

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th February 2010, 7.30 pm at Deer Park Business Centre, Kennford Exeter.

Members in Attendance:

Mr Simon Gardner (Chair)

Mr Mike Barbour

Miss Nerys Cadvan-Jones

Mr David Chapman

Mr Phil Dawes

Mr Martin Frankland

Mrs Ali Hayes

Mrs Sian Retallick

Mr Paul Stevens

In Attendance

Mrs Sue Taylor – Chief Officer

Mr Mark Stone – Project Pharmacist

Kathryn Jones – Secretary

Mrs Karen O'Brien as an observer

1/470 Apologies

Mrs Brenda Taylor, Mr David Bearman, Mr Andy Lawson, Mr Michael Lennox, Mr David Norsworthy, Mr George Wickham

1/471 Welcome and Introductions

Simon Gardner agreed to Chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair. He welcomed Karen O'Brien to the meeting as an observer.

1/472 Register of Interests

Phil Dawes requested another copy of the Register of Interests document. David Chapman has moved to Lloyds Pharmacy from Boots/Alliance. A new form was completed before the meeting.

Action: Send Register of Interest form to Phil Dawes

1/473 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2010

A minor amendment was made to Minute 1/460. A comma was inserted instead of a full stop to the sum of £1,566. The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2010 were then signed as a correct record.

1/474 Actions arising from the minutes

1/462 Global Sum

Evidence of the PCTs saving money at the expense of pharmacy has been flagged with Sue Sharpe at PSNC who has subsequently contacted DH with evidence that the local activity is related to the achievement of regional QUIPP targets.

1/469 Any Other Business

As directed audit letter – Devon PCT

Devon PCT appears to be taking no specific actions regarding non-responders to the multi-disciplinary audit. Sue has received a list of those contractors who did not return the paperwork for follow up.

Action: **Sue to contact contractors.**

1/475 Finance Report month end 31st January 2010

The finance report for January was tabled at the meeting and a verbal report given by Sue Taylor.

1/476 Secretariat Report

Members noted the Secretariat Report.

Nerys Cadvan-Jones queried the report about split doses of methadone and asked for clarification from Mark Stone.

It was also noted that the Inspector had commented that a faxed prescription for methadone would be considered with the need of the individual situation; however, he would not put this in writing. Members felt pharmacists should be able to defend their professional decision.

1/477 Contractual Issues

Co-Operative Pharmacy – preliminary consent to open a new pharmacy in the vicinity of Pool Park Road/Miers Road/Roberts Road, Plymouth.

The application had previously been approved by NHS Plymouth, but had expired. As there had been no material changes, it was agreed to submit the same response as for the previous application

Action: Send response to NHS Plymouth

Lloyds Pharmacy – preliminary consent to open a new pharmacy at St Aidens Court, West Malling Avenue, Ernesettle, Plymouth

Simon Gardner, Nerys Cadvan-Jones and David Chapman all declared an interest and left the meeting.

It was agreed that the neighbourhood should be defined as the River Tamar on the North and Western boundaries, and the A38 Tamar Bridge Road, and the Budshead Road to the South, and not as indicated in the application. There is a Co-Operative Pharmacy in the neighbourhood, which has detailed plans in place for a consultation room to be built within fourteen days; the pharmacy will then be able to offer advanced and enhanced services to the public. Members felt the proposed pharmacy was neither necessary nor desirable and did not support the application.

Action: Response to be sent to NHS Plymouth

1/478 MHRA Safety Alert – Care Homes Use of medicines

At the Torbay Sub-Committee meeting held recently, Iain Roberts had informed the meeting that the Care Homes LES was being de-commissioned, following the Torbay Care Trust undertaking an evaluation. Sue was concerned with the process and also that the LPC had not been consulted. Annemarie Ellard had undertaken an audit in her own pharmacy. It was agreed that Annemarie and Simon Gardner would work with Iain Roberts to come up with ideas how pharmacy could be involved in working with the Trust to retain some of the money from that income stream. Karen O'Brien informed the meeting that Simon Tapley from NHS Devon would be interested in a similar exercise. It was understood that local pharmaceutical advisors were being put forward to undertake the work in Devon.

Oksana Riley from NHS Plymouth has organized a Stakeholder Event on 20th April from 1.30pm – 4.30pm, and will be writing to independent contractors and Regional managers of the multiples.

