

Minutes of Meeting of East Sussex Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Date: Tuesday 22nd September 2020 starting at 13:30
Location: Zoom conference call
Present: Craig McEwan, Chair, Sarah Davis, Vice Chair, Paul Antenen, Treasurer, Sharon Waghorn, Ramiz Bahnam, Susan Khlef, James Grieves.
In attendance: James Wood (JW), Chief Executive Officer, Hinal Patel (HP), Service Development Support Pharmacist, Sandra Lamont (SL), Communications & Engagement Lead, Micky Cassar (MC), Administrator.

1: Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed the members and guests to the meeting. Mark Weston has resigned as CCA representative and he will be replaced by Michaela Tytherleigh. The Chair welcomed new member Susan Khlef.

CCA reporter: Sarah Davis

Next Stepper: Craig McEwan

2: Apologies for Absence

Marie Hockley.

3: Governance Matters

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the Declarations of Interest, none raised.

The members were reminded by the Chair of the Nolan principles.

4: Minutes & Matters arising:

The minutes from the last meeting on the 2nd July 2020 were reviewed. A couple of amendments were noted and will be amended prior to signing off. The members reviewed the action/decision log.

177 – Establish a recovery plan for each area. (Covid) HP updating, in progress

178 – Operationalise freedom to speak up guardian arrangements via LPC (JW). In progress

192 – Establish what is happening to contractors more widely with LIVI (eps compliance) in East Sussex. some has been paused but meeting due shortly – in progress

193 – PA to bring proposals to the Sep meeting of suggestions re levy holidays. to follow in agenda

Action: Amend minutes for final sign off.

Services:

The members were given an update with regards to the LCS Recovery & Restoration Survey (approximately 53% of pharmacies in the CPSS area took part) and insights this has highlighted.

TCAM – in East Sussex, Eastbourne district General is live. The Medicines Optimisation Care Home team (MOCH) oversee how care homes will receive discharge letters from hospital for their patients. Community pharmacy will not be involved in this pathway to eliminate confusion. Case studies and follow ups are still ongoing with regards to interventions pharmacies have made for patients. BSUH trust are being encouraged to sign up to TCAM so Brighton pharmacies do not suffer when the discharge medicines service goes live in January 2021.

East Sussex Public Health meetings update – before August this was focused on securing the Q2 payments. At the start of September, a further meeting took place in a new format with the CCG lead, Community Pharmacy, and the commissioning lead, this will be the format moving forward emphasising combined work with the CCG. NICE principles for community pharmacy published recently, these were reviewed. How expectations of community pharmacy are managed are key also that unfunded work should not be carried out as part of the contractual framework.

Brighton & Hove council meetings update – Meet on weekly basis with Janet Rittman which have been productive and has included attendance at the B&H level local flu meetings. The LCS for flu service in

Brighton & Hove has been agreed, with a professional fee of administration £11.50 plus the drug cost in line with the drug tariff. Eligible staff include anyone working for Brighton & Hove County Council. EOI has been circulated with a response deadline of 25/09/20 (service start date 05/10/20). This is commissioned by PharmOutcomes and is not a walk-in service but must be pre booked.

The members were shown the East Sussex comparative data from Q1 including the protection payment. Still awaiting data for Q1 (during Covid) for supervised consumption. Brighton & Hove data comparison Q1 was reviewed. Service protection payment across Surrey & Sussex was reviewed. It was raised that at this time any payment protection in relation to Q3 & Q4 is unknown.

The substance misuse supervision protection was 100% across the CPSS area, this is ending at the end of September. There may be a financial consequence to pharmacies if clients that have been moved onto longer treatment periods (up to 2 weeks) remain on these longer periods. It was suggested that a collation of supervision data including frequency, time and cost could be conducted. The members were asked for their views. It was highlighted that the patient's safety is vital and sometimes face to face interactions in a pharmacy help indicate the wellness of the client and that selling on excess medication could be an issue. It was raised that should clients not be moved back to supervised consumption then these funds need to be reinvested in supporting these patients by other means. It was suggested that councillors and the police be contacted for their views. The apparent move to branded prescribing also needs to be considered.

Action: Collate data of supervised consumption to put together a case of loss of income.

