

PSNC Funding & Contract Subcommittee Minutes
of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2015
at Park Inn by Radisson Palace, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL
starting at 2pm

Members: David Broome, Peter Cattee (Chairman), Liz Colling, Sam Fisher, Tricia Kennerley, Andrew Lane, Garry Myers, Bharat Patel, Indrajit Patel, Adrian Price

Also In attendance:

Dan Ah-Thion, Christine Burbage, Mark Burdon, Alastair Buxton, Harpreet Chana, Mark Collins, Ian Cubbin, Shine Daley, Mike Dent, Peter Dixon, David Evans, Komal George, Mike Hewitson, Clive Jolliffe, Claire Kerr, Margaret MacRury, Prakash Patel, Janice Perkins, Mike Pitt, Sue Sharpe, Gary Warner.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Broome.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2015 were approved.

Agenda and subcommittee work

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| 1 | Establish a sound basis for future funding of the service providing a fair return to contractors | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted.

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| 2 | Ensure funding and reimbursement mechanisms are fair to contractors | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted.

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| 3 | Monitor and analyse funding delivery, and agree changes to current systems that mitigate risks of under and over-delivery of agreed funding | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted and detailed discussions took place at the plenary meeting on Wed 15th July.

It was recommended that:

- **A further Margins Survey Officer be recruited initially on a twelve month contract**

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| 4 | Examine options for financial levers to incentivise change and develop NHS England support | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted.

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| 5 | Ensure EPS is resilient, efficient, and costs to pharmacy are fully funded | Status Likely |
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EPS issues

Following the letter sent to Susan Grieve at DH, HSCIC had confirmed that, as with all other EPS prescriptions, there will be 180 days expiry from the date of dispensing for EPS CD prescriptions.

The subcommittee discussed the requirement for cash compensation for contractors in the event of EPS system failure. The impact of events should be considered before a formal response was made to HSCIC.

A concern was raised by Indrajit Patel around the safety of the EPS system within the dispensary due to increased printing and he agreed to gather some data on this for the October meeting.

It was agreed that the status of this item should be changed from likely to maybe.

It was recommended that:

- ***The relevant issues be removed from the current EPS Issues Log but remain under review.***

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| 6 | Monitor payment accuracy and support contractors in resolving queries | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted.

It was agreed by the subcommittee that the removal of the 5 day payment window would inadvertently affect cash flow, and that preserving this was of a higher priority to contractors than the accurate reconciliation of prescription numbers.

It was recommended that:

- ***PSNC asks for an amendment to the paper FP34C whilst access to an electronic FP34C is being developed and that the 5 day payment window is retained.***

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| 7 | Resolve Drug Tariff problems where possible, including shortages and price rises, branded generic and brand prescribing policies, demonstrating the damage to NHS finances. | Status Likely |
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The information in the agenda was noted.

Any other business

Bharat Patel highlighted a recent issue that had been raised to him, regarding an EPSLPS contractor who had been told by NHS England to sell his business and starting working as a locum. He expressed concern that this Area Team was not very well educated on the Community Pharmacy contract and wondered what PSNC could do as an organisation to apply pressure to NHS England to ensure Area Teams were well versed on the contract and their relevant responsibilities?

Steve Lutener is compiling a complaint to be sent to the National Audit Office about the inconsistencies in approach by NHS England's offices, and of the poor communications that have taken place.