

South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Local Professional Network for Pharmacy

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Introduction to the LPN

The Local Professional Network (LPN) for Pharmacy for South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw is one of 27 formed across the country, each hosted within one of the Area Teams of NHS England.

The concept of LPNs took off in early 2012 and was tested out at various pilot sites across the country – including South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. A description of their functions then featured in the NHS England document “Securing Excellence in Commissioning Primary Care” published in June 2012, followed by the detail of the operating framework a year later.

This framework specified the role of, and the recruitment process for, the network Chair, as a part-time post sited within the NHS England Area Team.

I applied for the post because I saw the potential of the LPN to offer a way forward for pharmacy within the new NHS structures and enable the profession to make a greater contribution to healthcare.

Arrangements differ across the country and in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw this post was funded for 2 days per month. Further support to the LPN is provided by a similar time commitment from Victoria Lindon, Primary Care Contract Manager for the Area Team, and Matt Auckland, Pharmacist and Clinical Advisor for the Area Team.

Peter Magirr
LPN for Pharmacy Chair

Role of the LPN

The role of the LPN is clearly defined within the operating framework referred to previously and includes:

- Providing clinical leadership and facilitating engagement.
- Supporting NHS England and other commissioners in commissioning primary care with robust clinical input.
- Supporting patient involvement.
- Driving improvements in outcomes in line with national and local priorities.

The approach taken in getting the LPN up and running was to look at the full range of responsibilities of the network and consider the skills and competencies necessary to lead work in each area. Expressions of interest were then sought and from the responses received a Steering/Strategy Group, with expertise across these areas, was formed. The members of this group have committed to leading work in the areas of their expertise contained within the work plan. Read on for a brief biography of the members.

Work Plan of the LPN

The workplan of the LPN consists of 8 priority areas, each with a nominated lead. The constituent areas and the leads are shown in the table below:

LPN Work Plan Area	Lead
1. Education, Training and Research	Richard Harris
2. Improve Quality	Damian Childs
3. Improve Patient Safety	Tom Bisset
4. Support to Commissioning of Pharmaceutical Services	Victoria Lindon
5. Medicines Optimisation	Matt Auckland and Nick Hunter
6. Pharmacy Needs Assessments	Louise Brewins
7. Stakeholder Communication and Engagement	Peter Magirr
8. IT and Infrastructure	James Wood and Damian Childs

LPN Members

Peter Magirr – Chair



Peter Magirr is Head of Medicines Management at NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group and in addition to holding senior NHS managerial posts has extensive pharmacy experience including as a community pharmacy contractor, a Local Pharmaceutical Committee Chair and as a CPPE Tutor.

Peter has successfully combined practice with research, leading to a number of publications and a PhD qualification. His contribution to the pharmacy profession was recognised in 2011 when he was designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

In addition to the leadership role of the LPN, Peter has specific responsibilities around communications and stakeholder engagement.

Damian Child



Damian Child is Chief Pharmacist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest and most consistently high-performing hospital and community health service providers in the UK. In addition to managing hospital pharmacy services, Damian is a member of the national Medicines Optimisation Clinical Reference Group for NHS England. Damian is leading on the LPN “Improving Quality” priority area to support the local health economy in the provision and evaluation of high quality pharmaceutical services across both primary and secondary care and will also be assisting with the development and use of technology and effective systems of communication.

Dr Richard Oliver



Richard Oliver has been a GP in Sheffield for 25 years and during that time has been actively involved in many areas of medicines use and management. He has held many leadership roles including Chair of Sheffield PCT Professional Executive Committee, Clinical Director for Sheffield CCG and Chair of Sheffield Area Prescribing Group. In those roles Richard has developed a wide network across primary and secondary care and has strong links with local medical and pharmacy committees in the city. Richard is keen to see greater recognition of pharmacy and medicines management in the commissioning agenda and would want to see more consistent approaches across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.

