

South Staffordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2009 in The Meeting Room, Dean & Smedley, Horninglow Road, Burton upon Trent at 2.00pm

Members Present: Mr Siswick Mr Bullock Mr Asaria
 Mrs Heydon Mr Prokopa Mr Morrison
 Ms Woodall Ms Palfreyman Mr Smith
 Mr Wilson

In Attendance: Mr Phelan, Mr Turner

In the Chair: Mr Bullock

Business Agenda

19-1	<p>Apologies Mr Dean, Mr Hickman, Mr Galt, Mr Connolly, Dr Goldstein</p>	
19-2	<p>Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2008 were approved.</p>	
19-3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>128-11 – Electronic newsletter is available to anyone who signs up for it on the PSNC website.</p> <p>128-14 – PSNC Dinner – no guests have accepted yet. Janet Dean is the only MP to accept so far. Bookings need to be made by 20th January.</p>	
19-4	<p>Communications</p> <p>Correspondence listed in appendix 1 was received</p>	
19-5	<p>Finance There was no report</p>	
19-6	<p>Meetings Reports There were no reports</p>	
19-7	<p>PCT Report</p> <p>Mr Turner Extended hours – 73 out of 95 practices are now providing extended hours. The PCT is not aware that any pharmacy contractors have changed their hours in line with the extended hours but there have been no complaints about lack of access to pharmacy services during these hours.</p> <p>GPs were requested to open on Saturday mornings because of winter pressure. About 25% opened. Members requested the PCT to</p>	

	<p>inform them about extra opening hours so that they can ensure appropriate provision (even if usually open, appropriate staffing would need to be arranged if the surgery is open).</p> <p>The PCT has been reviewing the patient satisfaction surveys with Ruth to see if actions need to be taken.</p> <p>Mr Turner was asked why contractors were refused applications for early closing on Christmas eve. It was because surgeries were expected to be open as usual.</p> <p>Easter opening hours Any change in supplementary hours for late opening pharmacies would need to be made with 90 days notice. For 100 hours pharmacies any application to change their core hours at holiday times would require 90 days notice and the reallocation of the hours lost to other times that week. Such a request is subject to PCT approval and will take account of patients' expectations on availability of services.</p> <p>It was confirmed that any request to change hours by a 100 hours contractor at times such as Easter Sunday when they have to close cannot be allocated to official bank holidays if the pharmacy is open on the BH because the total hours for the BH are already included in the 100 hour total for the week and cannot be double counted.</p> <p>Contractors should be reminded that the Saturday 26th December 2009 is not a bank holiday – the official bank holiday is Monday 28th December. Contractors who do not wish to open on Saturday 26th December 2009 must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) notify the PCT with 90 days notice of their intention to close if their Saturday opening hours are all supplementary hours b) apply to the PCT with 90 days notice for a change in core hours if some or all of their Saturday opening hours are core hours. The core hours not provided on that Saturday would have to be allocated to another day in that week. 	
--	---	--

Strategy Agenda

19-8	<p>Quality and Performance</p> <p>NHS governance arrangements From time to time PSNC receive reports from LPCs about the behaviour of PCT staff towards the LPC or contractors. PCTs were required to adopt a Code of Practice in 2002 which sets out a requirement for NHS managers to observe principles such as honesty, integrity, responsibility, respect for patient confidentiality and having proper regard to the best interests of public and patients.</p> <p>New Pandemic Flu guidance</p>	
------	---	--

	<p>Section 3 of the guidance – PCTs should have robust business continuity plans in place. There has been no contact between the PCT and LPC since the pharmacy continuity plans were sent to the PCT in August 2006 with the names of three members who were willing to sit on the pandemic flu steering group. The briefing on pandemic flu planning issued by the PCT in July 2008 outlines the challenges. It suggests a buddy plan for practices and pharmacies could help to cope with increasing demand and maintain access to care. A variety of access points for anti-virals will be set up. The briefing confirms a strengthening of engagement with community pharmacy. Plans were due to be in place by December 2008. There has been no engagement with community pharmacy through the LPC so far. Members agreed that contact should be made again with the PCT.</p> <p>GP extended hours – further notice from East Staffordshire of extended hours.</p>	
19-9	<p>Commissioning and Services</p> <p>Service Development Managers Report Ruth had a meeting to attend at the PCT so a written report was distributed to members.</p> <p>PCT Pharmacy Lead The job description and person specification have been written and the post will be advertised when graded by HR.</p> <p>Several meetings with Dr Ballard (medical director and PEC chair) – he is considering setting up a primary care development unit at the PCT to co-ordinate the development of all primary care services.</p> <p>Training Sessions have been set up for smoking cessation update, drug misuse and incontinence in all three localities. Sponsorship has been arranged for the incontinence training evening. Peter Prokopa has arranged sponsorship for smoking cessation in Stafford and Carol Heydon will try to arrange sponsorship for the other training sessions.</p> <p>A further workshop on EHC and Chlamydia was held in November. 60 pharmacies are accredited to operate the minor ailments service, 46 to operate the Chlamydia service and 67 to operate the free EHC service.</p> <p>A further minor ailments training session may be organised in February/ March.</p> <p>Ruth is planning to develop and Pharmacy Services Pack for each PBC consortium. Members asked that contractors should also receive the pack and there must be a system in place to update the information.</p> <p>Ruth is liaising with Amanda Jones who is working with Allan Turner</p>	