Action: Contact local police and councillors regarding the potential patient safety issues of longer substance misuse treatment periods.

CPCF developments update: Advanced service Hep C testing launched 1st Sep. Meetings are taking place with Surrey & Sussex ODN Chairs and next week will cover ODN geography mapping. They have the list of needle exchange pharmacies (all pharmacies can however sign up) however only a few across Surrey & Sussex have signed up. It is important that there is a local pathway, contact sheet and support for pharmacies providing this service. Proactive encouragement to sign up for pharmacies with high level needle exchange.

Advanced service NHS flu has now started. PQS part 1 & 2 – PQS support will be available and support will be tailored to what data is available. All PCN lead positions will be reconfirmed to ensure PCN leads are in place with the information available on the website.

GP CPCS online is rolling out and will involve local work with CCGs. Discharge medicine service to be expected by Jan 2021. TCAM completion rate is at 80% in East Sussex. It was highlighted that at the LPC Annual conference it was suggested it would be a phased roll out in the autumn depending on geography. There is no indication at present when East Sussex will start but this may relate to preparedness of the pharmacies, local GPs and out of hours providers. Avon LPC (pilot site) have created an informative YouTube video – major role for the LPC in training and supporting the service into the GPs and the pharmacies. This could be successful and lead to 3 - 4 referrals per day per pharmacy which would compensate for loss of MURs.

The members were given brief updates on the Surrey & Sussex wide review for palliative care, review of CCG led services in Sussex, LCS commissioning of flu vaccination for Brighton & Hove City Council, Surrey County Council and Surrey CCG staff. Blood pressure + work / training to be resumed including a HEE bid for evaluation of the project for Q4. Ongoing TCAM work / support to pharmacies with trusts that are live and ones in progress of going live.

5: Independent Review

The members were asked if they were happy with progress so far, the responses that have been given (published on CPSS website) and if enough has been done to keep contractors up to date. It was highlighted the keenness to start the process now to try and engage those who may not have yet

engaged much. It was suggested if there are recommendations that everyone agrees on to proactively start these to allow more time for discussion for those recommendations not agreed on. Concerns were raised at the LPC annual conference regarding the “funding led” nature rather than “funding fed”. Also “free at the point of delivery” does not resonate very well and has impact on the value of the sector. NHS is not free at the point of delivery for self-care patients walking into pharmacy.

There are ten recommendations specifically around LPCs, the members were asked if they were in overall agreement/support of these, as CPSS have completed some of these already prior to the review with continued organisational development. The recommendations relating to LPCs 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and our current positions, which were highlighted to members who agreed these were fair reflections.

6: Policy Matters

Non CCPF or LCS funded work: the members discussed the local picture particularly with regards to blood pressure checks and routine ordering & prescription reordering. GPs are informing patients that pharmacy will do blood pressure checks and GP practices also that they will not take requests over the phone or by paper and the only way to request medication is through pharmacy. East Sussex and West Sussex CCGs have prescription ordering direct (POD) that can support general those practices that are not digitally enabled. The LPC could push for an expansion of this to be improved by the CCG and create a brief for the LMC. It was feedback that in Brighton & Hove there is an issue with capacity with POD, if they cannot get through to the POD they will except requests from the pharmacy, so becomes a 2-tiered system. Inconsistency from surgeries, some will not take requests from pharmacy only the patient, some will not take paper only email, its always on the surgery’s terms. The focus needs to be on what is best for the patient, not what is best for the surgery at the expense of pharmacy and the patient. POD works well when patients get used to it however some surgeries are taking over 7 days to return prescriptions to the pharmacy, it is a patchy general issue. Surgeries are obliged to take prescriptions another way if the patient cannot do it electronically as highlighted in the NHS Bulletin (dated 31st July). Also highlighted in a letter from Simon Stevens. This should be highlighted in discussions with the LMC and for PCN clinical directors, this is not part of the community pharmacy contractual framework and could cause reputation issues for pharmacy. Separate conversation with CCGs to see what support / arrangements can be rolled out to support this process.

Action: Highlight the obligation to the LMC re of taking prescriptions by other means than electronic.

It was highlighted the lack of promotion for the NHS App and CCGs could do more to drive this. The members were asked if they were broadly supportive of the app. It was suggested that Eileen Callaghan, directors of primary care and the CCGs should be involved and that LPC members should be kept up to date with progress.

