

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

2008 has come and gone and now **2009** is over half complete and you may all be asking the question 'WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO SHOW FOR IT IN RELATION TO OUR PHARMACIES???'

EXCUSE ME if I do not reply with the traditional answer NOT A LOT!!

In reality we are faring quite well in comparison to other regions and cities in the UK.

We are involved in numerous service provisions ranging from Phlebotomy, Weight Mgmt, Minor Ailments in specific parts of the city, Chlamydia screening, TB services, Smoking cessation, Eprise scheme and EHC.

I am sure that I have not mentioned them all.

I am the first to appreciate that we have all seen a major effect in how Cat M has left its mark on our earnings potential but we must also realise that this has shaped our future actions and attitudes towards our working practices and we must all grasp any new opportunities that come our way.

Our role as an LPC is to ensure that these opportunities do not dry up but come with some substance and are economically viable for us to participate enthusiastically.

We must make sure that these services are made available to all pharmacies and not just a few since we have all been affected by the new contract for better or worse.

There is much that needs to be done by us but also by the DH and PCT's and we must all accept our roles and be mindful of each others values at all times.

As Pharmacists we are under enormous pressure to deliver services efficiently and cost effectively but we must be in a position to never devalue ourselves in the process and not allow PCT's and DH to dictate terms where this may arise.

We are valued highly by our customers and patients alike and this should be the main backbone of our strength when dealing with PCT's etc
If we don't do our job well then we lose our customers and that dictates our value in the community.

We have reached a point now where we are under excessive burdens with regards to paperwork and admin, which is detracting us from doing what we all like to do to serve our customers with a top quality service provision.

We are being suffocated with reading materials, dispensary procedures, claim form payments etc. you name it and we do it. The time spent doing this is conveniently being ignored by our paymasters. All this needs to be put into each equation and only then can we come out with some success. Oh and by the way don't forget that this is on top of the ever-increasing script dispensing we are all experiencing.

Sounds like a big ask.

Actually all this can be achieved (not overnight!!) by working collaboratively with the PCT's etc and conveying these messages constantly at every opportunity which our LPC Secretary does regularly and on this note I would like to personally thank him on behalf of all the Committee for his tireless work .

I would also like to thank all the Committee for their support to me and their willingness to contribute at all times over the last year

I can honestly say that in 11 and half years as LPC Chair the last couple of years, I have seen the Committee collaborate fully in all aspects of the meetings. And I can assure you all that going forward they will be totally committed to representing Pharmacy to the best of their abilities...

Thanks for attending tonight and now lets move on to the next agenda item.