



**Community
Pharmacy
Dudley**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2022/23**

**Scot Taylor
Community Pharmacy Dudley Chair**



Introduction

This is the Annual Report of Community Pharmacy Dudley (previously known as Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee) for the period April 1st. 2022 to March 31st. 2023. Our focus has been the continuing development of services locally and supporting contractors through the increasingly tough times experienced by community pharmacy.

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

Officers and Committee Work

We continue to have a great team who have worked hard for contractors throughout the year. The Committee met on 11 occasions during the year, six via Zoom, and five face-to-face meetings, including our Annual General Meeting.

Committee representatives attend local meetings such as the Prescribing Subcommittee, Controlled Drugs Local Intelligence Network & Area Clinical Effectiveness Committee. Regional meetings such as MAPCOG, with NHS England Midlands team, and the newly expanded Community Pharmacy Midlands were also participated in, generally by our Chief Officer, Stephen Noble.

Stephen continues to communicate with local contractors, pharmacists, and their supporting staff, through newsletters, the LPC website, and the WhatsApp messaging channel. This has been proven to be popular with all that sign up to join it and can be a way for us all to get messages out very quickly. We would encourage you to visit the website which is constantly being updated, and now includes refreshed graphics to reflect the change from Dudley LPC to Community Pharmacy Dudley. The use of interactive maps to show pharmacies open on Bank Holidays has been introduced, and we are rolling out more maps to reflect those pharmacies offering specific services.

In July 2022, the committee welcomed Jayne Robinson as Pharmacy Support Officer, and Richard Smith as Project Implementation and Support Officer followed in October. Both Richard and Jayne have had extensive careers in community pharmacy locally, and have been employed to support services, in particular GP-CPCS. This was fully funded through an NHSE Midlands Team initiative, where money was made available to LPCs for employing people into such roles. Many pharmacies have benefitted from their input, and we would like to thank them for all their efforts throughout the year.

Both Jayne and Richard have worked with Michelle Dyoss, Community Pharmacy Development Officer, to deliver training and accreditation for local services and support for national services. Please contact any of them for help or advice, to enable us and you to increase services income from our pharmacies.



Finances

We have been monitoring our financial position against budget during the year, and endeavour to ensure good stewardship of the funds and thanks goes to Nick Holden for administering this role. A copy of the Accounts is included in your AGM notice papers.

External Partners

We continue to work closely with local agencies such as Dudley Public Health, Dudley Integrated Health & Care, Dudley Group of Hospitals Trust, Healthwatch Dudley, and Brook Sexual Health. In addition, we engage with neighbouring trusts from across the Black Country, as well as NHS England Midlands Team, NHS Midlands & Lancashire Business Support Unit, and the Black Country ICB. It was with some pleasure that we learnt that the ICB had engaged our former Chair, Dan Attry, into the position of ICS Head of Community Pharmacy Clinical Services, and we continue to work closely with Dan to support him in ICB-wide pilots and projects.

These collaborations are starting to bear fruit, in that we are having more of a say in the way community pharmacy is represented at these regional levels, and that we can be relied upon to form trustworthy partnerships in delivering health goals across the region of the West Midlands.

Community Pharmacy Black Country

In June 2021, contractors were required to vote on proposals put forward by the Review Steering Group, looking at reforming the PSNC and LPC structures, and working arrangements.

One of those proposals was that there should be less LPCs, representing a minimum of 200 contractors. This had implications for us, and our neighbouring LPCs (Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton), and the Black Country ICB. Officers of the four committees met throughout the year and came up with a set of proposals on how best to go forward to serve contractors throughout the Black Country, in forming Community Pharmacy Black Country (CPBC).

A timetable was set and agreed by all four LPCs, which reflected the following.

- Full merger of the four would be completed no later than March 2025.
- Committee size would be twelve, with three local representatives from each of the four existing LPC areas.
- June 2023 elected committees would be restricted to eight members.
- Working groups would be set up, mainly from Chairs, Chief Officers, and Treasurers, to start to align the four different sets of operations, particularly in finance and governance.

The four LPC's Chairs and Chief Officers were already working closely together and sharing some of the duties across the ICB footprint, but a combined CPBC LPC body would represent over 270 contractors, tasked with delivering more representation and value.



Community Pharmacy Dudley

As mentioned earlier, Dudley LPC became Community Pharmacy Dudley after an extensive rebranding exercise by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (now branded as Community Pharmacy England).

We have adopted all the branding proposals, using the new logos, fonts, and colours across our range of communications. This includes the website, newsletters, WhatsApp, and email messages. We hope our contractors like the refreshed image, which we believe will give us a stronger identity both locally and nationally and will also reflect in our upcoming CPBC guise.

Goodbyes and Hellos

During the year, we had many changes to the committee, reflecting the reduction in size agreed at CPBC level, retirements, other commitments, and rebalancing the committee makeup to reflect the change in contractor base.

Amanjeet Grewal, Vijay Lad, and our Chair, Mo Kolia, all departed during the year, and we wish them all the best for the future. We would also like to thank them for all their years of service and dedication to the Committee.

We also welcomed in the June elections, Rifat Asghar-Hussain and Olutayo Arikawe, representing independent contractors, and Salman Ahmad, and Shamil Patel, representing AIMp contractors. These new appointments reflect the changes in contractor base from CCA members to the AIMp/Independent sector, and we will monitor this to continue to reflect the makeup of pharmacy contractors locally.

Sadly, Nick Holden, our Treasurer, lost his position on the committee as CCA representative, but due to all the upcoming changes and challenges ahead in LPC mergers, we decided to keep him on in his Treasurer role as an officer, independent of the committee. I was elected the new Chair from June 2023, and we are in the process of electing a Vice-Chair into the role.

Future Challenges

Workforce continues to be a major issue, both at community pharmacy level and more generally within the ICB footprint. We will support any initiative to alleviate these, which will include upskilling new and existing pharmacy team members, to take advantage of pharmacy services now exempt from VAT.

The movement of local Dudley-based services from Solutions4Health to a new supplier is being looked upon as an opportunity for us to engage on your behalf, and to work more closely with them for the benefit of contractors and the wider population. As always, health outcomes should remain paramount.

We will do as much as possible to support contractors and their teams in engaging with and delivering new and existing services. This may be by training and development, or the supplying of relevant information and where to find it. The upcoming NHS Common Conditions Service and the training around it is a good example, and we will strive to make sure it hits the ground running.



We do ask if contractors and their staff would engage more with us, by reading our emails, attending training events, and coming along to our Annual General Meetings, which are normally held in September. We always try to put something on that is both informative and entertaining to pharmacy staff.

Conclusion

Your committee has worked extremely hard to generate more potential income for you and to raise the profile of Community Pharmacy both locally and regionally. We do hope that you appreciate and support the work that is being done on your behalf, and we encourage you to actively engage with us. Help us to help you!

Scot Taylor
Chair
Community Pharmacy Dudley