Action: Drive promotion of the NHS App

Decision: members broadly supportive of using the NHS App and a CCG promotion drive.

GP CPCS is likely to be rolled out between now and Christmas and the LPC can assist with coordinating. It was highlighted that the delay when a patient is not seen face to face but has an online consultation with the surgery and is then referred to pharmacy can lead to a deterioration in the patients’ health.

7: LPC Management & Admin

The members were given a brief update on the upcoming AGM and members attending were confirmed. The members were given an update on the annual report and annual review which have been circulated. The feedback on the annual review has been positive. The members were given an update on the progress of the Q2 plan which was set out in July 2020. Actions in progress from the Q2 plan will be progressed before the November LPC meeting, H2 plan will be taken to the CPSS Exec meeting in October, delivery of support and follow through on PQS, flu vaccination, CCPF yr2 and local LCS next steps.

The privacy policy has been updated to include digital platforms and a few other updates based on the PSNC policy. This paper was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Decision: The members approved the updated Privacy Policy.

8: LPC Committee Skills Analysis

The members were shown the results of the member skills analysis. A summary of the findings was discussed and where potential gaps have been identified. This information will be fed back to PSNC to assist with their training calendar. The data will now be maintained, and in-house training will be arranged if not available at PSNC level. There is money ringfenced in the budget for training. Market entry and LPC members day refresh may be higher priorities also, from a CPCF point of view, what CPSS need to have from members to do their role. It was highlighted that existing members need to be kept up to date to make sure there is consistency. JW was thanked for the work he has put into getting the LPCs under CPSS up to date with governance etc and a creating a good leadership team. The PSNC new members day is being reviewed due to feedback to make sure it is fit for purpose and CPSS also do an internal induction in house.

9: Finance Update

The members were given an update from the treasurer as to the East Sussex accounts and the CPSS accounts. The action to review if the underspend for CPSS should be returned to the individual LPCs and then they will reflect that to the contractors either by levy reduction or levy holiday will be discussed at the next LPC meeting. PA was thanked for his work looking after the finances. The training proposal will be reviewed at the CPSS Exec meeting in October prior to the LPC meetings. It was highlighted that training identified could use existing budget funds (due to cost saving) to help members do their roles to better support contractors.

Action: Create a training proposal and bring to November meeting.

10: Market Entry

The market entry summary was circulated to members prior to the meeting. 2 PNAs in East Sussex (Brighton & Hove and East Sussex), updated regulations have been published for extensions of the PNAs. East Sussex will be published in 2022 rather than July 2021 however this may be started earlier to not lose work already started prior to the Covid outbreak. Brighton & Hove will start in 2022 so work will start April / May 2021. Supplementary statement from Brighton & Hove was published in July, 2 closures, (one Boots and a consolidation). The HWB have had to consider this in case a gap has been created. These closures were the first time a potential gap may have been created and there was pressure on NHS England to respond.

2 main updates: unforeseen benefits X 2, one with notification received today of refusal. The Waremass unforeseen benefits application which went to appeal has no further comments at this time. No significant change application in Bexhill for a DSP.

11: Local Matters

Methadone / Physeptone prescribing – further action by CGL advising to prescribe Physeptone instead of methadone, also a request in Surrey which is on pause. JW has written to services involved, to push back as there is a margin in prescribing especially for a larger scale prescribing pharmacy. Also, to flag with the Department of Health and PSNC, so if approached, to alert the office to progress.

AOB: the LPC will be asked their position on supervised consumption which is required for every day when a pharmacy is closed. An example was given of a pharmacy which provide supervised consumption, having given notice they would be closed on a Sunday. Therefore, CGL need to find a pharmacy open on a Sunday to provide this on the day of closure. A concern was highlighted that a pharmacy should look after a client for the duration they require so if CGL say they need 7 day a week they should be given an option of a pharmacy who can provide 7 days a week. There are work issues including for patients that do not attend, as work is still carried out and then must be reported back as non-attendance etc. The members discussed if the client's free choice should be open to pharmacies not open 7 days as an LPC position. The members discussed the issues including CGL not getting pharmacy closure messages when they are themselves closed from a continuity of care perspective. From a patient safety point of view if you only see a client on Sunday and not during the week there could be an issue with safety of providing the supply so from this point of view should be same pharmacy. Moving forward

