



Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Annual Report 2019-2020

Chairman: Mr Graeme Batten

Chief Executive Officer: Dr Lisa Manning

Vice Chair: Mrs Una Harding

Treasurer: Ms Laura Benyon

The Aim of the Committee is to represent all Sefton Contractors with the various stakeholders, developing multi-organisational working and promoting the community pharmacy profession. It is accountable to those contractors for the work that it does on their behalf and for the effective and economical use of LPC funds.

The year 2019-2020 was another testing year for us all. There was no improvement in funding, resulting in margins and profits being squeezed. Likewise, stock shortages and availability did not improve, resulting in our staff spending ever more time doing their best to firstly source the product and secondly source it at a competitive price against reimbursement.

The biggest change was the announcement of the new contract and the subsequent further updates. This encompassed what is regarded to be the biggest change in primary care in a generation: the advent of Primary Care Networks (PCNs). The LPC has helped support the emerging PCNs and facilitated nominating community pharmacy PCN leads and supporting pharmacies working together and engaging with the wider PCN. Setting up communication groups for each PCN and encouraging networking has been a challenging but vital role for the LPC and hopefully a productive one.

We have also ensured and continue to support the seismic shift in community pharmacy from being dispensary led to being a service led profession. As new opportunities arise the LPC has engaged and supported the regional team and therefore has taken part in various pilots eg TCAM, BP services so that we are better able to deliver the national services as they are rolled out.

As this financial year draws to an end, healthcare is experiencing one of the biggest global impacts with COVID-19 and the demands on pharmacies with all the business continuity

planning, workforce and stock disruption and unknown possible scenarios. Pharmacies continue to deliver and adapt to an ever-changing environment.

The last year has seen Sefton LPC committee work collectively for all Sefton contractors with positive outcomes. We have endeavoured to maintain good working relationships with all our stakeholders. Negotiations with our local commissioners – the CCGs and Local Authorities – have continued as contracts for service provision came up for renewal with no decommissioning. We continue to establish regular meetings with each and continue to improve the existing services and propose new services.

The committee itself has been working cohesively with all members making positive contributions. The LPC have invited a number of prominent guests to meetings such as the CCG, NHSE&I, public health, GPhC inspector etc. that have helped us to deal better with our objectives to improve our functions and performance and to work even harder on behalf of you, our contractors.

We continue to have regular contact with Dr Ian Cubbin PSNC regional representative for Merseyside and other local LPCs via the Association of Mersey Pharmaceutical Committee (MALPS). We also work jointly across the region on various projects e.g. BHF pilot, NHSE&I BP enhanced service, CPCS, TCAM etc. and meet regularly once a month to establish a workplan, share resources and joint working as part of the regional joint working group. This working collaborative with other LPCs has been invaluable as we have shared learning and had services commissioned across the whole region improving access for patients. Although we represent the local area and will continue to do so, it has been invaluable working jointly with other LPCs.

The regional LPCs have purchased jointly a Pharmoutcomes licence making the burden shared and strengthening our position. We have already established one commissioner in Sefton utilising the LPC licence with other commissioners showing interest.

With the PQS funding structure we have continued to support contractors to maximise their income and helped support those to meet the criteria to claim payments.

We have also continued to engage with the Local Medical Committee (LMC) on various issues and meet monthly with the medicines management team for both the Sefton CCGs and the Pharmacy Local Professional Network (PLPN)

We have engaged with the GPhC inspectorate and have had only one contractor who has not met the inspection standards for which we have dutifully supported to ensure they now meet the standards

Enhanced/Advanced Services

In terms of enhanced services, we effectively improved the existing Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) scheme and utilised the Pharmoutcomes IT platform for improved recording and provided online accreditation to sustain the service.

CATC- We reviewed the formulary for Care at the Chemist and made contributions to the service and formulary; every month we ensure the price per items are correct.

Smoking Cessation - Champix training and level 2 training events were delivered and new contracts are being negotiated as a new co-commissioner has taken over, we are currently championing Champix online training.

Drug Misuse Services – have been improved and the LPC has managed to secure the same payment as previous years despite the commissioners not approving this in the first instance. We are also in negotiations to utilise the Pharmoutcomes IT platform and in discussions regarding the other potential services eg naloxone provision.

Dressing service - has also been successful and was commissioned across the whole of Sefton and we are currently negotiating a new contract that is still viable for contractors.

Palliative Care Service – has continued to be commissioned from various sites throughout Sefton.

NHS commissioned Influenza vaccination programme was commissioned across the Cheshire and Merseyside area and the LPC supported contractors in becoming accredited via organising regional training and supporting the service with regards to stock shortages.

CPCS – become live in October 2019 and we have 73/76 contractors providing this service we have also worked with NHS111 to increase referrals to community pharmacies and improve acceptance rates of referrals.

eTCP- now known as TCAM (Transfers of Care Around Medicines) has continued to gather momentum with all local hospitals now live and pharmacy referrals increasing. The LPC has continued to support contractors and deliver training events so that pharmacies are engaging with the project and benefit from the shared information regarding a patient care. We have also encouraged contractors to utilise the discharge MUR service and gained permission for telephone and domiciliary visits. The LPC will also help facilitate as this service transfers into the National Discharge Service predicted for July 2020.

The LPC has also supported the British Heart Foundation 1 BP screening pilot. We have supported the project and helped those pharmacies involved reach the 25 required screenings and have these sites migrate onto the NHSE&I Enhanced BP service. We have also supported a further 35 contractors who have signed up to the BHF2 pilot and will likely migrate to the NHSE&I BP enhanced service.

