

Report of the Committee for April 2020 to March 2021

Makeup of the Committee of Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire

The current LPC committee was formed in April 2018 and this report covers the third of the four years of the committee's term. Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire chose to adopt the PSNC model constitution and the membership of the committee is reflective of that. It was agreed at the September 2020 AGM to reduce the committee from 15 to 12 members, remaining proportional to the numbers of contracts in the area of the LPC held by Company Chemists Association (CCA members), Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies (AIMP) and Independent Contractors. The reduction in committee size was met through removal of three committee vacancies; 1 each for CCA, AIMP and Independent members.

Based on contracts held on 30th November 2017, the constitution of Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire committee (as the LPC for the locality) comprises 6 CCA members, 4 AIMP members and 2 Independent Contractors.

The Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire Executive Committee during the year 2020-21 consisted of officers of the committee, as follows:

Chair:	Paul Jenks
Vice Chair:	Marc Brooks
Treasurer:	Chris Kenny

Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire also has two employees, who are not members of the Committee

Chief Officer:	Tracey Latham-Green (Since January 2021)
Administrative Assistant:	Hazel Sisson

Committee Members

CCA	AiMP	Independent Contractors
Paul Jenks	John Broomhead	Chirag Ahir
Robert Severn	Chris Kenny	Chris Mulimba
Jon Norman	Marc Brooks	
Les Guiblin	Blazej Jasnowski	
Sai Koneru		
Milena Krusinska (joining soon)		

Committee members who left during the financial year:

CCA: Enrico Pignotti, Wojciech Cwiek

Meeting Arrangements

Due to the COVID-19 social distancing regulations, Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire continued with the beneficial arrangements of bi-monthly half-day meetings, alternating with additional evening meetings where necessary, held virtually using Microsoft Teams, to enable the committee to effectively support the changing local healthcare agenda.

Finance Matters

- Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire's finances remained sound throughout 2020-21 as is reflected in the Treasurer's report. Whilst aiming to maintain a suitable working capital balance and retaining an appropriate balance in alignment with strategic plans to enhance the profile of community pharmacy in Lincolnshire.
- Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire continued to take a fixed levy to deliver value for contractors and enable effective and agile financial planning for current and future strategies. Discussions regarding payment holidays were made a standing item on the agendas for committee meetings
- Following the recruitment of a new Chief Officer in January 2021, a zero-base budget was produced for 2021/22, presented at the March Committee meeting, providing a balanced forecast budget and reserve levels within the recommended parameters for LPCs.

COVID-19

In addition to altering the approach taken to committee meetings, COVID-19 resulted in accelerated development of more flexible ways of working across the healthcare system, which have strengthened the voice of community pharmacy within the county and the wider Midlands region. As all healthcare providers adapted to the significant challenges that the pandemic presented, recognition of the vital importance of the community pharmacy network grew. This provided enhanced opportunities for Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire to engage with stakeholders and systems to shape strategies and share insights, representing the views of contractors within the county and the region. They also provided opportunities to share the challenges that hamper safe and cost-effective service delivery that may be faced by community pharmacy contractors.

The Midlands Medicines and Pharmacy Co-ordination Group (MaPCOG) was formed, with LPCs and the NHSE&I Midlands teams (East and West) meeting twice weekly to discuss policy changes, issues, and plan solutions to increase resilience and address some of the challenges being faced by pharmacies during the pandemic. These meetings continue to be an invaluable opportunity for liaison with colleagues from the NHSE&I teams and to share insights across the Midlands LPCs.

Within Lincolnshire, we joined the ICS Pharmacy and Prescribing COVID Cell, enabling us to take a similar approach at a more local level, allowing us to work with Lincolnshire ICS and CCG and provide clarity on pharmacy issues.

Health System Engagement

The appointment of a new Chief Officer in January 2021 allowed Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire to build on and increase the strong relationships already initiated for the advantage of pharmacy contractors in the county in previous years, engaging with the healthcare system in Lincolnshire as it moves from a Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and provider model to an Integrated Care System (ICS), comprised of contractors and providers across health and social care in Lincolnshire, working together for the benefit of the entire Lincolnshire population. The proposed Lincolnshire ICS is co-terminus with the LPC footprint, which has more easily facilitated inclusion of pharmacy's voice in the development of integrated working across the system.

In the financial year 20/21 we commenced bi-monthly, Teams meetings with the Local Medical Committee (LMC) representatives, allowing us to strengthen relationships and support roll-out of services. We also started to bring together representatives from the 'Four Pillars of Primary Care' being pharmacy, general practice, ophthalmology and dentistry to approach the ICS as one voice, with the aim of strengthening the voice of primary care within the ICS to try and rebalance the historic focus on secondary care within the county.

