marie King

Chief Officer

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While much has been going on across the Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes footprint over the last twelve months, the Committee has been heavily occupied with ensuring that community pharmacy has been effectively



*Representing you,
cost-effectively.*

representing you ▶

supported and represented.

In an environment where the pace of change is astonishing, we remain committed to supporting and fighting for pharmacy. Our Chair, Sue Snelling, continues to steer Pharmacy Northamptonshire and MK through some significant changes as we grapple with a new commissioning environment and a new NHS contract.

We examined our methodology and scrutinised every area of our operation to identify how best to support each one of you in our sprawling area. We received praise for the way in which we engaged with STP leads and helped to navigate you around contract changes particularly Quality Points.

With changes in the commissioning landscape comes a need for us to be adaptable; be even more pro active as we endeavour to identify new key stakeholders capable of opening doors and seeing the potential locked in community pharmacy.

Despite our best efforts relationships with the CCG's can be difficult. Everyone one of you is under severe financial pressure but still the CCG's will not consider community pharmacy as part of their solutions, unless we are willing to do something for nothing.

The good news is that we have had great successes with our Public Health teams and they do see community pharmacy very much as a valid partner, capable of helping them to deliver on the prevention strand of the STP's.

One of the challenges the committee face now is ensuring that contractors can be supported to deliver on the services currently available.

Let's not forget MURs and NMSs either. The consistent inability to deliver up to the maximums on these make it even harder to argue the case for the networks role in future local services (should they become available).

Another challenge for the committee is promoting community pharmacy as a front line health care service.

You can continue to help with this by supporting local communities every day with advice, interventions and referrals, as well as supplying medicines face to face, performing MURs and NMSs.

Healthy Living Pharmacies offers a great opportunity to really engage with the priority areas for our Public Health colleagues and the STP leads. I was

delighted to see so many of you completing Leadership and Champion training. I still have capacity to train everyone who wishes to complete these courses.

Thank you to the Committee for all their support and willingness to strengthen relationships as we use our connections to shape local thinking on some key issues.

National Contract Negotiation

On 20th October 2016, the Government imposed a two-year funding package on community pharmacy, with a £113 million reduction in funding in 2016/17.

This will take total funding to £2.687 billion for 2016/17. This is a reduction of 4% compared with last year, meaning that contractors would see their funding for December 2016 to March 2017 fall by an average of 12% compared with previous levels. A further reduction in 2017/18 to £2.592 billion for the financial year, which will see funding levels from April 2017 drop by around 7.5% compared with current levels.

The imposition, which was announced by minister David Mowat (who was not re-elected as an MP in 2017) in Parliament, comes after PSNC unanimously rejected the package on 14th October 2016. Thus discussions with NHS negotiators ceased and the new contract was imposed.

Many of you supported our sector by writing to MP's who in turn contacted the Pharmacy Minister or Jeremy Hunt. We organised visits to pharmacies to showcase our everyday work and several MP's took us up on our offer to vaccinate them against flu. I made appointments to talk to MP's in their surgeries and all pharmacies participated in the collection of signatures for the national petition against the cuts. The final petition was handed into Downing Street by one of our local patients on the day that I attended an engagement event for all MP's in Westminster.

Unfortunately as described above, this did not deflect the Government off its chosen track and the contract was imposed.

PSNC and NPA then took the decision to seek a judicial review against the Secretary of State with regard to the negotiation process.

At this point, all LPC's were asked to make a contribution to the cost of the legal procedure of approximately £100 per pharmacy. This would be collected via a one off "special levy". The committee made the decision to pay and our contribution, determined by PSNC, was £19382.00. The review hearing was heard between 21st March and 23rd March 2017 (and the decision handed down on 18th May. Although PSNC did not reach the very high bar needed to prove unlawfulness, the judgment contained a number of criticisms of the consultation process leading up to the imposition of cuts to community pharmacy funding).

Quality Payments



Although the first review point for Quality Payments falls out with the period of this report (end of April and November 2017) I would like to include a small paragraph on this concept.

The Committee made the decision to put considerable resources in terms of time and finances (from our reserves), to support pharmacies to gain the maximum number of quality points. Thus the groundwork for this challenge commenced within the period of our annual report for 2016/16. A session was organised to walk through the payment system in November 2016.

Via newsletters and communications and calls from an LPC 'Buddy' Northants and MK LPC sought to make the process of completion to achieve the many elements woven into the new scheme as simple as possible. I hope the contribution was helpful in supporting you.

One of the more challenging elements is becoming a



Healthy Living Pharmacy. In order to ensure that all pharmacies in our area were well placed to achieve the criteria in the self-assessment process we set about arranging face to face Leadership training throughout the Spring and organised paper based distance learning for would be Health Champions. We were fortunate to secure funding from Milton Keynes Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council and Health Education England.

Three Leadership workshops were facilitated by NPA and attracted 90 delegates. 70 distance learning packs were ordered by you from NPA.

Uptake was pleasing and the Committee remain fully supportive to ensure all contractors with the desire to do so have access to the training if required. Further sessions can be funded and a support network is planned to enable joined up thinking and appropriate delivery of campaigns.