more pharmacies may be closed on Sundays due to funding so the CGL should have a backup process. Ideally clients are signposted to pharmacies open 7 days if that is what is required for safety and care. Or 6 days and then take out on 1 instead of missing Sunday dose as inconvenient. Where there has been a change in pharmacy provision (closing that day) if that can be managed in a takeout dose that should be the preferred option. Patients should be signposted to pharmacies open 7 days if that is required for continuation of care and if that's not suitable managed on a case by case basis. Supply for Christmas day needs to be considered by CGL also.

Christmas and Easter negotiations with the regional team have concluded with an agreement of £400.00 / hour rate across Kent, Surrey & Sussex for a 3-hour block which is secured until 2024. They have also agreed to improve communications / visibility and the substance misuse list should be available to NHS England earlier allowing more planning. There are a few gaps in East Sussex but mainly well covered. All who have expressed an interest have now been contacted by NHS England.

Communications campaign, opportunity to keep highlighting the work of the pharmacy heroes during Covid. Young people and their role and achievement in the community is now the focus. Five news were keen to cover a day in the life of a pharmacy. Building on the national theme to thank NHS heroes and add a positive build on young people. Need stories from young pharmacy staff across East Sussex (under 25) to highlight examples where they have gone above and beyond helping / volunteering. The LPC will share with NPAs community pharmacy database. NPA will host stories on a young people webpage and promote on their social media channels. Raising profile of community pharmacy in East Sussex and the national profile. Campaign assets created by NPA to be used and shared with local auth in East Sussex.

Action: Feedback young people stories before end of next week.

12: PSNC Update - Sunil

A recorded message was sent from PSNC representative Sunil Kochhar and will be circulated to members after the meeting due to technical issues. The members were updated that during the Covid period, a Rapid Action Team was set up by PSNC. This has now come to an end and been replaced by a new team and Shilpa Shah (CEO of Kent LPC) is representing the South East who will disseminate information. PSNC negotiation priorities and LPC response. The LPC were asked for comments of the priorities and actions list for the next 6 months. The three chairs and the CEO have provided feedback as to priorities from across Surrey & Sussex, this information was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

14: AOB:

World pharmacist day at the end of the week. CPSS exec meeting coming up beginning Oct.

15: Close

17:10

16: Future meeting dates & venue

LPC Committee Meetings

East Sussex LPC	West Sussex LPC	Surrey LPC
The East Sussex National, Uckfield, TN22 5ES 9.30am – 4.00pm	The Old Tollgate, Bramber, Steyning, BN44 3WE 9.30am – 4.00pm	Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, Tyrrells Wood, Leatherhead, KT22 8QP 9.30am – 4.00pm
Thursday 05/11/20	Wednesday 04/11/20	Wednesday 11/11/20
Thursday 11/02/21	Wednesday 10/02/21	Wednesday 17/02/21

Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex Executive Committee:

(Chairs, Vice Chairs and Treasurers to attend – options for conference call dial in)

8th October 2020 – 10:00 – 12:00 LPC Office, The White House, 18 Church Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8BB

14th January 2021 – 15:30 – 17:00. TBC (Kent Venue)

31st March 2021 – 10:00 – 12:00 LPC Office, The White House, 18 Church Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8BB

South East LPCs and Partners (Regional Meeting)

(Chairs, Vice Chairs to attend)

14th January 2021 (hosted by – Kent) 10:00 – 13:00

Venue TBC

NHS England & Improvement

(Chairs, Vice Chairs to attend)

October 2020 (informal meeting of NHSE/I officials & LPCs CEOs – Horley 14:00 – 16:00)

14th January 2021 (Kent) – 13:00 – 15:30 Location TBC

March 2021 (informal meeting of NHSE/I officials & LPCs CEOs – Horley 14:00 – 16:00)

PSNC Forward Dates:

2020 PSNC Meeting Dates

Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th February London

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May London

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June London

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September London

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November London

2021 PSNC Meeting Dates

Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th February London

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th May London

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th July London

Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th September London

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November London