

PSNC Funding & Contract Subcommittee Minutes
of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2015
at The Bristol Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QF
starting at 3.45pm

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

In attendance: Dan Ah-Thion, Alastair Buxton, Christine Burbage, Harpreet Chana, Mark Burdon, Shiné Daley, Mike Dent, Marc Donovan, David Evans, Mike Hewitson, Ian Hunter, Clare Kerr, Mike King, Steve Lutener, Margaret MacRury, Rajesh Morjaria, Kirit Patel, Prakash Patel, Janice Perkins, Mike Pitt, Rupen Sedani, Anil Sharma, Sue Sharpe, Zoe Smeaton, Faisal Tuddy, Gary Warner

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Indrajit Patel.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2015 were approved.

Agenda and subcommittee work

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 and the subcommittee considered the proposal from NHS England.

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

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 discussions held.

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.

5	Ensure EPS is resilient, efficient, and costs to pharmacy are fully funded	Status Likely
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The information in the agenda was noted.

6 Monitor payment accuracy and support contractors in resolving queries

Status
Likely

The information in the agenda was noted.

Harpreet Chana mentioned that there had been some progress with the development of PRISM for Welsh prescriptions since the agenda had been written and the Audit Centre hoped to be auditing these by the end of 2015.

It was agreed that if a problem with the EPS system affects a contractor's payment, it is the NHS's responsibility to ensure that the contractors get paid accurately. There was concern over proposed cuts to NHS BSA funding inadvertently affecting the accuracy of payments to contractors

It was recommended that:

- **PSNC writes to the Minister to insist that any systems contractors rely on for accurate payments are not compromised as a result of cost saving programmes.**

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

The information in the agenda was noted. If there were any comments for the consultations, please submit these to the office before the end of November.

Statistics

The information in the agenda was noted.

Any other business

Kirit Patel wondered why we are still experiencing shortages due to the strength of the pound at the moment.

Mark Burdon asked what PSNC was doing about the impact of the increased living wage on contractors' income? Mike Dent confirmed that we have indicative figures and that we have requested further information from some of the large multiples which will then feed into negotiations.

Mark Burdon also raised an issue regarding a delay in payment of pre-registration trainee payments. This delay is a result of contractors having to send payment forms to the GPhC who are taking some time to send a notification to NHS England resulting in some salary payments not being received. Is there a way that requirements requesting GPhC sign-off could be streamlined?

It was recommended that:

- **PSNC write to the GPhC to request them to fast-track the sign off of pre-registration trainees to speed up payments to contractors**