Martin Frankland felt the wording on the alert was derogatory to pharmacists. Errors were caused by administration and prescribing, not dispensing by pharmacists.

Action: Sue to contact Simon Tapley from NHS Devon

1/479 Branded Generic Prescribing and cost reductions

Sue informed the meeting that the outcomes from the small group work at the LPC meeting held on 18th January had been used to formulate the LPC view which had been presented to the Devon Prescribing Task Group. A meeting has been scheduled with Ann James, the Chief Executive of NHS Devon on 12th March, when it is planned to escalate the problem to her.

In Plymouth, David Bearman had been asked to prepare a strategy paper to go to the PEC.

Torbay Care Trust has a LES in place for GPs to look at a range of savings. There is a tick list of ten products with a proposed saving of £320,000. The Care Trust's response to the CHUMS report, use of dressings and specials are also included in the savings.

Strong representation had been made back to Iain Roberts through the LPC Subcommittee, particularly about the aspect of using part of the pharmacy contractor's core funding to incentivize GPs. The Torbay Medicines Management will meet with the LPC to work out how savings can be made.

This issue has been flagged up to PSNC, Sue Sharpe had asked for evidence which she had subsequently raised with the DH.

It appears that the Strategic Health Authority are driving this matter forward through their Prescribing Improvement Programme, where each PCT has been tasked to effect efficiencies in response to the McKinsey report and QUIP. The Prescribing Improvements Reference Group is being chaired by Deborah Evans, CEO from Bristol. There appears to be no community pharmacy input to the reference group.

David Bearman had prepared a couple of slides for the members to consider. The first indicated that a short term book saving in the long term will cost more. The second that pharmacists should maybe move to a fee based structure.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the matter and local PCT activity needs to be raised with MPs but not the press or public at this stage as it is so complicated. Mike Barbour felt there was not a local solution as it was a national problem.

Action: Sue also to raise the matter with Chief Executives and Chairs of the Boards of the NHS Trusts in Devon

1/480 PBC Torbay

Karen O'Brien updated the meeting on the work she had been undertaking. She reported that all the GPs in Torbay have signed up to the PBC Group. Viv Thorn has been appointed Medical Director for Torbay Care Trust and is also on the PBC Group. Community Pharmacy in Torbay comes under remit of the Medical Director.

1/481 LPC Election

Six nominations had been received from contractors, and a vote was currently being undertaken with a closing date of 26th February.

Notification had been received from the CCA of the new CCA members. These were:-

Nerys Cadvan-Jones, Simon Gardner, Nigel Gray and Andy Lawson from Boots; Michael Lennox and David Chapman from Lloyds; Peter Hope and David Bearman from Co-Operative; Stephen O'Reilly from Sainsburys and Tony Perkins from Asda. Only one member is not a pharmacist.

1/482 Pharmacy Needs Assessments – Response to DOH consultation

The draft regulations had been published for consultation with a closing date of 28th February 2010. Sue had attended a listening event by the DOH in Birmingham. There is mandatory information that PCTs must include in their PNAs. Members considered the draft response that had been prepared by Sue and made several recommendations for inclusion. The meeting considered how localities may be defined in the future; Sue pointed out that the concept of neighbourhood would not exist. It was felt using electoral wards maybe an option. Control of Entry in its current format will cease on 31st March 2011 the LPC was clear that 100 hour pharmacies should not be able to reduce operating hours to the normal core 40 hours post March 2011, but must continue to deliver services at the same level as now. It was noted that the LES for extended hours had been withdrawn in Crediton.

Action: Sue to finalise the response and send it to DH.

1/483 Information Governance

It was reported that PCT led events have been organized for 22nd February in Exeter, and 1st March in Barnstaple. NHS Plymouth has an event on the 24th February, but currently nothing has been planned in Torbay.

1/484 Any Other Business

LPC representatives at events

Sue asked if a member of the LPC would be able to attend the NHS SW Workshop on the 9th March – “Promoting better working and learning between pharmacy and public health”. Mike Barbour volunteered.

Action: Book a place at the event for Mike Barbour.

End of Term Dinner

A booking has been made at St Olaves Hotel, Exeter on the 26th March.

Action: Details to be sent out to members.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Date of the next meeting – Monday 22nd March 2010 at the Deer Park.

Signed

Date.....