

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2009 7.30 pm at Deer Park Business Centre, Kennford Exeter.

Members in Attendance:

Mr David Bearman (Chair)
Mr Mike Barbour
Miss Nerys Cadvan-Jones
Mr David Chapman
Mr Phil Dawes
Mr Martin Frankland
Mr Simon Gardner

Mr Andy Lawson
Mr Michael Lennox
Mr David Norsworthy
Mrs Sian Retallick
Mr Paul Stevens
Mr George Wickham

In Attendance

Mrs Sue Taylor – Chief Officer
Mr Mark Stone – Project Pharmacist
Mr Kevin Budden and Mr Steve Budden as observers

Kathryn Jones – Secretary

1/442 Apologies

Mrs Brenda Taylor, Mr Martin Frankland

1/443 Register of Interests

There were no changes to the Register of Interests although Mike Barbour informed the meeting he has taken over the role of Acting Chair for Avon LPC.

1/444 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2009

Nerys Cadvan Jones asked for a small amendment to be noted in the minutes regarding the paperwork for domiciliary MURs. The minute should have read that the standard MUR form should be used. The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2009 were then signed as a correct record.

1/445 Actions arising from the minutes

1/416 Controlled Drugs

No update has been received from the PCT

Action: Sue to raise with Solveig Sanson on 15th December.

1/437 Information Governance

Mark Stone and Simon Gardner reported that there are a significant number of actions that pharmacies will be required to undertake. The baseline entry needs to be ready by April 2010; contractors to achieve level 2 by April 2011. The final version of the Toolkit is due out at the end of January 2010. PSNC has notified that a proportion of excess margin will be used in 2009-10 to inclusion provision for progressing information governance requirements. The Chemist and Druggist had recently published a useful article. It was agreed to include discussion on the requirements at the next round of locality forums.

Action: Michael Lennox to forward a document he has received to the Secretariat.

1/438 PNA

It was reported that all the CCA members in Devon will participate in PNAs, and the appropriate information will be sent in. There has been a change in the pharmacy regulations regarding changes to supplementary hours.

1/438 Fees for domiciliary MURs

Sue reported on a fee structure which had been negotiated with NHS Devon, for undertaking domiciliary MURs. The pilot was going to be run in three localities in Devon. A letter will be sent out by NHS Devon to the pharmacies in the three areas involved asking for expressions of interest.

1/446 Finance Report month end 30th November 2009

The finance report for November was tabled at the meeting and a verbal report given by Andy Lawson.

1/447 Secretariat Report

Members noted the Secretariat Report.

1/448 Contractual issues

Application for new premises 100 hours a week exemption – Asda Stores Ltd, Clovelly Road, Bideford

The following members declared an interest and left the meeting. Nerys Cadvan-Jones, David Bearman, David Chapman, Andy Lawson, Michael Lennox, Simon Gardner

The application meets all the criteria for an exempt pharmacy.

Action: LPC to respond.

It was noted that two 100 hour pharmacies had just opened, the Asda Pharmacy in Plymouth and Tesco Pharmacy in Crediton.

1/449 LPC Election

Sue Taylor was appointed the Returning Officer.

A discussion was held on the size of the new LPC. It was agreed to take a vote on the number of committee members. No members voted for 13; 4 members voted for 14 and 7 members voted for 15. Therefore the new Devon LPC will have 15 members, 10 CCA members; 5 independent contractor members.

Actions: Notification to be sent to the CCA asking them to ensure representation from right across the locality and companies.

Nomination forms to be sent out to contractors on the 4th January 2010.

1/450 LPC Self Evaluation

The LPC Self Evaluation form was circulated to LPC members in mid November. Nine responses were received. The responses were similar in terms of understanding of the work that the LPC/Secretariat carries out.

The maximum score a LPC can achieve is 111, the highest score from the returned evaluations was 86, the lowest score was 54. The average score was 74.

The sections that had the lowest scores were;

Business and strategic planning – Amber - Green

Priority areas for consideration – Strategic plan integrated with PNA/Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Governance – the score was higher with green and a few Green+

LPC Structure and management achieved a higher number of Green +. Some of the lower marks were regarding staff appraisals for members of the Secretariat team, and members may not have been familiar with the actual process.

Priority areas for consideration; skills gap analysis, LPC member competencies, regular meetings for staff/training needs addressed, LPC member expenses management report.

Communication

Priority areas for consideration – contractor engagement – gaining views from contractors prior to meetings, issue of press releases about pharmacy.

It was noted that Mark Stone is trained to deal with press enquiries.