James Wood



James is Superintendent Pharmacist at Associated Chemists (Wicker) Ltd in Sheffield. The company, which is part employee owned, has been providing late night community pharmacy services every day since 1952 and provides a wide range of services in the areas of public health, medicines optimisation, self-care and extended hours opening.

James is also Secretary of Sheffield Local Pharmaceutical Committee, supporting contractors and working closely with commissioning and development colleagues in the NHS and the Local Authority, advancing the role of the community pharmacy to ensure it plays an active part in promoting health and wellbeing across Sheffield.

Richard Harris



Richard is currently Professional Development Pharmacist for H.I.Weldrick Ltd, a medium sized chain of pharmacies based in South Yorkshire. His role is to develop professional services and input into training and education. To compliment the position he also holds a number of other posts including Treasurer of Doncaster Local Pharmaceutical Committee and Practice Pharmacist at Oakwood Surgery, Doncaster. Until recently he held the position of Pharmacy Lead for the Primary Care Research Network – East Midlands and South Yorkshire and is currently championing the cause of pharmacy following the reconfiguration of the NIHR networks.

Richard is also involved in an International EU Funded Project, CODEMISUSED, looking at the use, misuse and abuse of codeine involving academic institutions and community pharmacy chains from the UK, Republic of Ireland and South Africa.

Richard's role in the LPN is to help co-ordinate education and training across South Yorkshire to help meet the needs of patients, the NHS and the profession. This will involve identifying the areas of need and drawing on all resources to deliver a fit for purpose workforce. He also hopes to build capacity in pharmacy research and attract high quality project to the area.

Matt Auckland



Born in Barnsley, Matt did his degree at Aston in Birmingham before working for Boots for 17 years. After leaving Boots, Matt became Community Pharmacy facilitator with Barnsley PCT, initially full time then part-time. In 2013, Matt moved to the NHS England South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Area Team as Clinical Adviser (Pharmacy) which is again a part-time role. The other half of the week Matt works as a Community Pharmacy Locum and as a Tutor with the Centre for Pharmacy Post-graduate Education (CPPE).

Matt's role within the LPN steering group is twofold:

1. A supportive role as part of my employment with NHS England and;
2. Joint lead on Medicines Optimisation. This is a subject that Matt sees as pivotal to the future of Pharmacy and includes working effectively across all sectors of Pharmacy and facilitating better, collaborative working with other healthcare professional and the Social care sector.

Victoria Lindon



After completing a law degree, Victoria joined the Department of Health on a graduate training programme, where she worked within the Primary Care Policy team for two and a half years. Victoria then joined Bassetlaw PCT as Primary Care Development Manager, with responsibility for the commissioning and contract management of Primary Care Services.

Victoria is Primary Care Contracts Manager at NHS England and takes a lead on pharmacy contracting for the Area Team for South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.

Louise Brewins

Louise Brewins is Head of Public Health Intelligence a Sheffield City Council. She represents the South Yorkshire Public Health Specialist Network on the LPN.

Melanie Hall

Melanie Hall is the manager at Healthwatch in Rotherham. Healthwatch's brief is to represent the views of service users, carers and the public

Nick Hunter

Nick Hunter is the Chief Officer of the Rotherham and Doncaster Local Pharmaceutical Committees. Nick is also the Chief Officer of the Nottinghamshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee – which includes Bassetlaw.

Tom Bissett

Tom Bissett is the Secretary of the Barnsley Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

View from NHS England

Margaret Kitching: Nurse Director for the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Area Team comments:

The work of the Local Professional Network is key to the provision of clinical leadership and the development of multi-professional working in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.

I expect the LPN to be crucial in taking forward work that will ensure services are commissioned to meet the needs of our patients, are joined up and are of consistent high quality.

The network also has a major role in improving patient safety and optimising the benefits that patients obtain from their medicines.

The extensive skills, knowledge and experience of the network will enhance the work and standing of the pharmacy profession in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, drive up quality and improve the patient experience.