**Community Pharmacy Thames Valley Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, 19th March 2025

Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

**Draft Minutes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Agenda Item** | **Action** |
| **1** | **Welcome Apologies and Introductions**  **Present**: Ian Dunphy (Chair), James Famakin (Vice Chair), Danielle Brennan, Helen Egan, Khal Khaliq, Shelton Magunje, Corrin McParland, Olivier Picard, Alex Stacey, Taofik Shodunke, David Dean (Chief Officer), Lorna Girling (Minutes)  Also welcomed to the meeting, Adele, Foundation Pharmacist, attending with ID.  Olivier Picard arrived late to the meeting and attended from 12pm onwards.  **Apologies**: Kevin Barnes (CSO), James Wood, CPE |  |
|  | **LPC Meeting Sponsored by Nestle**  Anthony Nnanna of Nestle provided presentation on Infant formula. |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interests**  Ian Dunphy declared working with the LDC to approve PGDs. |  |
| **3** | **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Approved. |  |
| **4** | **Action Log**  Reviewed and updated:  Meeting venue looked into alternative venues and it was decided that the Hampton by Hilton was value for money.  Concerns were discussed regarding DSPs in Oxfordshire where online pharmacy is misleading patients and using this to bypass normal routes of entry. |  |
| **5** | **How are you today?**  The committee individually shared the challenges they have been facing in the current economic situation including staffing issues and salary reviews. The impact of rent and rate increases and the need for more surveyors acting for tenants to gather evidence to support rent reductions was discussed. |  |
| **6** | **Treasurer Report**  See accounts. ID highlighted the following points:  **Levy Increase -** Due to the financial challenges facing Community Pharmacy, the committee voted that the contractor levy should remain at the same level. This decision comes despite a 7% increase in levy that the LPC pays to CPE. Thames Valley LPC is the 5th largest in England with 323 contractors, continues to have the 7th lowest average levy. Support and representation for contractors will continue to increase. The levy has now remained at the same level for over 10 years. While uncertainty surrounding the NHS contract was acknowledged, the Chair proposed that a plan to introduce a levy increase in the future needs to be developed and incorporated into the LPCs strategic plan. It was also discussed that Southwest London LPC recently implemented a flat funding approach.  **Staff Pay Review -** The HR Sub-Committee had been tasked with discussing the 2025 staff pay review and reached a decision to grant a 2.5% increase to staff which was agreed with by the committee.  **LPC Finance update** – the organisation will make a loss of £20k which was budgeted and the current financial position is good. Treasurer suggested utilizing unused funds for contractor services or benefitting pharmacies.  **Treasurer appointment** - The role of Treasurer has now been filled with Taofik Shodunke taking up the position, this was seconded by Shelton Magunje. ID will provide training and support for 6-9 months until TS has transitioned fully into the role. |  |
| **7** | **Chief Officer Update**  See slides. DD highlighted the following points:  **LPC Meeting venue** – alternative venues were explored and a decision was made to book the Hampton by Hilton for the committee meeting in July.  **Online triage platform** – issue arising with practices using an online triage system which has been referring patients to a local surgery which is in fact a pharmacy who has a part share in the platform. As a result, patients have been referred to a pharmacy outside their local area, which could lead to delays in prescription deliveries or additional charges for expedited delivery. This has effectively denied patients the freedom to choose their preferred pharmacy. DD has escalated the matter to CPE and the NHS team.  **GP contract** – has been launched with a 7.2% growth.  **NHS Changes** – Announcement was made with substantial changes to NHS England with leadership changes as part of a broader restructure. DHSC want to reduce restructure by approximately 50% so there is a need to save money at a national level. ICBs will be reduced by 50% affecting both running and program costs.  **Supervised consumption for prisoners** (Maidenhead custody suite) – police officers will be able to collect supervised methadone from the prisoners’ pharmacy and take it back to the custody suite where a healthcare company will take on the responsibility, the police officer will have a letter of authority and warrant card for the collection. Once the pharmacist has signed over the methadone to the officer their job is complete and will be paid for the script in the usual way. |  |
| **8** | **Contractor Services Officer Update**  See slides – DD presented CSO update in Kevin’s absence. |  |
|  | **CPE Update**  See slides – Presentation by Gary Warner (GW)   * GW highlighted the support CPE have provided LPCs and contractors during negotiations. * Discussed the economic impact of pharmacy services and reduced stock due to the new cash flow system, impacting NHS patients. * Emphasized the importance of communicating challenges to MPs and encouraging all contractors to complete the pressures survey to help strengthen negotiations. * **Abolition of NHSE** - GW viewed this as a positive development but noted potential challenges in negotiating with officials. * **Drug Pricing and Margin Survey** - Stressed the importance of accuracy in pricing and margin surveys. * Identified errors in transferring from generic to brand drugs and potential savings for community pharmacies. * **Liquidity crisis –** concerns were raised about pharmacies struggling to pay wholesalers due to liquidity issues. * **Committee composition (2027**) - Discussed potential changes in committee composition in 2027, the impact on CCA and the need for balanced representation. Prepare for discussions around committee composition changes in 2027. | ALL |
|  | **CCA/NPA/IPA Updates**  **CCA** – Discussed antimicrobial stewardship recommendations and their impact on pharmacy services.  **NPA** – Recommended a call for action after 1st April if a deal above inflation was not forthcoming. NPA and IPA have issued joint statements which is good to see collaboration in action. Recruitment is ongoing for a new CEO since the resignation of Paul Rees and NPA would encourage members to vote before the next meeting on 28th April. See NPA website for forthcoming webinars on developing business and offering services.  **IPA** – also working collaboratively with NPA. The IPA have been actively gathering evidence for rent review for pharmacy contractors to help with the increasing cost of rents. |  |
|  | **Frimley Update**  See slides - Yinka provided a presentation which DD gave on her behalf in her absence.  **PMOS** - The incentive scheme for GP surgery referrals was discussed, focusing on the expectation for practices to deliver at least 24 referrals a month to pharmacies. This enables to monitor practices that are actively engaging. |  |
|  | **Chair Report**  ID raised the following points:  **Future Planning** - Emphasized the need for the committee to focus on long-term planning.  **Independent Prescriber Community Pharmacy Service** - Noted that the service is not expected to be established in the immediate future. Discussed initiating conversations around Patient Group Directions (PGDs) as a first step. Highlighted the importance of working on interim solutions to bridge the gap until prescribing services can be implemented.  **RSV and Shingles Vaccinations** - From April 2026, it will be mandatory for ICS to oversee commissioning. Implementation will depend on individual ICS decisions, as seen in the southeast and Midland regions. Acknowledged strong resistance from GPs, who are concerned about losing revenue from their practices. |  |
|  | **AOB**  Nothing to report.  OP raised that Marlow Medical Group were now referring their Pharmacy First patients via their Klinick platform to a pharmacy in Portsmouth. DD to write to LMC and raise with CPE and NHS. | DD |

**Next Meeting** – 10am-4pm, Wednesday 21st May 2025, Hampton by Hilton

**Meetings 2025**

9th July 2025 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

10th September 2025 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

12th November 2025 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe