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Welcome

Welcome to the April 2023 newsletter. It is clear to all working in community pharmacy that the pressures on pharmacies and their teams have never been greater. This has been underlined by the announcement that 237 Lloyds Pharmacies in Sainsbury are closing, along with 7 Asda and 8 Tesco (which includes 16 community pharmacies within Thames Valley). This will, of course, displace many patients, but the hope is that existing local pharmacies will be able to take on their medication needs. The LPC has lobbied each Wellbeing Board to help them understand that attracting new applications would be unhelpful and not financially viable.

Rising costs have affected everybody at both a personal and business level. Spiralling energy prices, rent increases, and a more expensive (and scarce) workforce have all contributed to the mounting pressure on many contractors' livelihoods. On top of all this, is the rising cost of dispensing, with many items unsatisfactorily reimbursed through the Drugs Tariff, resulting in the biggest Price Concession List ever seen. This, of course, does not take into account the average of 11 hours a week spent looking for stock, as reported in the recently published pharmacy pressures survey (the results of which are well worth reading if you haven't done so already - [click here](#)).

In response, our community pharmacy bodies have come together to launch the #SaveOurPharmacies campaign. This is a way in which you, your patients and members of the public can try to get the message to government leaders that unless action is taken soon, many more pharmacies are at risk, over and above the 800 that have closed in recent years. I would encourage you to engage fully with the campaign - find out more overleaf.



In other news, following the recommendations of the Wright Review/RSG, contractors voted overwhelmingly in favour of a merger between Thames Valley and Buckinghamshire LPCs. Our public-facing name will become Community Pharmacy Thames Valley, to match the rebranding of PSNC to Community Pharmacy England. Our combined 347 contractors will give us a stronger voice and allow us to take our relationships with both BOB and Frimley ICS's to the next level.

An election is currently underway for the 4 independent committee members, who will be joined by 5 CCA and 2 AIMp reps when the committee starts on 1st July. We look forward to introducing your new committee in the next newsletter, and announcing an engagement event which I hope you can all attend.
David Dean, Chief Officer



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Contractor Support Officer Update



It's Spring, the season of renewal! Welcome to all the new owners of pharmacies within the Thames Valley area. Exciting times for these new pharmacy teams.

I would like to focus on GP CPCS as both BOB and Frimley ICS's are concerned about the number of uncompleted GP CPCS referrals, and are considering ways of improving compliance (which could include action being taken against the superintendent and/or pharmacy for failing to provide adequate patient care).

So I would like to remind every pharmacy that clinical liability for the patient moves to the pharmacy once a referral is made from NHS 111, the GP surgery or UEC settings (in pilot at present). It is the responsibility of the pharmacy, following a GP CPCS referral, to call the patient within the first 24 hours, at a time that is convenient to the pharmacy. The majority of referrals (67%) are resolved over the phone. You must ensure that you are checking PharmOutcomes and NHSmail several times a day so that you are aware of any patients referred to you and that appropriate action is taken. It is also important, following a referral, that the outcome is recorded, whether you were able to make contact with a patient or not.

As the Contractor Support Officer for the Thames Valley LPC, I am here to support all contractors, so if I can help you in any way, please give me a call on 07777 671596.

Kevin Barnes, Contractor Support Officer

#SaveOurPharmacies



A [Save Our Pharmacies](#) campaign website has been created by leading national pharmacy bodies, to give new focus to calls for fair pharmacy funding in England. You can support the campaign by:

- [Signing the Petition](#)
- [Displaying the Poster](#)
- [Distributing the Patient Leaflet](#)
- [Raising awareness on Social Media](#)
- [Contacting your local MP](#)
- [Handing out a letter to patients](#)

Do also submit details of pricing issues to the PSNC – [click here](#).

The LPC is also keen to gather local examples of hardship and the issues pharmacies are facing on a daily basis that threaten business viability. We will feed these back through Community Pharmacy England (PSNC) to add weight to current negotiations. Please take a moment to share your stories - [click here](#).

LPC Election



Following the contractor vote in favour of a merger between Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley LPCs, the new committee term will commence on 1st July. There will be 11 places on the committee (5 CCA, 2 AIMp and 4 independent). The independent committee members will be made up of 1 from Buckinghamshire and 3 from Thames Valley (Berkshire and Oxfordshire).

The deadline for self-nominations has now passed. We received 1 nomination for the Buckinghamshire place – Olivier Picard – so he has been duly elected to the committee.

