

Minutes of Meeting of Surrey Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Date: Thursday 17th September 2020 starting at 13:30
Location: Conference call
Present: Rupl Bhasin, Chair, Hemal Chudasama, Vice Chair, Anish Prasad, Treasurer, Sejal Patel, Henal Ladwa, Purvi Shukla, Jaymil Patel, Andrew Jackson, Aron Berry.
In attendance: James Wood, Chief Executive Officer, Hinal Patel, Service Development Support Pharmacist, Sandra Lamont, Communications & Engagement Lead, Micky Cassar, Business Administrator.

1: Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.
CCA Reporter: Aron Berry

2: Apologies for Absence

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3: Governance Matters

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the Declarations of Interest, nothing raised.

4: Minutes & Matters arising

The Chair asked the members if they had read the 8th July 2020 LPC minutes and if there were any issues with the accuracy. The Chair virtually signed the July LPC minutes as a true account of the meeting. The action/decision log was reviewed.

Matters arising: At the previous LPC meeting it was raised that a 2-month levy holiday should be considered, the levy was discussed and a 2-month levy holiday for November & December 2020 was proposed.

Decision: The members agreed on the levy holiday proposal.

Actions in progress:

- 168 – Approach Surrey Heartlands to establish if they would want to fund digitalisation of online ordering in pharmacies. - In progress with virtual practice discussions
- 171 – Operationalise freedom to speak up guardian arrangements via LPC (JW). - in Q2 plans by Sept
- 132 - New PH contracts to be shown to LPC members before Jan 2020 including evaluation tool. - Covid pause action has now been closed. - Due to Covid the same SLA has been rolled over and will pick up this action again in January 2021.

5: Independent review

The members were updated regarding the review progress. The answers to the reflection questions have been submitted and are available on the CPSS website. A summary of the reflections was discussed at the LPC Annual Conference with suggested next steps highlighted by Simon Dukes. The next steps included: A general agreement that the process should be moved forward, contractor should not pay extra (especially first phase), working group & oversight board to get things started, everything needs to be proportional equitable & transparent, contractors at the centre of decision making, PSNC to fund initial phase from Covid related savings in the 2019/20 budget, PSNC to “hold the pen” to get things started – consult with LPCs.

There are ten recommendations specifically around LPCs, the members were asked if they were in overall agreement/support of these, CPSS have started/completed some of these already. The recommendations 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 were highlighted to members who agreed these were fair reflections.

Independent Prescribing (IP) training for pharmacist was raised – Keith Ridge made a policy announcement for a training and development program for pharmacists including existing workforce. This will unlikely be rolled out to all in the next year, but undergraduates may be able to go straight into an IP structure.

It was highlighted that the NPA have conducted a review on underfunding and risk of closure and if this was mentioned at the conference. Two major pieces of work, the reconciliation of the advance payment, secondly CCPF and the annual review which is built into it. That negotiation is coming up in November. First there will be a spending review by all departments. There is a gap between where ministers are and the leadership of NHS England.

6: Policy Matters

The members discussed non CCPF of LCS funded work and the local picture including blood pressure checks and prescription reordering, what the LPC should do moving forward and if local action is needed. It was raised that online repeats are helping, and patients are taking more control of this. A collaboration approach would be good as each surgery has their own policy and investigate commissioning a service, however each area is different. In West Sussex last year, the LPC worked with CCGs to stop managed repeats and move people to digital. Where there was a problem doing this for patients it was highlighted this is the practice responsibility to manage. In Brighton & Hove there was a similar approach, but the CCG invested in support for practices to be able to reorder on behalf of patients. Both East Sussex CCGs and West Sussex CCGs want to work with the LPC to expand the POD service if possible. It was discussed that patients need to take responsibility for repeat ordering. eRD in Surrey is picking up and medicines management teams have been focussed on driving that. It is vital that there are different ways for patients to get prescriptions in, online, app, in person etc. The stance of the LPC with regards to managed repeats was discussed including contractual requirements and workload. Individual contractors need to make this choice and where people need support from practices displacing work the LPC can step in on an individual basis when requested.