Communication

During 2016/17 the monthly newsletter continued to be well received.

The communication is distributed to in excess of 250 recipients and feedback suggests the content is interesting, useful and at times even humorous.

Pharmacies are of course on the mailing list but so too are Area Managers, Operations Directors, Regional Managers, Superintendents, owners and locums. It has become a reliable source of information for commissioners not only to read but also to communicate updates through.

It is sent to MP's and sometimes even the press which is why I sometimes need to be a little guarded.

Our LPC website is well maintained and should be accessed as a first source for our contractors requiring relevant and timely information. The website is used to promote our events and those of e.g. CPPE.

We have a Facebook page and use Twitter so please do make use of these as practice forums to share information and pose questions.

It is always great to hear from you on email or on the phone and I will try to answer your problems directly or sign post if that is appropriate and relevant. Although communication is up and this is very pleasing after 2 years of hard work, I will not sit back and will continue to drive the communication channels detailed above onward.

The Committee

CHAIR	Sue Snelling	<i>External Appointment</i>
VICE CHAIR	Carolynne Freeman	<i>AIMp (Cox & Robinson, Milton Keynes) – External Appointment</i>
TREASURER	Raja Srikakulapu	<i>CCA (Tesco)</i>
Member	Raju Malde	<i>Independent (Odessey Pharmacy, Kettering)</i>
Member	Anil Patel	<i>Independent (A N Patel, Kettering)</i>
Member	Daljit Poone	<i>Independent (Balmoral Pharmacy, Northampton)</i>
Member	Kishor Shah	<i>Independent (Woodview Pharmacy, Northampton)</i>
Member	Chirag Patel	<i>Independent (Jhoots, Northampton)</i>
Member	Mohammed Kolia	AIMp
Member	Has Modi	<i>AIMp (Jardines, Milton Keynes)</i>
Member	Rishi Hindocha	<i>Independent (Pharmacy Cherry, Rushden)</i>
CHIEF OFFICER	Anne-Marie King	<i>chiefofficer@pharmacynorthamptonshire.co.uk tel 07889412690</i>
Member	Andrew Kerr	<i>CCA (Lloyds, Regional)</i>

The Committee elected in 2014 will run until 2018. The current membership is shown in the table to the left.

There were changes in the membership during the period of this report. Mo Kolia and Jason Hoddle were not appointed until after the accounting period 2016/17 and so do not appear in this table. The changes in membership are shown in the attendance table on the following page

Member Sue Smith CCA (Lloyds ,Regional)

Record of Attendance at Committee Meetings

Member	May16	July 16	Sep 16	Nov 16	Jan 17	Mar 17	Total
Sue Snelling	1	1	1	1	1	x	5
Carolynne Freeman	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Raja Srikakulapu	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Raju Malde	1	x	1	1	1	1	5
Anil Patel	x	x	1	x	1	1	3
Daljit Poone	1	x	x	1	1	x	3
Kishor Shah	x	1	1	1	1	x	4
Chirag Patel	x	1	1	x	1	x	3
Veronica Horne	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Garry Newman	not yet appointed	not yet appointed	x	1	1	1	
Sue Smith	1	1	x	1	x	x	3
Has Modi	x	1	1	1	1	1	4
Rishi Hindocha	1	1	x	1	1	1	5
Anne-Marie King	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Andrew Kerr	not yet appointed	1		1	1	1	
Reshma Kanani	1	left the committee					
Lakhminder Flora	1	x	left the committee				
Richard Knott	not yet appointed	x	1	1	1	left the committee	
Steve Alan	1	x	x	1	1	1	4

The Committee thanks Lakhminder Flora, Reshma Kanani, Richard Knott and Steve Alan for their service and welcome Jason Hoddle, Mo Kolia, Garry Newman and Andrew Kerr.

Market Entry

Between April 2016 and March 2017 Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes LPC were invited by PCSE, NHSE to offer comment on 17 applications. The table below summarises those applications . One new pharmacy, The Orange Tree, Mawsley was added to the Pharmaceutical List and two Distance Selling operations were also approved. These were Hot Pharma in Kiln Lane, Milton Keynes and Loyal Healthcare in Wellingborough.

Type of application	Number of applications	Number accepted
No significant relocation	7	7
Distance Selling	2	2
Unforeseen Benefits	6	1
Change in Ownership	2	2

A message from the Treasurer

As a team your LPC managed to maintain high standards while keeping running costs very low and so managed to keep your levy payable as low as possible. In real terms this meant that between April and September 2016 the levy dropped by 43% and a further drop was seen from September 2016 to March 2017 when the levy collected from you per month amounted to £4000. This was a drop of 75% compared to the previous year.

We recognised that you would welcome support for training associated with Healthy Living Pharmacy and other elements of the Quality Payment structure.

We have been grateful for the support received to enable us to do this from Health Education England, CPPE, Milton Keynes Peoples Directorate and Northants County Council.

Our strategy is undergoing a refresh to reflect a landscape in a state of constant change so that we can best use our resources and experience to further support you in the following year. The budget created will enable us to be forward thinking while at the same time ensuring value for money is realised for our contractors.