

PSNC Service Development Subcommittee Minutes
for the meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014
at the Oulton Hall, Rothwell Lane, Oulton, Leeds, LS26 8HN

Present: Stephen Banks, David Evans, Margaret MacRury, Indrajit Patel, Janice Perkins, Gary Warner (Chairman)

In attendance: Daniel Ah-Thion, David Broome, Christine Burbage, Mark Burdon, Alastair Buxton, Harpreet Chana, Liz Colling, Mark Collins, Shine Daley, Peter Dixon, Samantha Fisher, Komal George, Ian Hunter, Clive Joliffe, Tricia Kennerley, Clare Kerr, Andrew Lane, Steve Lutener, Garry Myers, Raj Patel, Chris Perrington, Sue Sharpe, Zoe Smeaton.

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014 were approved.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Work Plan

Progress being made against the work plan was considered by the subcommittee.

It was noted that some deadlines had slipped due to reduced staffing capacity (due to the absence of Barbara Parsons) and because the Call to Action had led to a considerable amount of work.

It was noted that work to get a flu vaccination service nationally commissioned had not been completed but that there had been some developments in this area including the PSNC seminar on flu vaccination for LPCs. NHS England has moved back to contracting the GP flu vaccination service nationally; the subcommittee was reminded that NHS England had agreed that pharmacies should be paid the same fees as GPs for this service.

The office reported back on a conversation with Professor Kevin Fenton at Public Health England (PHE) at which he had ruled out the possibility of a national EHC service. It was agreed that that item on the work plan should be marked green as no further progress can be made on it this year, although it was noted that PSNC should continue to promote the benefits of a national service where it can.

It was agreed that the publication of the RCP National Review of Asthma Deaths presents an opportunity to speed up work on asthma service development and to try to gain support from the RCP for community pharmacy services in this area. The committee was asked to forward on any evidence for asthma services to support this work to Alastair Buxton.

ACTION / RATIFICATION

5. Update on discussions with NHS Employers

Alastair Buxton provided a verbal update on the discussions the negotiating team is undertaking with NHS Employers.

It was noted that the commissioning decision on the New Medicine Service would be made in the context of the ongoing negotiations and so a decision would be announced when those had been completed.

6. Identifying external barriers to community pharmacy service commissioning and strategies to address these

The subcommittee considered the external barriers to local commissioning of community pharmacy services set out in Appendix SDS 03/05/14 and some additional barriers for pharmacies were identified:

- Some commissioners are requiring DBS checks to be carried out for all pharmacy staff, not just healthcare staff, which adds a cost for contractors.
- Different commissioning groups are taking different approaches to training for pharmacies which poses a problem for some pharmacies working across several areas.

It was reported that the new commissioners have significantly less support for commissioning than PCTs previously had and that successful LPCs had been helping them with this.

Concerns were raised about the potential consequences of NHS England's move towards co-commissioning with GPs, and the office reported that it is exploring this topic to try to get more detail about what the implications of the plans might be.

The subcommittee also considered the support that PSNC offers and could offer.

It was noted that community pharmacy needed to up-skill its own representatives to enable them to be able to support commissioners. It was suggested that the LPC Secretaries meeting could be used to discuss this further. There was a need for additional business cases and support for LPCs.

Some LPCs had had some success working with LPNs to approach commissioners, it was reported. PSNC must continue to stress the need for scrutiny of commissioning activity where commissioners hold budgets for services that they may themselves deliver.

To gather evidence for pharmacy services it was suggested that it would be good to keep reviewing pharmacy and healthcare awards to flag up ideas. Gaining coverage of successful services in the pharmacy and healthcare press would be a good way to help ensure commissioners are aware of the possibilities.

REPORT

7. NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT)

The information in the agenda was noted.

8. Improving Health & Patient Care through Community Pharmacy – a Call to Action

The information in the agenda was noted.

9. Law Commission

The information in the agenda was noted and it was asked whether this review would incorporate the introduction of the duty of candour on healthcare professionals.

10. Changes to the Pharmacy Regulations

The information in the agenda was noted.

11. Submission to the APPG for Primary Care and Public Health inquiry

The information in the agenda was noted.

12. Community Pharmacy – helping with winter pressures

The information in the agenda and the positive response to the work was noted.

13. PSNC Evidence Awards

The information in the agenda was noted and the subcommittee agreed with the proposal not to hold any Evidence Awards this year.

14. Recent PSNC Briefings relevant to service development and commissioning

The information in the agenda was noted.

15. Any other business

None.