It was raised that Surrey heartlands have recently issued a letter (19/08/20) to practices highlighting flexibilities about prescribing intervals. This process started by patient representative concerns to reduce workload in practices and pharmacies by allowing up to 90-day prescriptions. The prescribing policy in Surrey already allowed up to 56-day interval, although the majority of prescriptions are 28 day length. After LPC intervention the letter highlighted concerns about extension of period of treatment and advised practice that this should only be undertaken on an individual patient by patient basis, with eRD EPS with current periodicity as the favoured practice. ICPs within Surrey mostly did not support this and therefore this only went out to the north west Surrey area surgeries. As part of the CCPF agreement there will may be a review of prescribing intervals to try and reduce workload however this is dependent on funding model changes and shouldn't happen at a local level now.

Blood pressure monitoring service was discussed and that patients are coming to pharmacy rather than surgeries which have closed due to Covid. Its not a funded service for pharmacy and contractors need to be aware of this. GPs are funded to do this so if pharmacy are to do this there needs to be a commissioned service in place which also includes the additional costs of PPE. It was suggested that invoicing the CCG for the time taken within pharmacy may be a worthwhile campaign. This information could be collated over a 6-month period to strengthen the position.

Action: Collate information with regards to blood pressure costs for pharmacy over a 6-month period.

7: LPC management & admin

The members were given an update of the 2020 AGM plans. The annual review and annual report have been created and circulated both are available on the CPSS website.

The CEO report Q2 was shown to members and an update on progress made to date. There are a few unknowns including local outbreak plans and the Wright Review.

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 given an update as to the outcomes of the skills analysis and any gaps were reviewed. The outcomes of training needs will be fed back to PSNC to assist with informing their training plan. The next steps will be to implement training and ensure the training register is kept up to date to ensure skills are available and new members can take on these roles too.

9: Finance update

The expenses policy has been updated and was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Decision: The members approved the updated expenses policy.

The members were given an update as to the Surrey LPC Accounts and the CPSS accounts. QuickBooks has been implemented at a CPSS level. Each LPC within CPSS have their own accountants, it was proposed that for the next financial year that this is all dealt with by one firm to reduce costs and increase continuity. A proposal will be brought to the November or January meeting. The members were reminded to submit expense claims in a timely manner.

Decision: : Go out to market to find one accountant across CPSS to meet our needs and improve value for money

10: Market Entry

PNA legislation has now been delayed until 2022 so in Surrey, work will begin in April 2021. Supplementary statement is being produced by the council and HWB. The members received the market entry summary document prior to the meeting. There are a few change of ownerships, the Kingswood application didn't go to appeal, also an unforeseen benefits application was circulated but appears to be a distant selling application (excepted application) so may need to be redistributed.

11: Local Matters

Several contractors alerted the LPC of a switch in prescription from Methadone to Physeptone. The LPC intervened and this has been paused since July and the members were asked to highlight should they hear of this continuing.

Action: Report to the LPC should activity increase with Methadone/Physeptone switch.

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. There are a few gaps in Surrey so there will be some directed opening for this Christmas. All who have expressed an interest have now been contacted by NHS England.

Wound care – FP10 product provision via the ONPOS scheme. 80 pharmacies across Surrey are involved in ONPOS. There have been issues with lack of contracts and payments and the CCG reviewed the situation from their end looking at new methods of procurement that would preclude community pharmacies. Last Friday the pharmacies providing ONPOS services were contacted by the CCG to ask for their views of the service. The members were asked for their views on ONPOS as the LPC should respond to the CCG. The members views varied; however, it was highlighted that should it be ended, notification would be good to reduce outstanding stock levels. A concern was raised that should ONPOS be taken away there may not be anything offered to pharmacy to replace and for some this would represent a concerning loss of local income. The LPC are holding a zoom meeting for contractors on the 24th September to discuss any concerns. The NPA may be able to assist independent, who appear adversely affected if the review recommends changes to the current supply route. This could have an impact on contractors if there is a wider move to shift appliances and devices off FP10. To now, the LPC has sought assurances that that FP10 prescribing would not be part of this review.

