



**Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes Local Pharmaceutical Committee
ANNUAL REPORT. Year ending March 31st 2019**

I'd like to start with recognition and thanks. Looking at the LPC team, as a Committee at the end of this financial year we have had to say goodbye to Mohammed Kolia, Anna Ruthven and Farjana Miah. I would like to thank all three for their support and service to the committee and contractors over the time they served on the committee.

With regard to new committee members, we welcomed Amrit Minhas who joined us in September as a new AIMp representative from Knights. Amrit has since assumed the role of Treasurer following the resignation of Raja Srikakulapu. We wish Raja well in his new clinical pharmacist position and thank him for his hard work in the Treasurer's role. Matthew Armstrong also joined us in September and represents Boots for CCA. In March, Superdrug's Hansa Bi was elected by CCA to join us. This now means as an LPC we have a perfectly balanced committee representative of the contracts held across our LPC area. The committee appointed in 2018 will serve, if they wish to do so or change roles, until 2022.

The impact of the financial cuts affecting Community Pharmacy have continued to hurt both nationally and locally here in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes. Simon Dukes, Chief Executive of PSNC actually described the current picture as the sector being on its knees as it reels from a combination of cuts to Category M, margin, and price concessions. Simon has made some things clear in the course of the year though. Firstly there is no new money. Secondly, it was time to mend bridges, put the judicial review behind us and focus on getting a multi-year settlement in line with General Practice. Thankfully negotiations with the DHSC and NHSE have been announced and we will see the outcome of these by October 2019.

The LPC continued to work with stakeholders at a local level regarding in year changes including :

CCGs advising patients to purchase OTC rather than prescribing thus further reducing item numbers.

The countdown to the third Quality Payment review point.

Continued shortfalls in funding impacting cash flow (on the back of the changes in the contract).

Increasing scrutiny on our performance on local services

We have seen a reduction in items on the back of more patients being directed to purchase certain medication. We have also submitted our third Quality Payments.

That's what we do in a nutshell, so what should contractors be doing?

Every contractor needs to embrace the local services available, deliver them to the best of their ability and claim for them. We regularly use the LPC website <http://psnc.org.uk/northamptonshire-and-milton-keynes-lpc/> to post updates, we send out emails and post topical updates via social media to get messages out to you. Please do continue to advise us of issues and local intelligence so that as a committee we can continue to support you in the best way.

In the coming year the challenges and opportunities we will face on the horizon are becoming known:

- How we will engage with the volume of primary care networks across our two LPC areas?

- Embracing the opportunity that the Academic Science Network have been mandated to help deliver in both Nene and MK namely the Transfer of Care between Secondary care and Community Pharmacy. This is called Transfer of Care around Medicines and work with all hospital sites is already underway. It is shaping up to be another busy year.

Anne-Marie King
Chief Officer.