Contract Development

Priority area for consideration – promoting pharmacy to the public

PCO and Stakeholder Relationships

Priority area for consideration – High level relationship with patient groups

PBC and other commissioning

Priority area for consideration – Representation on care pathway groups, involvement in PBC locality groups, and scrutiny of local commissioning.

It was agreed to wait for the new LPC committee before nominating a lead LPC member for the Self Evaluation Process and a member to lead for each identified work stream.

It was felt that contractor survey results could be merged with the self evaluation which would inform the strategy of the new LPC.

Action: Simon Gardner, David Bearman and Mark Stone to work together on the survey and subsequent action planning.

1/451 Contractor Survey

It was felt the survey should be sent out on gold paper and go out to locums as well as contractors, more than one copy could be sent to the pharmacies for distribution. It was agreed that £10 book tokens would be sent to the first 50 surveys returned. The survey could be distributed at LPC forums as well, for those who had not already responded.

A different survey would be prepared for organizations that the LPC work with.

Actions: Simon Gardner and Mark Stone prepare survey.

LPC members to chase non-responders.

Look at survey monkey (on line survey tool).

1/452 Consultation on DH Regulations and associated guidance to PCTs on PNAs

The consultation ends on 28th February 2010. Final PNAs have to be signed up to by the PCTs by 2011. From April 2011 the PNAs will be used to determine Control of Entry. Generally the understanding of PNAs within the profession is poor although very important. It was agreed that the LPC should respond to the consultation. Sue is attending a Primary Care Contracting listening event on 21st January, she will then feedback to the Committee.

Action: Agenda item for LPC meeting on 15th February 2010.

1/453 Global Sum Devolvement

It was reported that PCTs are getting interested in the devolvement of the global sum. Local intelligence suggests that they may start looking to reducing item growth after April 2010. Mike Barbour reported that South Gloucester PCT had sent a letter out to contractors regarding the use of seven day prescriptions to fund monitored dosage systems. The LPC is attending a meeting with the Devon PCT, Social Care and Complex Care leads to discuss 7 day prescriptions and compliance support. Members were reminded that if a pharmacy is presented with 4x7 day prescriptions, supply should be for one week's medication at a time. If a prescription is for 28 days, contractors are obliged to give 28 days worth of tablets etc not 4 x 7 days, otherwise they are overriding the right of the prescriber. This matter needs to be addressed and contact made with the PEC Chairs. There is a need to be clear what powers PCTs have. George Wickham informed the meeting that Ventolin rather than salbutamol prescribing is being recommended to all GPs in Devon.

There are workshops being run in January 2010 via Primary Care Contracting. Sue has a place booked at the local meeting.

Action: Brief members at next meeting after attending PCC event.

1/454 Poor Performing Pharmacies

David Bearman framed a discussion that he would like to have at the next LPC meeting regarding poor performance and the level of involvement that the committee felt the LPC should have. Across Devon PCT poor performance criteria is not adequate and has not been agreed. He asked at what point the LPC stopped supporting a contractor. It was agreed that information regarding specific issues should not be divulged to the Committee. David Chapman felt that supporting a contractor depends on the attitude of the contractor involved. If they show little interest in being supported and improving the situation, they have made their own decision. People can't be forced to improve.

1/455 Any Other Business

C&D

To be discussed with David on Friday.

Plymouth tPCT – Stop Smoking

A meeting had been held with James Glanville and Oksana Riley who are about to commission stop smoking with the support of a voucher scheme. It was felt the proposed fee of £1.50 was too low. Reimbursement needed to reflect the amount of time taken to provide the service.

Action: Sue to obtain feedback from contractors in Plymouth and feedback to the PCT

Discharge of patients from Derriford

A meeting is due to be arranged between the PCT, Derriford and the LPC to consider the implications of hospital discharge arrangements relating to the provision of Monitored dosage systems and the development of a protocol that would enable the hospital pharmacy to assess patient’s compliance support needs.

Flu Vaccinations

The SHA has asked if pharmacists will undertake vaccination of 0-5 year olds as GPs do not want to undertake them because of capacity issues within primary care. However, it appears GPs are now prepared to do them. Rather than turn the offer down as pharmacies do not want to undertake this piece of work, it was felt that the LPC should ask how pharmacy can help in any other areas in the future.

Out of Stock items

David Bearman asked if LPC members are finding that more drugs are out of stock. He asked members to highlight problems to the PSNC.

PBC Board - Torbay

It was reported that Karen O’Brien had been invited to sit on the Torbay PBC Board representing Community Pharmacy, but supported by the LPC. She will provide feedback to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Date of the next meeting – Monday 11th January 2010 at the Deer Park.

Signed

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