

PSNC Minutes

For the meeting held on 9th July 2014

At Thistle Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS

Present: Stephen Banks, David Broome, Christine Burbage, Mark Burdon, Peter Cattee, Liz Colling, Mark Collins, David Evans, Sam Fisher, Mark Griffiths, Ian Hunter, Clive Jolliffe, Tricia Kennerley, Clare Kerr, Andrew Lane, Margaret MacRury, Rajesh Morjaria, Garry Myers, Bharat Patel, Indrajit Patel, Kirit Patel, Prakash Patel, Umesh Patel, Janice Perkins, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma, Gary Warner

In the Chair: Sir Peter Dixon

In Attendance: Daniel Ah-Thion, Alastair Buxton, Shiné Daley, Mike Dent, Komal George, Mike King, Steve Lutener, Sue Sharpe

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ian Cubbin, John Evans, Rajesh Patel and Chris Perrington.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th May were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had taken up issues around EPS with a longstanding DH colleague who wants to meet with him. The Chairman will report back to the Committee on their discussion after the meeting.

The Chairman also reported that he is seeing in the health service an increasing panic in finding the right staff as more people are working on short term contracts. The Chairman was involved in a recruitment exercise and noted that most of the management teams were working on short term contracts. People don't want to take on long term jobs and suspect it is to do with the new healthcare structure. It is clear that we are not the only people trying to deal with the new structure.

Chief Executive's Report

Policy

Jeremy Hunt spoke at the Commissioning Show. He talked about CCGs becoming accountable care organisations for the totality of delivery of care on a capitation-based system. He also said CCGs need to show a leadership role to help GPs. He was clear that the implementation of the Better Care Fund was very important – joint CCG/LA commissioning.

In response to NHS England's request for expressions of interest from CCGs on co-commissioning primary care services, 180/211 CCGs want to be co-commissioners.

There are four big enablers for the future Jeremy Hunt wants to see:

1. Real-time tracking of costs for every individual (essential for integrated care);
2. Sharing electronic health records;
3. Full involvement of the acute sector – they understand the reasons for change and can support it;
4. Leadership.

Responding to question about pharmacy's role:

“I thought it but did not say it. Pharmacy, pharmacy, pharmacy is such an important part of the changes we need; they need to be part of the HER – massively untapped resource and we plan to include pharmacies in EHRs.”

Call to Action

Alison Hemsworth spoke last week at a Westminster Forum event. The responses to the CTA have now been analysed. Over 800 website responses and over 80 submissions.

The top messages coming out of the CTA are:

1. Clear national standards;
2. Shared records access;
3. Improved relationships with General Practice;
4. Shift the balance from community pharmacy roles to pharmacists in the community;
5. Incentives and contract alignment.

She also said that the Chief Inspector for General Practice has been tasked to look at how well GPs are working with other professions including general practice.

Subcommittee allocations

Gary Warner, as chair of SDS, and Ian Cubbin, who chairs the new subcommittee, met with Steve, Alastair and the CEO last week to review the subcommittee allocations and the SDS work plan. The new subcommittee had been called R+P (Regulation and Policy), but we agreed it would be better to avoid confusion with RAP, by calling it HPR (Health Policy and Regulation). It will hold its first meeting in October, and Steve is preparing a paper on regulations for their inaugural meeting. HPR will add to its remit rurality and oversight of Public Affairs activity. EPS will be dealt with through FunCon.

Staff

Barbara Parsons retired at the end of June, and joined us for dinner last night. Alastair is about to begin interviews of candidates for his new NHS Policy Officer post. Zoe has appointed Mindy Mabbutt, who has worked in the Info Team for four years, as Communications Officer, and Mindy will take up her new role in September, with Zoe becoming Head of Communications. We have two new recruits, Mitesh and Gemma, who have joined the Info Team in the last few weeks, replacing Tim and Emily. Mitesh has a Pharmaceutical Science degree, and Gemma is a qualified dispenser.

6. PSNC Incorporation

The committee was asked to make a formal decision to incorporate PSNC, almost certainly as a company limited by guarantee although this will be explored, as we would like mutual status. PSNC has had a longstanding ambition to incorporate, principally to remove the joint and several liability of committee members, but also so that it has a separate legal identity. All Committee members present were in agreement with proceeding to incorporation. The aim is to move towards incorporation from the 1st April 2015.

7. Resource Development & Finance Subcommittee

The minutes of the subcommittee meeting were presented by Mark Burdon and the financial accounts for 2013/14 were approved. The Committee was asked to ensure they keep up to date with submitting their expenses. The date for submitting 13-14 expenses was now past.

It was noted that Ian Cubbin was appointed as Vice Chairman of RDF.

8. Service Development subcommittee

The minutes of the subcommittee meeting were presented by Gary Warner. It was noted that Clare Kerr was appointed as Vice Chairman of SDS.

9. Funding & Contract subcommittee

The minutes of the subcommittee meeting were presented by Peter Cattee.

It was noted that Garry Myers was appointed as Vice Chairman of FunCon.

10. LPC & Implementation Support subcommittee

The minutes of the subcommittee meeting were presented by Christine Burbage. After a discussion it was agreed to organise a briefing and networking session for LPC Chairs and Chief Officers the day before the LPC conference in October.

It was also agreed that Regional Representative reports were valuable and should be reinstated. It was agreed that regional reps should be sent a link to the LIS agenda papers that they can forward to their LPCs before each PSNC meeting.

It was noted that Mark Collins was appointed as Vice Chairman of LIS.

11. Essential Small Pharmacies

Steve Lutener reported that there were concerns that NHS England were not making appropriate arrangements for continuation of the existing ESPLPS contracts that are due to expire in March 2015.

There is a section on the website regarding this which will be kept up to date.

12. Future PSNC Meeting and Any Other Business

The dates for the next PSNC meeting are 7th and 8th October at RCGP, 30 Euston Square, London, NW1 2FB.

The PSNC working dinner will take place on 7th October at HMS Belfast, The Queens Walk, London, SE1 2JH.

The LPC Conference will take place on 15th October at the Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds, LS1 1PJ.

Mark Collins has been elected Chairman of the Appointments Panel and Umesh Patel has been elected as Chairman of the Review and Audit Panel.

Kirit Patel thanked the Committee for voting him back as Vice Chairman of PSNC.