Surrey Care Record (SyCR) – integration piece for PharmOutcome in progress. Data and legal advisors have drafted a data processing agreement which was circulated to members before the meeting. The next stage of the process is to share the working version and ask for comment. PharmOutcome has been bought by EMIS.

Covid anti body testing information for NHS staff has been disseminated directly to independent contractors and area managers for AIM & CCA. There have been reports of shortages of testing leading to staff being off work self-isolating unable to get tested and staff shortages.

A local resilience forum letter was circulated to members prior to the meeting. 2 local outbreak communications have been issued where needed to give as much notice as possible to review business continuity. It was asked if there is any negotiation regarding the pandemic delivery service being reintroduced as it is outside the NHS funding. This national delivery service will happen on a local basis depending on outbreak areas.

12: PSNC Update

A recorded message was sent from PSNC representative Sunil Kochhar and will be circulated to members after the meeting. 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 Kent LPC) is representing the South East who will disseminate information. The LPC were asked for comments of the priorities and actions list for the next 6 months to assist PSNC negotiation priorities. 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.

13: Services & Support

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. The HEE blood pressure plus evaluation bid was highlighted with an aim for implementation in Q4 of 2020/21. The results of if the bid is successful should be known by next week.

Surrey Public Health meetings are frequently ongoing. Surrey Public Health were given thanks for being very supportive throughout Covid. Appliance changes BHR were given the contract in Feb/Mar and this work has now resumed so by the last week of September all pharmacies that should have the new BP+ machine should have received them, this does not mean they have to restart the service. Training will continue in September. The Surrey essential guides have been updated and are available on the CPSS website. At the last Public Health meeting Q3 and onwards support & guidance was discussed and will be continued at the next meeting including what payment protection may be sustainable.

Surrey LCS for flu service has of this morning has been finalised. The fee has been agreed at £10.08 plus the cost of the vaccine at the drug tariff rate. Community Pharmacy will have a locally commissioned service from the county council and the CCG to vaccinate key workers including Pharmacy staff. The EOI will be disseminated by 21st/22nd Sep with a return date of 05th Oct. The service start date is the 9th Oct. The supply of flu vaccinations was highlighted and that there may be a delay due to the increase of eligibility criteria. Vaccinations will also be by appointment only, not walk in. There will be a principle agreement by the January 2021 meeting if this will continue into the flu season next year to enable ordering of supplies at the earliest opportunity.

The members were shown comparison data for Q1 including service payment protection across CPSS. Supervised consumption is protected up until 30th September. The clients who have managed with less visits may be encouraged to continue with this, and the members were asked for their views on this and if the LPC should intervene. One of the concerns is the scale of volume and value this LCS provides and if this is just left, local income will be lost when income protection ends. Are contractors prepared for this and should the LPC be looking into options in changing the shape of the service. There are potential risks

to the clients as they are not being monitored as frequently and perhaps not even face to face. It was discussed if there was any interest from the council to continue any form of protected payment for supervised consumption. This will be the starting position of both the LPC and the LMC, working together. The discussions for Q3 for Surrey re supervised consumption start next week.

Hep C testing launched 1st Sep. Surrey ODN get a list of pharmacies signing up for the service, so far this number has been small. PQS part 1 is the gateway and needs to be met to participate in part 2.

PCN lead contact will begin next week to establish if there have been any changes so all the information is published and available. Patient discharge medicines service, 4 trusts in Surrey are live, 2 outstanding and all pharmacies in Surrey should have a start date of around January 2021.

14: AOB

Nothing raised

15: Close

17:00

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:

16th September 2020 – 10:00 until 16:00 LPC Annual Conference

Congress Centre 28 Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3LS

The LPC Conference remains an important event for LPCs to represent their views for PSNC to consider at its planning meeting in November, when PSNC's priorities and plans for 2021/22 are agreed. East Sussex LPC and West Sussex LPC can send up to 3 representatives each and Surrey LPC up to 4 representatives each.

2020 PSNC Meeting Dates

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