



**DUDLEY LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL  
COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

**Dan Attry - LPC Chair**

## **Introduction**

This is the Annual Report of Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Our main focus has been the continued development of services locally under the New Pharmacy Contract and supporting contractors through the increasingly difficult times experienced by community pharmacy.

This report outlines the key activities that we have undertaken and highlights some important matters.

This has been quite a challenging year yet again for community pharmacy!

## **Working arrangements of the Committee**

We have a great, committed team who have worked hard for the Contractors throughout the year.

The Committee met on 11 occasions during the year.

In addition to these meetings, the Executive team have met on several occasions to plan and process the Committee's day to day business.

LPC representatives attend a number of local meetings such as the Prescribing Subcommittee, Controlled Drugs Local Intelligence Network, Area Clinical Effectiveness Committee, Primary Care Development Committee & Community Pharmacy Development Group

Last year, Stephen Noble took over as Chief Officer and you will have received communications and numerous briefings throughout the year from him keeping you updated with current news and reminders on tasks that you, as Contractors, need to carry out e.g. Quality Payments, CPAF, audits, training etc.

A WhatsApp group has been set up for contractors/pharmacists to keep in touch, and it's good to see a number of you making good use of it.

We hope that you have found our efforts to communicate with you and keep you updated, both useful and informative.

We have continued to meet regularly (monthly) with our neighbouring LPC representatives' group - CPWM (Community Pharmacy West Midlands). As a result of this joint working, we have managed to attain and retain services across LPC areas (e.g. Black Country – Pharmacy First Scheme). CPWM has increased in representation to mirror the new enlarged Midlands NHS England footprint, and now includes LPCs in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

CPWM has been very proactive in trying to influence the PSNC, and invited Simon Dukes to two of our meetings during the year, which he attended, and he fed back that he was impressed with both how we were working and the ideas being presented to him for future working.

We have sent representatives to a number of PSNC events during the year, including the Annual Conference. Some Committee members have attended PSNC Training Seminars deemed relevant for their development, and to keep abreast of developments both locally and nationally.

The LPC has been monitoring its financial position against budget during the year. We endeavour to ensure good stewardship of the funds and thanks goes to Diane Walker & Thomas Thomik for administering this role.

A copy of the Accounts is included in your AGM notice papers.

### **LPC/Local Authority/NHS England Joint working**

Michelle Dyoss in her LPC role as Community Pharmacy Development Officer, has supported a number of pharmacies during the year in getting accredited for services and HLP, so please feel free to contact her for advice on services, and to enable us to develop and maintain services for our pharmacies.

This year, we managed to obtain a flu vaccination service for Dudley Council workers, which proved successful. Overall, we did very well with flu, posting a 20% increase on 2018/19 in NHS flu vaccinations provided.

We continue to work with Public Health to ensure that we have retained as many of the services as possible. As stated in previous annual reports, some services are being decommissioned from individual pharmacies, due to lack of engagement/low activity from pharmacies

It is vital that pharmacies deliver on the services that they have been commissioned to provide, as we envisage further de-commissioning from those not providing when these services come up for renewal.

If you are a provider and circumstances change, please let the Commissioner know whether this is temporary or permanent, and please try to get engaged fully with the service, where possible.

The year saw some important changes in community pharmacy, with the announcement of the Contract Funding Assurance Framework (5-year deal), which is said to come with both challenges and opportunities. The fact remains that the government wants to see a shift towards services and away from a simple supply function model, and pharmacy must adapt as best as we can to ensure our viability.

We worked hard this year on supporting contractors with the new Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS), including facilitating the selection of your Primary Care Network (PCN) Community Pharmacy Leads, and we hope that you were able to maximise your claims to the money available for the scheme.

During the year, we bade farewell to Darren Reeves (CCA rep), and welcomed his replacement, Chetan Parmar.

We also bade farewell to two of our longer-serving members, Diane Walker (AIMp rep) and Matthew Cox (CCA rep).

Diane served on the Committee for over 20 years, a number of those years as treasurer, keeping a keen eye on our finances and providing excellent stewardship of your money.

Matthew Cox served on the Committee for 15 years, a number of those years as Vice Chair.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their service to the Committee and wish them all the very best in the roles they are undertaking now.

### **Challenges Ahead**

The biggest challenge facing Contractors during the year, was continued effects of the funding cuts. This was made worse by the incredible pressure put on our pharmacies due to the coronavirus pandemic, which hit us like a whirlwind.

The Committee would like to thank each, and every one of you, for your hard work and dedication in ensuring that the community pharmacy network was kept by and large intact, and for keeping our doors open to the public.

The biggest challenge facing community pharmacy at this time, is the fall-out from the pandemic. A number of GP Practices closed (some are still closed) to the public, as they developed new methods of seeing their patients (telephone/video consultations; increase in use of EPS prescriptions). This is having an impact on some pharmacies, and it is unlikely that we will ever revert to how things were before.

There is concern over whether the advance payments made to us will be recovered, and the PSNC is in negotiations with the Department of Health over this.

PQS criteria for part 1 and an advance notice of what part 2 will look like, has been released by PSNC, and we would encourage you all to start preparing and collating the required evidence now, so that you are not under pressure nearer deadline day

We are conscious of the fact that PCNs appear to have been put on a back-burner during COVID-19, but it is important that links are kept with these networks, and community pharmacy does not get excluded going forward. We will be supporting the PCN Community Pharmacy Leads in this endeavour.

You should be aware of David Wright's review and proposals for new PSNC and LPC working and structures, which we are hoping to expand on at the AGM.

One of the proposals is that there should be less LPCs, and each LPC representing a minimum of 200 contractors. This has implications for us, and our neighbouring Black Country LPCs, and is an area that we will have to explore going forward.

Your Committee has worked extremely hard to generate more potential income for you, the Contractors, and to raise the profile of Community Pharmacy to Commissioners. We do hope that you appreciate and support the work that is being done on your behalf.

**Dan Attry**  
**LPC Chair**