



## **PSNC Annual Report – Community Pharmacy Wales Financial Year 2002/3**

What a year 2002/3 has been for Community Pharmacy Wales. CPW has worked through the year towards forming the single all-Wales organisation community pharmacy needs. Fully supported by contractors it has completed the reorganisation. It has also sought status as the statutory consultative body for community pharmacy in Wales. Reorganisation gives CPW budgetary control for the first time – allowing the organisation to determine its needs against the Wales agenda. CPW is fit for purpose and equipped for the future.

The new organisation formally stood up on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003 and is currently based in temporary office accommodation in Cardiff Bay pending the establishment of new permanent offices at Caspian Point later in the summer. The 3 Regional subcommittees (North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South East Wales) also stood up on the same day. Your Chairman, Phil Parry, continues to sit on the PSNC as the Welsh representative. Full details of the new organisation can be found on our web page at [www.cpwales.org.uk](http://www.cpwales.org.uk). You are encouraged to visit the site in order to remain abreast of current developments in Community Pharmacy in Wales.

During the year CPW continued to monitor the work of the Prescription Information and Pricing Service of Health Solutions Wales (HSW). The recovery program of HSW brought pricing back up to date in late 2002. The pricing of the frozen six months prescriptions for contractors who chose full pricing, was completed early in 2003. CPW had also been in discussion with HSW to simplify the rules regarding prescriptions returned for clarification. We applied pressure when the prescription switching system was failing. This resulted in HSW replacing their software to avoid the gross errors. CPW also discussed the new look statements, with better information, now provided to contractors.

CPW works closely with PSNC and receives services and support from them. The major issues at PSNC of: Remuneration, Reimbursement, Generics, Repeat Dispensing and Zero Discount proposals etc. have been monitored by CPW.

CPW received presentations from the Wales Counter Fraud Unit. Useful two-way discussion raised and cleared concerns about the operation and scope of Health Authority counter fraud officers. Having received assurances about the implications of the proposed Counter Fraud Charter, the Chairman was authorised by CPW to participate in the public signing. This took place at the National Assembly with the Minister Jane Hutt, Mr Jim Gee and other health and social care representatives.

Throughout 2002 the Chairman of CPW had been involved in the Electronic Generation and Transmission of Prescriptions Scoping Pilot. The output of the study would inform the eventual structure of the system, which would carry the information necessary in Wales. The study outcome, though unpublished, looked at a wide and inclusive system. It would inform and be an integral part of the Information Management and Technology strategy for Wales and the Pharmacy Strategy for Wales.

CPW had, after protracted discussion, secured All Wales rates for the devolved services of Oxygen, Out of Hours Services and Advice to homes. For most of Wales this represented an improvement in payments to a more realistic level. CPW intends to expend the principle of nationally negotiated rates for locally implemented services to other activity.

CPW secured the services of GJW Wales as our political monitoring and public affairs support. This resource had proved important in our work. CPW were also pleased to be able to appoint their new Chief Executive Officer who is Peter Haydn Jones OBE as the first step in providing the All Wales staff structure.

The year has seen the Welsh Assembly moving ahead with the Health and Pharmacy agenda with the publishing of the consultation document "Remedies for Success" in December 2002, which addressed the key community pharmacy issues in Wales. It provided a road map for the future and CPW were heavily involved in the creation of the document. However, progress to a full policy document had not happened by the end of March 2003. This was disappointing and CPW remain concerned that the work had stalled.

The OFT Report was released on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2003. CPW, in concert with activity in England by PSNC and the NPA, began a series of meetings with the Minister Jane Hutt, Assembly members and Welsh Assembly Government officials. The joint action in Wales resulted in the National Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government rejecting the report. CPW and its Executive have continued to lobby both in Westminster and in Cardiff. To date it appears that the Welsh Assembly will respond independently of Westminster, as health is a devolved matter.

Finally, the Auditor General for Wales had released a report in March on the Procurement of Primary Care Medicines. Dealing with the report is a major challenge for CPW. There were positive recommendations that support medicines management, original pack dispensing and supplementary prescribing. However those positive elements were spoiled by unproven and damaging sections, which showed an interest in the central procurement of medicines. The report recommended that pilots should be established. CPW is concerned that pilots would need to be large enough to demonstrate results and that this would, of itself, damage the pharmacy and supply chain network to the detriment of patients. CPW will continue to robustly challenge some of the findings of this report.