



DUDLEY LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Introduction

This is the Annual Report of Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. 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 again for community pharmacy!

Working arrangements of the Committee

We have a good, 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

You will have received communications and numerous briefings throughout the year from Pete Szczepanski (Chief Officer) 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. We hope that you have found them useful and informative.

We have continued to meet regularly (monthly) with our neighbouring LPC representatives' group - CPWM (Community Pharmacy West Midlands) along with the NHS England Area Team. As a result of this joint working, we have managed to attain services across LPC areas (e.g. Black Country – Pharmacy First Scheme).

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.

Communication with you, our contractors, is an area that we are constantly working on. WE have made improvements to our website; you receive regular briefings from our Chief Officer and occasional calls via our buddying system. If you have suggestions for how we can communicate with you, please contact us.

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 to enable us to develop and maintain services for our pharmacies. We continue to work with Public Health to ensure that we have retained as many of the services as possible. However, some services were decommissioned due to lack of engagement/low activity from pharmacies. As we have stated in the past, 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.

We have worked hard on behalf of contractors in chasing Solutions 4 Health for monies owed for provision of the Champix Supply Service, and we had to advise a suspension of the service until this was rectified. We are pleased to say that we managed to get all pharmacies paid up in full. Not all LPCs have been able to report this success.

Unfortunately, this service suspension resulted in patients unable to get Champix treatment, but we believed that the LPC and contractors needed to make a stand, particularly in this financial climate.

During the year, we bade farewell to Mohammed Mahroof (CCA rep) at the beginning of the new Committee in April, and welcomed his replacement, Darren Reeves.

Peter Szczepanski, our Chief Officer left the committee at the end of December, to concentrate on his other commitments, and we thank him for his enthusiasm and his time on the committee.

Stephen Noble has taken on this role and you will have been receiving newsletters and briefings from him since January of this year.

Challenges Ahead

The biggest challenge facing Contractors during the year, was continued effects of the funding cuts. A couple of weeks ago, the Contract Funding Assurance Framework (5-year deal) was announced, and we are all analysing what this will mean for community pharmacy

There is a definite shift towards services and we will need to adapt to obtain the money that is drifting from dispensing supply to the service element of the global sum, The committee will be looking at ways to support you with training and briefings as more information becomes available.

The biggest challenge on the horizon are Primary Care Networks, which community pharmacy will need to engage with going forward. Dudley will comprise 6 PCNs across the borough, and the LPC intends to seek representation in all of these networks.

More information about these new structures will be given at our AGM – so please come along!

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. This has required a lot of time and commitment from Committee members, and we hope that you appreciate and support the work that is being done on your behalf.

Dan Attry
LPC Chair