

DEVON LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2010, 7.30 pm at The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter.

Members in Attendance:

Mr George Wickham (Chair)
Mr Mike Barbour
Miss Nerys Cadvan-Jones
Mr David Chapman
Mr Phil Dawes
Mr Martin Frankland
Mrs Ali Hayes

Mr Andrew Lane
Mr Andy Lawson
Mr Michael Lennox
Mr David Norsworthy
Mrs Sian Retallick
Mr Paul Stevens

In Attendance

Mrs Sue Taylor – Chief Officer
Mr Mark Stone – Project Pharmacist
Kathryn Jones – Secretary
Mr Adrian Tebby and Mrs Karen O'Brien as observers

1/456 Apologies

Mrs Brenda Taylor, Mr David Bearman, Mr Simon Gardner, Mr Michael Lennox

1/457 Welcome and Introductions

George Wickham agreed to Chair the meeting in the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair. He welcomed Adrian Tebby and Karen O'Brien to the meeting as observers.

1/457 Register of Interests

Phil Dawes has acquired the Internet pharmacy, at Ivybridge and a new Register of Interests needs to be completed. David Norsworthy has acquired Lloyds in Topsham and also needs to complete a new form. In both cases the forms have been sent to them for completion.

1/458 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2009 were then signed as a correct record.

1/459 Actions arising from the minutes

1/416 Controlled Drugs

Sue has sent the PCT comments on the proposed Palliative Care LES last autumn but has had no response

1/437 Information Governance

The PSNC has circulated the Information Governance Workbook and Training Book. All information received at the Secretariat office is being put on the LPC website. Mark had met James Glanville and the Plymouth IG lead to discuss potential support for contractors. The PCT had offered to run an initial briefing session; LPC members supported this in principle.

Action: The relevant link on the website to be emailed to LPC members.

1/451 Contractor Survey

The LPC contractor survey is due to be sent out during the last week of January 2010 to all contractors.

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

Sue is attending a listening event later that week and would feedback to inform the LPC response.

Action: Prepare draft response to consultation and present to next LPC meeting.

1/453 Global sum devolvement

Although Sue had been booked to attend the meeting due to be held on 12 January her place had been cancelled as LPCs were now excluded from the meeting. A request had been made to representatives of the three PCTs for copies of any handouts they received at their meeting. PSNC are holding a policy day in February which Sue will attend.

1/460 Finance Report month end 31st December 2009

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

1/461 Secretariat Report

Members noted the Secretariat Report.

1/462 PSNC Update

Andrew Lane as the regional representative on PSNC gave the meeting an update.

This year could see a change in the political climate which will be influencing decisions. The NHS has significant financial issues. The Conservative party have indicated that they would give more power back to GPs, the Labour party want to control GPs. GPs are facing a 1% cut in their income year on year and are looking for opportunities to generate income.

Global Sum

The global sum is to be devolved to PCTs with effect from 1st April 2010. Although PCTs are to be told it is to be protected, they could manipulate local budgets in an attempt to reduce costs. The money is nationally ring fenced, although it is unclear what will happen post April 2010.

Action: Members were requested to flag any evidence of the PCT saving money at the expense of pharmacy to PSNC.

Cost of Service Enquiry

Price Waterhouse Cooper have been commissioned to undertake the enquiry. If contractors are approached for their views, they are requested to let the Secretariat know.

Independent Contractors representation on PSNC.

Andrew Lane reported that the PSNC Constitution had recently been changed regarding that status of independent contractors relating to regional representation on PSNC. An independent representative can now have 9 or less pharmacies to be recognized as an independent contractor.

MUR Fraud Enquiry

A statement had been issued to confirm this route for measuring MUR quality will not now be going ahead.

1/463 Consultation on generic substitution in primary care.

Mark reported that as part of the 2009 PPRS agreement the DOH were committed to implementing generic substitution in primary care, subject to discussion with affected parties. The DOH has launched a consultation with proposals for implementation. The consultation closes at the end of March 2010.

The three options for implementation that have been identified in the consultation are;

1. Do nothing
2. Introduce dispensing flexibility, but with specific exclusions, so that the arrangements do not apply to a selected group of products on an exempt list
3. To introduce dispensing flexibility, but limit the scheme in such a way that the arrangements only apply to a selected group of products on a select list. The consultation document includes a list of forty products that could form the first list for generic substitution.

The preferred option for the DH is Option 3 with an opt out endorsement for prescribers.

It was noted that the Ventolin switch in Plymouth had cost contractors a lot of money.

1/464 Seven day scripts and provision of compliance support.

Mark had prepared a break out session to enable LPC Members to have input into the LPC's arguments against local recommendations for prescribing switches that may impact on community pharmacy income. The members split into small groups to work through scenarios, the results would be used to prepare for the meeting with Devon PCT scheduled for the end of January.

David Chapman felt that although the arguments which were put forward at the meeting could be countered by the PCT, the LPC arguments must be more professional and include percentages, money, costs, patients questions, safety and issues about potential confusion. The PCT will not want a negative press.

Mark and David Bearman have to prepare a PEC Strategy Paper for Plymouth PCT in February.

Members were asked to send in patient specific stories, both positive and negative to the Secretariat, which will be forwarded to Jill Loader at the SHA on 23rd February.

1/465 Information Governance

Training has been arranged on 18th February for contractors in Plymouth. Both Devon PCT and Torbay Care Trust have been asked if they are able to offer support to contractors. Responses are awaited.

1/466 Community Pharmacy Conference – March 2010

Members were asked to contact the Secretariat if they would like to attend the conference.

1/467 End of Committee Term of Office

Members were asked for their views on an end of term dinner. It was agreed to send out a survey.

1/468 LPC PSNC Support Seminar NHS Policy Update

Events have been organized in London on 24th February and Leeds on 26th February. Members were asked to let the Secretariat know if they wished to attend either of the events.

1/469 Any Other Business

Change of date from 15th March to 22nd March 2010

The Community Pharmacy Conference takes place on 15th March, hence the need to move the date of the March LPC meeting.

As directed audit letter – Devon PCT

Martin Frankland had received a letter regarding the As Directed Audit. It stated only 112 pharmacies had participated out of 138, although this was an improvement on last year. In some cases the PCT did not know who had responded as pharmacy details had not been completed. Nerys Cadvan-Jones felt it had been of little value as it had been just a tick box exercise, and had only run for one week. There will be a re-audit in February. Members felt the PCT should include the name and address of pharmacies on the forms before they are sent out.

Action: Contact Devon PCT to ascertain what actions are being taken regarding non-responders.

MHRA Alert – Care Homes Use of Medicines

Nerys asked if members had seen the Dorset Care Homes LES.

Action: What actions do the LPC want – raise at next LPC meeting.

Domicillary MURs

Letters had been sent out by Devon PCT to pharmacies in the selected areas asking for expressions of interest. The PCT have decided to offer £250.00 for the day to carry out the MURs. This sum does not include the MUR fee, and therefore is not cost effective for pharmacies. If there are no expressions of interest from pharmacies, the PCT may employ locums to undertake the domicillary MURs.

Update from Karen O'Brien – Torbay GPs – Baywide PBC consortium

Karen O'Brien has been invited to attend the monthly Board meetings of the Baywide PBC consortium. She is reminding the members of the consortium that pharmacy must not be overlooked. Projects that the LPC have been trying to get commissioned can be brought to the Board. Business cases are to be prepared for minor ailments and 28 day emergency prescribing.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Date of the next meeting – Monday 15th February 2010 at the Deer Park.

Signed

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