



November 2013

PSNC Meeting November 2013: A Summary

PSNC met on 12th and 13th November in Birmingham. PSNC holds its annual planning meeting in November each year, to identify its priorities, based on which a plan and detailed work plans for the following year are agreed.

The meeting considered the outcomes from the LPC Conference held on November 5th, as well as recently published papers relevant to the development of pharmacy services. In addition it considered the importance of NHS England's programme for developing its strategy, the Call to Action for General Practice and the forthcoming consultation on community pharmacy. NHS policy on development of community pharmacy services would be shaped by these and the Committee identified the need to ensure that the key elements of PSNC's Vision were accepted by the NHS. This would be a major priority for 2014, and the Committee would need to ensure it had the resources and focus to promote community pharmacy services effectively.

A survey of PSNC members was undertaken on the main problems community pharmacy needed to address. Top of the list were: lack of a forum for CCGs and local pharmacies to discuss priorities; perception issues; lack of delivery of locally commissioned public health services; and pharmacies being ill prepared to adopt services.

The recent comments by the Chief Pharmacist on whether there should be fewer pharmacies were debated. PSNC will undertake a review, but the Committee believes that policy on the numbers and location of pharmacies should be made in light of the NHS strategy and the role pharmacies will play in the delivery of healthcare in future. Changes must be planned and not driven by financial attrition.

The immense pressures on funding and the projected deficit if major savings are not achieved will have an impact on community pharmacy like all other parts of the NHS. Efficiencies or cuts are being demanded everywhere. Although there is no news on the outcome of the current funding negotiations a resolution is expected soon as NHS England needs to finalise budget allocations for 2014/15.

In the absence of a determination of funding, discussions relating to pharmacy funding issues included measures to address the impact of current generic stock shortages, to minimise risks of dispensing at a loss and the impact of the 2014 PPRS. This differs from previous PPRS agreements in not requiring cuts to market prices, which removes the immense problems associated with a reduction in stock value on 1st January. PSNC had pressed DH to reflect contractors' interests in the PPRS, and close monitoring of any changes in supply terms will be needed. The meeting also considered the differing services provided by bricks and mortar and distance selling pharmacies and recognised that as the government wishes to reward quality and service provision, and provide greater clarity on the funding provided for non-dispensing

elements of the pharmacy service, it is essential to review the services provided by different types of business operation and ensure these are properly reflected.

Delegates at the LPC Conference held on 5 November wanted PSNC to provide more resources to help LPCs with administrative and other support, such as business cases to support local negotiations. The conference also discussed the need for LPCs to have evidence to assist them in service negotiations and asked PSNC to develop proposals as to how this can be achieved. PSNC also considered conference discussions on national services and managing workload in the pharmacy. These will feed into the work plans being developed, together with a review of the current support to LPCs set out in the LPOSS prospectus.

The outcomes of all the discussions and conclusions reached at the planning meeting are now being collated to prepare a PSNC plan for 2014 for approval at the January PSNC meeting, together with draft work plans for each of the PSNC subcommittees for the year. PSNC's plan will be available on the PSNC website once approved.

After the PSNC meeting guests from LPCs in and around the West Midlands joined the committee for lunch followed by a briefing from the PSNC CEO Sue Sharpe and the subcommittee chairs on the meeting and current issues, with LPC representatives able to ask questions across all areas of PSNC's work. This year has been the first time LPCs have been invited to participate in a PSNC briefing and Q+A session. This will continue in 2014, with the first meeting in Liverpool on 7th and 8th January.

If you have queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information please contact [Zoe Smeaton, Communications Manager](#).