For the 3 places available in Thames Valley (Berkshire and Oxfordshire) there were 5 nominations and consequently there is an election to decide which candidates will be appointed to the committee. The personal statements of the candidates are available [here](#). Independent contractors are invited to cast their vote for no more than 3 candidates by 12 noon on Friday 12th May - [click here](#).

Our Future Health



Our Future Health is a new NHS research programme designed to help people live healthier lives for longer, through the discovery and testing of more effective approaches to prevention, earlier detection and treatment of diseases. The aim is to collect and link multiple sources of health and health-relevant information, including genetic data, across a cohort of up to 5 million people that truly reflects the UK population. To find out how you can get involved, [click here](#).

The Joy App



The Joy app provides a link to the contact details of many different organisations who offer support when it's needed most. Referrals can be made by health professionals and support workers and by individuals direct to organisations. To find a service you need, visit <https://services.thejoyapp.com/> Or contact emma.halcox@wokingham.gov.uk for further information and training.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire



Healthwatch Oxfordshire are looking for new Trustees. If you: are committed to addressing unfairness in health and social care provision; understand how lack of access to health and social care affects people's everyday lives; and can communicate well and are able to listen in a supportive and non-judgemental way, this may be for you. The role only involves a time commitment of around 20 hours per year, and a full induction is provided. For more details [click here](#).

Healthier Together



The Healthier Together programme provides advice for parents, young people and pregnant women, and clinical resources to support healthcare professionals. Frimley ICS will be running a webinar with Dr Alexandra Streeter de Diego, the Clinical Project Lead, from 12-1pm on 26th April. The webinar aims to help you learn how to optimise use of the Healthier Together programme so you can play your part in working together as healthcare professionals to improve how local healthcare is delivered. For more details and how to book your place, [click here](#).

Substance Misuse Oxfordshire



Oxfordshire County Council commissions a service for those young people who are having issues with substance use, and for the children of those using substances. From 1st April 2023 they have commissioned a new provider, Cranstoun, and the service is now called Here4YOUth.

The contact details are:

Tel: 01865 590825; Email: Here4youthox@cranstoun.org.uk

Web: <https://cranstoun.org/help-and-advice/young-people/oxfordshire-here4youth/>

The service offers specialist therapeutic support for anyone 8-19 years old, and for up to 25 years old for those who have been in local authority care or have learning disabilities. The service will soon offer support to anyone up to age 25.

Kindness in Healthcare



All pharmacy staff within the BOB ICB area (Berkshire West & Oxfordshire) are invited to take the Kindness Into Action online course. The 5 modules consider evidence and practical resources to help create a culture of kindness, safety and wellbeing. For more information [click here](#) or access the course by creating an account [here](#).

Looking after yourself and your patients: the key to a successful Antidepressant NMS pilot



From 2017 to 2018, approximately 7.3 million people (17 percent of adults) were prescribed antidepressants in England. It is estimated that about a third of these are newly prescribed, so this presents a big opportunity for community pharmacy to play a role in supporting patients to improve effective medicine-taking for the treatment of mental health problems.

However, have you considered what needs to be different about consulting with people with mental health problems? Would you know what to do if your conversation raised concerns or where to refer patients to or seek advice? This workshop will equip you with the tools and resources to run a successful Antidepressant NMS pilot, giving you confidence to have supportive conversations with patients newly prescribed an antidepressant and how to seek further advice and support where needed.

The key to running a successful Antidepressant NMS pilot is to look after yourself as well as your patients. We recognise some of the conversations may be challenging so it is importance to look after your own mental health and wellbeing, therefore part of the workshop will focus on building your resilience and wellbeing.

This workshop is aimed primarily at pharmacies taking part in the NMS Antidepressant Pilot, but is open to all pharmacies in Thames Valley as this will hopefully become a national service next year, and the information that will be shared on the webinar will be useful for the health and wellbeing of all pharmacy teams and their patients. [Register here](#).

Upcoming Events

For details of these and all our events visit: www.cptv.org.uk/our-events/

Date	Event	Audience	Venue
26th April 2023 12.00-13.00	Healthier Together App	Pharmacy Teams	Online
9th May 2023, 12.00-12.30 or 10th May 2023, 12.00-12.30	Our Future Health	Pharmacy Teams	Online
18th May 2023 19.30-21.00	Looking after yourself and your patients: The key to a successful Antidepressant NMS pilot	Pharmacy Teams	Online
19th May 2023 09.30-13.30	Alcohol Identification & Brief Advice (IBA) Training	Pharmacy Teams	Online
12th June 2023 19.00-21.00	Optimising Inhaler Technique – CPPE (Face-to-Face)	Pharmacy Teams	Holiday Inn High Wycombe

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