

Pharmacy Thames Valley Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 11th July 2023
10.00-16.00 Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

Summary Minutes

Item

1 Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Present: Robert Bradshaw (Chair), James Famakin (Vice Chair), Ian Dunphy (Treasurer), Nick Hale, Corrin McParland, Vikash Patel, Olivier Picard, Natasha Wahie, David Dean (Chief Officer), Kevin Barnes (CSO), Amanda Dean (Minutes)

Apologies: Mel Meziane, Rajiv Patel

DD welcomed the new committee and introductions were made.

2 Appointment of Officers and Sub Committees

Appointments were made as follows:

Chair – RB - proposed by ID, seconded by JF. Elected unanimously.

Treasurer – ID – proposed by NW, seconded by OP. Elected unanimously.

Vice Chair – JF - proposed by NH, seconded by CMcP. Elected unanimously.

Finance Sub Committee – ID, OP & VP.

HR Sub Committee – CMcP, MM & NH.

Governance Sub Committee – NW, RP.

All governance forms complete.

RB welcomed the new committee. DD provided a brief introduction to the pharmacy landscape in Buckinghamshire - only one LA; no local services; one substance misuse provider (One Recovery). VP to share Needle Exchange contract. No extension to Needle Exchange provision in Buckinghamshire for many years.

3 Declarations of Interests

None

4 Action Log Review

PCN Lead funding agreed in BOB, awaiting appointment of Project Manager. Frimley proposal still pending.

Following flu training survey, agreed to hold one/two sessions in Oxfordshire through ECG, preferably on a Sunday afternoon. ID agreed to provide his meeting room as a venue. AD to confirm trainer availability, agree dates with ID, then advertise.

DD demonstrated the CRM database and highlighted the free Shape Atlas database for NHS data. DD said dispensing doctors are being audited to ensure they are only dispensing to the correct patients.

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5 Chief Officer Update

See slides. DD highlighted the following points:

Contact has been made with all main Buckinghamshire stakeholders.

Awaiting clarification on whether the national Oral Contraception and Hypertension services will be funded through the £645m new money so the position on signing up can be clarified. Issue with some practices refusing to refer hypertension patients to pharmacy - this may be a communication issue.

DMS numbers disappointing. DMS is very time consuming. Much of this work is done free anyway. One issue is that referrals tend to be for NOMAD patients and require lengthy communication with carers, etc. It was agreed the NHS could get much better value from this service.

UTI in Oxfordshire is likely to come to an end with the introduction of a national service. There may be potential to utilise the funding for alternative services.

The Pathfinder for Independent Prescribing is likely to only be in one or two pharmacies per system, on a sessional basis.

No new pharmacy contracts for a long time, many pharmacies changing hands. Lloyds should be completely out of the market by the end of the year. Lots of pharmacies reducing supplementary hours. Once things settle the ICBs may need to fund extended hours.

6 CSO Update

See slides. KB highlighted the following points:

GP CPCS – historically Frimley has outperformed the rest of the South East. Now losing initiative but are still up 2.9% on the previous month. BOB 15% up. Out of all referrals only 8% unopened (and this includes current referrals) which is the best result so far.

Need to promote Emergency Supply to GPs and A&E.

Some referrals from NHS111 are for controlled drugs. The emergency supply referral doesn't show the medication. DD/KB to feed back.

Oxfordshire do not have DMS IT pathway set up.

7 Treasurer Report

Year-end accounts are currently being completed. HMRC issue with previous references used and we may be due a refund. Bookkeeper remit involves payroll, preparing accounts before each meeting, generating invoices, etc – to be reviewed after AGM. Finance sub-committee meeting to be held online the week before each committee meeting so time in meetings can be limited to just presenting the accounts and taking questions.

8 CPE/CCA/NPA/AIMp Reports

CPE – the next meeting is being held on 12/7/2023 in Leeds. Much of the current work is around the new £645m funding and how this will be distributed. This is the best opportunity for new funding – there will be no new money for dispensing and services are the way forward. There is discussion around set-up fees but these are still being negotiated. It is important we get an equitable distribution across all contractors. One of the delays is IT – it is important this is in place.