	<p>on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment to ensure that LPC input is included.</p> <p>Members were informed that PCT guidance on PNAs was issued this month by NHS Employers part of the NHS Confederation. A toolkit with recommendations of content will be issued later in the year.</p> <p>Ruth attended an update meeting on contracting from community pharmacies in line with world class commissioning and found it very useful.</p> <p>Littleton Ward project – there are 9 pharmacies signed up for the scheme</p> <p>PCT courier service – Ruth has been told that the courier service now only goes to pharmacies once a month. – during the first week of the month. Members were not aware of any change.</p> <p>Ruth has been asked what information the LPC would like to be put on the PCT website for pharmacists. She is considering ideas around appraisal and CPD and requests members to let her know of any other ideas.</p> <p>LPC Support seminar on Vascular Checks</p>	
19-10	<p>Regulation</p> <p>Application by Daventry Medical Services Ltd at Wheaton Aston. The application is not complete. The identified superintendent is not registered with the RPSGB. Wheaton Aston is a reserved location in a controlled locality so only the necessary or desirable test applies. Members agreed that the application should be complete. There is no provision of pharmaceutical services from persons included on the pharmaceutical list within 3 miles of Wheaton Aston. An appropriate response will be sent.</p> <p>Application for a minor relocation by Boots UK Ltd from 6 Giggetty Lane to Planks Lane in Wombourne. A minor relocation by this pharmacy to a similar location has previously been approved. It is a minor relocation over 500m. An appropriate response will be sent.</p> <p>EPS release 2 smartcard arrangements Guidance documents will be sent to contractors about smartcard access, re-setting passcodes and renewing certificates and unlocking smartcards online in preparation for release 2. Release 2 is expected to begin initial implementation in early 2009 but it may be some time before national deployment.</p> <p>The consultation on proposals for creating a new professional regulator for pharmacy was published on 9th December 2008. Closing date for responses is 9th March 2009.</p>	

19-11	<p>Information</p> <p>PMI The transfer of insurance business to NPA Insurance Ltd was approved on 15th December 2008. The final distribution of assets should be completed by April 2009.</p> <p>Sharpsbin The name of Sharpsbin was changed to Sharpsguard a year ago. The concession to continue using the name Sharpsbin on prescriptions ceases from February 2009.</p> <p>Prescription separation Red separators will be supplied to contractors to separate broken bulk and calendar pack prescriptions where necessary from the main bundle for submission to the pricing authority. This is not mandatory.</p> <p>Eclipse Pharmacy system has been withdrawn from EPS release 2 compliance testing.</p> <p>Dispensing Doctors The Health Minister has announced that the government has rejected changes to dispensing doctor criteria as outlined in the White Paper.</p>	
19-12	<p>Local Association Reports There were no reports</p>	
19-13	<p>Revision of the LPC Constitution</p> <p>Members debated the tracked changes second draft of the LPC constitution.</p> <p>The two clauses causing the most comment from LPCs were: The requirement to be a pharmacist Provision for deputies The current clause will have to remain if contractors wish that membership of the LPC is to be restricted to pharmacists only. If included as an optional clause then its inclusion or removal will have to be debated at the special meeting will have to be decided. If included in the constitution, but not as an optional clause, it could still be removed by contractors at the meeting. The final draft will include the clause and a two thirds majority vote will be needed to remove it.</p> <p>The clause relating to deputies has been removed. Observers will be able to attend. They will be able to take part in debate but will have no voting rights.</p> <p>The place of right for non CCA companies will be available if the company has 8% or more of the contracts in the LPC area.</p> <p>If the CCA does not appoint members within 3 months the LPC may</p>	

	<p>appoint members to fill vacancies.</p> <p>The 3 absence rule is retained. Confirmed by a vote of members.</p> <p>Members agreed to accept the revised draft of the constitution without further amendment.</p>	
19-14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Monitored Dosage System There is increasing demand for MDS. Problems arise when medication is changed in the middle of a course of treatment. If a change in medication means an addition or change to an existing MDS pack then that pack has to be discarded for safety reasons. A new prescription should be issued and a new pack prepared. GPs are not always accepting of that process. It was agreed that the LMC should be informed of the need to issue a new prescription when there is a change in medication.</p> <p>It was reported that Acorn Care Agency staff are directing prescriptions for the people in their care to a particular pharmacy so that they will be supplied in MDS packs. The agency is not following the advice of the Health and Social Care Medicines Forum on assistance with medicines and the use of MDS. Such practice can have safety implications. A contractor has reported that a patient whose repeat medicines were directed to the pharmacy for MDS packs received a separate prescription for a different analgesic which she took to her local pharmacy. The analgesic was a different formula to the analgesic in her MDS pack and fortunately she asked her local pharmacist if she could add the new tablet to her MDS pack. Had she done so without asking for advice it could have led to double dosing on analgesics. The matter will be brought to the attention of the Medicines Forum.</p>	
19-15	<p>Next Meeting 11th February 2009 at Dean & Smedley, Horninglow Road, Burton-upon-Trent at 2.00pm</p> <p>The meeting closed at 4.20pm</p>	