Regular attendance, advice and input has continued to develop our position within the ICS. The importance of the role of community pharmacy within Primary Care Networks (PCNs) developed as part of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme and significant work was undertaken to support contractors and Community Pharmacy Primary Care Network leads. However, despite concerted efforts, as of 31st March 2021, there were two PCNs in the county without an appointed Community Pharmacy PCN lead. Continued work to recruit has since resulted in a full complement of PCN Leads for the next PQS period at time of writing (September 2021). Our website has been updated to provide comprehensive information about PCN membership.

Members, Officers and employees of Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire continue to represent Lincolnshire community pharmacy contractors, with membership of and/or representation on the following bodies:

- Midlands Medicines and Pharmacy Co-ordination Group (MaPCOG)
- Lincolnshire Pharmacy and Prescribing Cell
- Lincolnshire Prescribing and Clinical Effectiveness Forum (PACEF)
- East Midlands Clinical Senate (representing Midlands LPCs)
- PSNC Rural Working Group (national)
- Community Pharmacy Competency Group (national)
- Lincolnshire STP Pharmacy and Prescribing Group/Board
- Lincolnshire Antimicrobial Stewardship Group
- Lincolnshire CD LIN
- Lincolnshire LPN
- Lincolnshire H&WB PNA Committee
- Lincolnshire Seasonal Influenza Planning Group
- Lincolnshire Integrating NHS Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation (IPMO) working group

Contractor Engagement

Engagement with contractors continues via the weekly newsletter circulation, shared directly to registered mailboxes, via twitter, Facebook and the website (which underwent significant updates during 2020-21).

Public Engagement

A new, public facing webpage has been created to promote community pharmacy in Lincolnshire. Patients landing on the CPL website homepage are prompted via a pop-up window to visit the public facing website at www.lincolnshirepharmacies.co.uk. The public facing website is also clearly highlighted on CPL's Facebook page. The website is designed to signpost and link patients to centrally managed NHS pharmacy resources as well as show the locations of pharmacies within the county.

Pharmacy Applications

As a result of COVID-19, Primary Care Support England suspended the majority of activity relating to Market Entry, Market Exit and Consolidation applications for much of the 2020-21 financial year. Where requests for comment were received, the committee continued to provide appropriate responses based upon the views of contractors. Applications during this period included changes of ownership, consolidations and an application for a distance selling pharmacy. Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire were also notified of several permanent changes to contractors' supplementary hours during this period.

Pharmacy Local Services

Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire carried on its work with public health commissioners to ensure that services continued to be delivered to the standards demanded by community pharmacy contractors for service users. This included work with commissioners and providers of public health services, and discussion relating to the changes in recommendations for emergency hormonal contraception with the sexual health team in the county. These continued positively, finally seeing fruition early in the 2020-21 financial year.

Quality Payments

Community Pharmacy continued to provide support to contractors to maximise any potential payments available through the Quality Payments Scheme. Significant work was undertaken to support appointment of Community Pharmacy PCN leads to ensure that all eligible pharmacies were able to claim this aspect of QPS.

Summary and the year ahead

2020-21 was a very busy year for Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire; the COVID-19 pandemic impacted progress in many areas relating to future health and care systems in the county, but also facilitated new ways of working, which has allowed relationships to be built and strengthened across the region with neighbouring LPCs, NHS representatives and wider health and care professionals. The pace of change and demand on the committee's, officers' and employees' time was, and continues to be, significant.

Increasingly, we have seen a positive shift with stakeholders seeking to discuss ideas and concerns earlier, allowing for outcomes beneficial to contractors. After a good start in developing relationships with the ICS representatives in the county, and with primary care local committee representatives for dentistry, ophthalmology and general practice, we will further fortify these in 2021-22.

Despite COVID-19 pressures, we continued to devote time and effort to ensuring that pharmacy contractors in Lincolnshire could continue to deliver services to their patients, and to look critically at the services currently being commissioned, with a view to ensuring that these were safe, effective and adequately funded. This work will continue in 2021/22.

As we move into 2021/22 we will continue to support contractors in relation to service development including the wider roll out of the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service to include GP referrals, through liaison with the LMC to develop basic GP-CPCS toolkits and training for both GP surgeries and pharmacy contractors, with the aim of maximising service potential.

As healthcare systems evolve, the activities and approaches of LPCs and the PSNC must do so too. The committee of Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire continue to look at how we can best serve contractors in a large rural county, being mindful of national changes and recommendations. However, with progress paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wright Review recommendations are due to be considered by contractors in the next financial year. As an LPC we will engage with PSNC and share information with contractors through the usual routes, as well as ensuring that our ideas and concerns are heard.

I would again like to take this opportunity to formally thank the members of the LPC committee for their hard work and devotion during the year. In particular, I would like to share my gratitude for the support of Marc Brooks (Vice Chair) and Chris Kenny (treasurer).

I would also like to extend this to Tracey Latham-Green, our Chief Officer who joined at a very busy time for the committee and to Hazel Sisson, our Administrative Assistant for her continued hard work.

*Paul Jenks
LPC Chair
September 2021*