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Systems may be ready on 1st December but it could be later.

Hypertension – some pharmacies that have signed up have not delivered at all. According to the NHS, around 38% of cases require ABPN (it is probably more like 8% but currently only 4% of provision). Contraceptive service – CPE have not yet made their position clear on sign-up. It was suggested that the 2023/24 money should be used incrementally for services that have overshot the budget however the new money is for increasing capacity.

CPE have asked for input from contractors for the upcoming meeting - importance of contributing stressed. All stakeholders (CCA, AIMp and Independent) keen to get the services going.

CCA – CCA questions: Provider companies – DD confirmed we are not looking at setting anything up ourselves but are talking to a number of other organisations to see what we can tap into.

Insurance – DD confirmed we are insured through CPE. He said we may want to take advantage of the CPE offer of personal indemnity for committee members. An EOI has been submitted and DD will share details of the offer when received.

NPA – NPA CO is the only pharmacy member on the Covid Enquiry.

AIMp – a quarterly meeting had been held the previous week. There was ongoing discussion around supervision. The staffing situation is better than it was, particularly due to the Lloyds Sainsbury withdrawal, but continues to be difficult.

9 Strategic Plan

The committee reviewed the existing plan and compared it to those of other LPCs in a breakout session. During the feedback session DD collated the comments and will draft a new strategy document to share before the next meeting.

10 Action Points

Finances - Bucks LPC have transferred all funds apart from a small amount for final expenses.

ID reviewed current finances, ring-fenced training funds, etc and confirmed current balances.

The fund for training GP practices on GP CPCS has sufficient left to complete any additional practices required.

Now that IP training is national, DD to investigate whether HEE funds could be used to incentivise DPPs. BOB currently considering funding. It is important we support contractors so pharmacists can compete in 2026 when the newly qualified IP pharmacists graduate. Look at developing a process for applications for funding IP DPPs. With funds used in this way, and final practice training for GP CPCS, all ringfenced monies will be used up.

Under TV £20-£25k deficit per year, will now be virtually flat. ID to build provisional budget for circulation, incorporating the merged funds and new levies. Consideration to be given to splitting/interest bearing accounts for reserves.

Expenses policy – ID said currently we pay £300 backfill for a full day. £30ph for small projects. Standard mileage rate. Claims are made through an Airtable form. If locum rates are higher then, with receipts, this can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. ID to formalise and circulate revised Expenses Policy. Expenses should be submitted within 6 months. ID to investigate generating a receipt or invoice for expenses.

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Team – The Committee reviewed current arrangements and workload. It was agreed to continue with the current team and engage skilled resource if and when required. RB to advise MP accordingly. RB asked the team to come back to the committee if they are struggling.

Contractor Engagement – once CPE clarify the position regarding services, agreed it would be useful to run a face-to-face session at HI HW providing training on the contraceptive and hypertensive case finding services (including ABPN with a demonstration), and a separate session on the Common Conditions service.

BOB to run evening engagement webinar introducing the ICS, discussing winter pressures, the pathfinder programme, services, etc. It was felt this could be used as an opportunity to hear how they are going to drive services forward.

DD said previously we had run sponsored webinars - it was felt webinars are difficult at the end of a long day.

Contractor Training – dates of member meetings, LPC conference, etc were shared. Committee agreed to continue Virtual Outcomes subscription for one year and then review. In the meantime, extend access to Bucks contractors and actively promote in comms channels.

11 AOB

DD asked the new committee members for feedback on the meeting – felt to be positive and useful. It was agreed the September meeting would be face-to-face with the November meeting on Zoom. DD to invite Inderjit Sanghera, Janet Morrison and/or Gary Warner to attend via Zoom.

Next Meeting – 10am-4pm, Wednesday 6th September, Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe.