

Community Pharmacy Thames Valley Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 14th January 2026
Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

Minutes

Item	Agenda Item
1	<p>Welcome Apologies and Introductions</p> <p>Present: Ian Dunphy (Chair), James Famakin (Vice Chair), Danielle Brennan, Helen Egan, Taofik Shodunke (Treasurer), Olivier Picard, Alex Stacey, Corrin McParland, Shelton Magunje, David Dean (Chief Officer), Kevin Barnes (CSO), Lorna Girling (Minutes).</p> <p>Apologies: Khal Khaliq, Vikash Patel</p>
2	<p>Declarations of Interests</p> <p>None</p>
3	<p>Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Approved.</p>
4	<p>Subcommittee Update</p> <p>HR – Subcommittee to arrange meeting for staff reviews before next committee meeting</p> <p>Finance – Subcommittee to arrange meeting for review before next committee meeting</p>
5	<p>Engagement Session</p> <p>Staffing issues:</p> <p>Home office visas are not being processed in a timely fashion, and some contractors are losing valuable staff due to this issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and staff shortage – sickness and cover are major problems • Boots are rolling out a trial for recruiting Services Pharmacists to fill vacancies <p>Rates increase – The increase in rates means additional funding is being absorbed by rising costs rather than supporting service expansion. Unlike GPs, pharmacy contractors do not receive any rate relief.</p> <p>Pharmacy First Threshold – several contractors are regularly falling just short of the required threshold and consequently missing out on the associated payment. OP expressed the possibility of addressing the lowering of the threshold.</p>

	<p>IP – Members expressed they would like Independent Prescribing to be incorporated into the new contract. Concerns were raised that excluding IP could contribute to a shortage of pharmacists and potentially result in a fallow year for staffing. OP noted a preference for appropriate remuneration rather than reliance on margin, highlighting that multiples tend to benefit more from margin than independent pharmacies. The LPC has been asked to apply pressure on CPE to ensure IP is included in upcoming contract negotiations.</p> <p>Fraudulent Scripts - a spate of fraudulent scripts are being circulated in the area and there are concerns regarding a lack of communication to pharmacies. KB will escalate this to the SE Commissioning Hub and Contractor Teams.</p> <p>Staff Abuse – this is a nationwide problem. Suggestions on staff training to learn de-escalate techniques to help with challenging situations. The LPC will look to providing training through the CPTV LPC Pharmacy Academy.</p>
6	<p>Action Log</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPE clawback transparency was discussed as no further update from CPE. Request monthly report tracking margin on a regular basis. • CKD update – KB has not received any proposal details. KB/DD have a meeting with them this week. Meeting being held on 29th January in Aylesbury is CPD event – this was not extended to pharmacists as a proposal has not been agreed. • SEPCA – subcommittee to be set up. ID and JF has agreed to be part of this sub-committee. They will meet with the other LPC sub-committees within SEPCA.
	<p>Frimley ICS Update</p> <p>Yinka gave an update and overviews for Frimley ICB. See presentation slides for full details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PF update and data • Focus on Minor Illness and the need for more pharmacies to sign up to the service. There has been a decrease in antibiotic prescribing and increase in pharmacy first antimicrobial supply. ICB has been monitoring OTC prescribing. • Funding for respiratory service and positive outcomes from inhaler technique sessions. • No further funding for IP – although very positive feedback has been received • Palliative Care Service Update – East Berks have extended the contract to October 2026. • PCN Engagement leads has been a success, and some further funding has been provided, however, not for Thames Valley.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tympa Health pilot live in 8 pharmacies – to run for a further 3 months. Challenges with the IT system and the need for a separate login for NHS patients was discussed. • Written Medicines – pilot running in Aldershot and Farnham for software which can translate up to 20 languages is being rolled out and if successful will be rolled out to more pharmacies.
	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget figures were shared and the budget remains on track. • TS to Arrange subcommittee meeting and with CO to set budget for 2026/27 • CPTV budget to be submitted to CPE by end March
	<p>Contractor Services Officer Update</p> <p>See slides presentation slides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KB gave an overview of services and LPC data • Thames Valley is below average in the delivery of items per month nationally. • Committee discussed lost income which is roughly £179k – KB to share info with DD and pass to CPE • Discussion regarding the change in the claim window which was brought in June – those who missed this short notice deadline lost up to £5k. OP requested this information from the NHS but this was not forthcoming – OP is requesting “freedom of information” to retrieve this data. LPC will help to highlight this issue. • OP fed back that they are now receiving more referrals from Marlow Surgery. • Cranstoun Wokingham Supervised Consumption is up for renewal on 1st April 2026 – KB/DD are waiting on the new offer to start negotiations.
	<p>Chief Officer Update</p> <p>See presentation slides for full information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market entry update • Thames Valley ICB update • Neighbourhood working: 35 in total across the Thames Valley region and a need for funding to support local work. • Innovation Funding opportunities across several areas was discussed, including diabetes screening, AF screening and an outpatient consulting model. The Pharmacy Improvement Grant was also considered for clinical space requirements for service delivery and equipment. OP agreed to share a template previously used for a similar grant in Wales for DD to adapt. • Oxfordshire Liaison Role for 18 months– to support pharmacies in Oxfordshire has been signed off and the LPC will be actively recruiting shortly.

	<p>Buckinghamshire are also interested in the concept to provide support within the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPCA – complete VAT registrations for provider company • Funding update – Finalise paperwork for £15,000 for early careers funding and £5,000 for Make Every Contact Count (MECC) in Oxfordshire. • Contractor questions were brought to the committee and discussed – OP suggested that instead of a survey a Drop-In “Questions” session which will be set in place before the next meeting in March. LG/DD to put in action before the next committee meeting.
	<p>CCA/IPA/NPA and CPE Updates</p> <p>IPA – CMP reported that Layla had been very active, they are holding a meeting next week and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>CCA – CCA conference to be held next week – feedback at next LPC meeting</p> <p>NPA – Setting out 26 contracts to be published shortly (CPE have been briefed)</p> <p>Meeting due with CPE Regional Rep – will report by next meeting</p> <p>House of Lords reception for NPA members on 10th February 2026 – OP requested this to be share in the Weekly News Digest – OP to provide information to LG</p> <p>National Conference in June – 2-day conference to include GP’s, Optometry etc at Birmingham NEC.</p> <p>Supervision – NPA provided a support webinar in January.</p> <p>IP training – Sunday, 8th February</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <p>OP raised a question about fair remuneration for delivery of service – YK to look into this.</p> <p>Summer Health Event – 10th May, 10-5pm, Holiday Inn, High Wycombe, 10-5pm TBC. LG to facilitate booking.</p>

Next Meeting – 18 March 2026 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe

<p>Forthcoming LPC Meetings 2026</p> <p>20 May 2026 – 10am-4pm- Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe</p> <p>8 July 2026 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe</p> <p>23 September 2026 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe</p> <p>25 November 2026 – 10am-4pm – Hampton by Hilton, High Wycombe</p>