We have also been in discussions regarding potential enhanced services such as Improving Inhaler Technique, Not Dispensed service, PGD for UTIs , AF screening, Dementia Screening, Diabetes Screening, Weight Management, Alcohol Brief Interventions, Healthchecks, HIV testing and will continue to persist in these negotiations. Unfortunately, due to funding cuts very few services are being commissioned but we continue to research and discuss the benefits of these services with commissioners

We have also engaged with the CCG medicines management team (MMT) and changed how to deal with out of stocks in line with PSNC guidance. Items should be marked as 'ND' with no need to send the whole prescription back to the NHS Spine. We have been working with MMT regarding guidance on MDS changes and tolerance/how long is required to ensure changes can be made to MDS supplies safely. We are also working with MMT regarding other individual contractor issues such as waiting times, eRD etc. We have also had initial discussions regarding NMS referrals from GP surgeries

We will continue to push very hard to ensure that there are training evenings for enhanced services to improve patients accessing the services to ensure consistency across Sefton.

Engagement

The LPC has recruited an engagement officer who has been performing buddy visits to help engagement and resolve issues that contractors have been experiencing.

Your LPC has engaged on a monthly basis with the Pharmacy Local Professional Network (PLPN) and has been able to secure funding for various projects e.g. BHF pilots, CRP pilot TCAM admissions notifications.

We have been supporting the PLPN with TCAM as all local hospitals are now live with the project and pharmacies are receiving referrals via Pharmoutcomes

LPCs have also been working with the PLPN and NHSE&I to ensure they support contractors in reporting their participation in public health campaigns we have consistently achieved a 100% success rate for reporting PH campaign participation

We have also ensured 100% participation in CPAF-lite declarations, quarterly MUR/NMS declarations and DSP toolkit compliance.

We are still working hard with agencies such as the PSNC and NPA to ensure we inform our contractors of all update. We have engaged with MPs to also support pharmacy and delivered messages via local media and other patient engagement groups eg Healthwatch.

We have maintained collaborative working with the pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) steering group, as the process for the next PNA begins to ensure a new assessment is in place for April 2021.

We meet regularly with NHS111 to help maximise CPCS and learn from GP referral pilots across the region.

We have also met with the Local Medical Committee (LMC) discussing issues and supporting each other to deliver excellent health care to the population of Sefton.

The LPC continues to review all contract applications concerning pharmacy services and responds on your behalf. We also respond to all DHSC and CCG Consultations, PSNC surveys and the like.

The LPC has represented and supported various contractors regarding performance issues at various contractual meetings and continues to do so.

In terms of communicating with our contractors we have utilised an email database and send out a monthly newsletter and other urgent news to keep contractors updated. Our website is the main source of information for the locality. We also produce a monthly date tracker with important reminders for the month to help support contractors

We have supported and delivered training across Sefton both clinically and to help accreditation for enhanced services. To date we have delivered training on, Level 2 Smoking Cessation, Dermatology, Improving Inhaler Technique and COPD, AF Training, Diabetes, Emergency Hormonal Contraception, TCAM, CPCS, Blood Pressure and Influenza Vaccination. We also organised and delivered a PCN engagement event to establish PCN leads and help contractors meet their PQS PCN criteria.

The LPC has also ensured that free eLearning training via VirtualOutcomes has been funded via NHSE&I for all pharmacy team members throughout Sefton and the region.

Finance

Throughout the year the Treasurer has been reviewing expenditure and budgets on a regular basis and we have been able to maintain the levy at 0.14% as per the previous year. This work has ensured that the committee finances have finished the year in a position that will allow the committee to continue to robustly support contractors.

Our accounts are all detailed on the Sefton LPC website.

Constitution and Compliance:

As in the previous year, there were no constitutional irregularities or problems and the committee discharged all its duties on time and to specification. All LPC members are required to sign declarations adhering to a code of corporate governance, confidentiality and conflict of interests.

The committee has agreed to reduce the size of the committee from 13 to 11 members for cost efficiencies and in line with other LPCs.

We are also GDPR compliant and have helped contractors via support materials to also meet their GDPR responsibilities.

All members are reminded that, no matter their source of nomination or election, the LPC members have to act and speak in the interests of all the contractors, and not just that of their nominating body. In the event of a member having a conflict of material or financial interest with regard to agenda items or minutes, they are required to make a formal declaration to that effect and either leave the room or take no part in the ensuing debates. All such declarations are formally minuted and recorded.

Meetings

The LPC meets monthly except for August and December with alternate evening and daytime meetings. All meetings take place within Sefton. The CCGs, NHS England, PH, PSNC are invited to attend certain meetings along with other commissioners and relevant people when applicable. All contractors are welcome to attend any of the meetings as an observer but must inform the committee in advance. We hold an annual general meeting in September each year.

And finally, please remember:

- To regularly visit your LPC's website at www.psnc.org.uk (go to LPC portal for Sefton LPC) www.psnc.org.uk/sefton-lpc/
- To inform us of any new email contacts that may benefit from receiving Sefton LPC updates.
- To contact myself, the Chair or any member of the committee to confidentially discuss any issue. We are here to represent you with our services and advice. Please contact lisa@sefton-lpc.org.uk, 07912043872

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the LPC members for their commitment to our local contractors and for the support they have given both myself and the Chair during the year.

Dr Lisa Manning

Chief Executive Officer Sefton LPC



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