



## Annual Report 2020-2021

Chairman:	Mr Graeme Batten
Chief Executive Officer:	Dr Lisa Manning
Vice Chair:	Mr James Moir
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 started within the middle of a national pandemic that affected everyone in different measures and fundamentally our healthcare system. The committee remained in place, with only a few changes. Una Harding, our Vice chair, stepped down as Vice but remains on the committee and James Moir has taken on the role of Vice Chair.

Also, and quite significantly during the year, PSNC and all LPC's embarked on an Independent Review of Community Pharmacy representation. Professor David Wright from the University of East Anglia was selected to undertake the review. The outcome of the review was published, and recommendations were made, in particular downsizing of LPCs committees, renaming of all LPCs to "Community Pharmacy [locality] and the removal of the term 'Chemist' from all documentation where possible and replace with 'Community pharmacy or pharmacist' as appropriate.

Sefton LPC that was, approved that the size of Sefton committee should be reduced in line with the recommendations and in line with the number of contractors within Sefton, and therefore, it was agreed to reduce the size of the committee to nine (9) members and to ensure the proportion of seats to Ind/CCA/AIMp members based on our contractor split reflects this.

The committee also agreed in line with the recommendations that the name of the committee be changed to Community Pharmacy Sefton (CPS).

The recommendations also established a Review Steering Group (RSG) which continues to build on the recommendations. Community Pharmacy Sefton continues to link and share progress of the RSGs work with contractors.

Due to Covid-19, we have all seen rapid changes to our health care profession and dissemination of important information and we believe that CPS has ensured that all contractors are briefed weekly and has access to important information creating resources to locate all the information in one place on weekly updates. We have received excellent positive feedback on these briefing from contractors.

In July 2019, PSNC, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) agreed a five-year deal for Community Pharmacy. This was the first time that the sector had ever had a deal that lasted longer than one year and was a significant change. Whilst the level of funding remained the same over each year of the five-year deal, it meant a guarantee of no actual reduction as had been the trend during previous negotiations; although some viewed it as a reduction in real terms as no allowance for inflation was built in.

This was welcomed, but as the year has progressed and due to the national pandemic, many of the timelines for national services and contractual changes have and were delayed. However, in recognition of the pressure on contractors in dealing with the pandemic many contractual requirements were stepped down to reduce the burden on our workforce.

Last year was unprecedented for all contractors and for pharmacy and the government gave a £370m loan to contractors to help deal the extra burden on contractors. LPCs and PSNC have called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to intervene in the ongoing COVID-19 funding negotiations and ensure that pharmacies do not have to pay back any of the £370m in emergency loans they received last year.

Warning that paying back the loans could put many pharmacies at financial risk, and even lead to more pharmacy closures, Sefton has seen this impact as more consolidations occur.

In a letter sent to the Chancellor last week (25<sup>th</sup> February 2021), the PSNC underlined both the value of the work that pharmacies are doing, and the potential damage should any be forced to close. Closures would impact patient services, but they could also threaten disruption of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and put increasing pressure on local GP services.

Community Pharmacy Sefton continued to have good engagement with MPs and recently had support re-funding negotiations with one of our MPs speaking to the house of commons and lots of media coverage to highlight the lack of financial relief for pharmacies within the new budget. The LPC continues to send communications to our MPs to gain support and help highlight how indispensable our pharmacies are.

Community Pharmacy Sefton continued to develop relationships with local Commissioners and maintains, a particularly good working relationship with other LPCs meeting weekly to work collaboratively on projects. WE have worked together to deliver training webinars to help contractors deliver new national services e.g., DMS, GP CPCS. The LPCs have also worked together to support our PCN Leads to deliver PQS 2, and, meet certain requirements for Domains 4 & 5 hosting engagement Zoom meetings. Community pharmacy Sefton has also supported individual PCN Leads host community pharmacy PCN meetings.

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. Within Community Pharmacy Sefton we achieved 100% of contractors claiming some of the PQS 2 funding.

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, the PCN managers and the Pharmacy Local Professional Network (PLPN).

CPS continues to link with our local PCNs and is in regular contact with PCN managers and clinical directors to explore collaborative working. We have also supported all our PCN Leads by facilitating training, meetings and communication channels.

CPS continues to ensure we push for a community pharmacy voice on the emerging new landscape with the formation of ICS's and have nominated the CEO as a representative to sit on various emerging boards and provider forums.

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

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

### **Essential/Advanced /Enhanced Services**

CPS has successfully worked with Sefton council to establish Pandemic delivery service for emergency deliveries to shielded patients utilising their volunteer offer.

A major success during the year was the delivery of the national Flu Vaccination service in Community Pharmacies. Over 18K flu vaccinations were completed in Sefton the highest ever recorded and we also had commissioned a Sefton staff council Flu vaccination service delivered from a number of community pharmacies with over 500 vaccinations and excellent feedback from Sefton Council on the service.

Smoking Cessation services gained pace with lots of support from the LPC and fighting for training from the commissioner, we also secured a loss income payment for all pharmacies that deliver and who's service provision was affected by Covid -19.

Similarly, for substance misuse services a lost income retainer was secured until March 2021. Currently the LPC is exploring other services with the commissioner MerseyCare such as Naloxone supply etc.

EHC commissioners have undertaken a review and discussed decommissioning but the LPC has pushed back as this has been an untypical year and this has to be factored in. We have been pleading for extra training to help maximise delivery.

Community Pharmacy Sefton are supporting GP CPCS and facilitating trying to increase referrals utilising our engagement officer and speaking to GP Practices.

DMS referrals are starting to increase, and Sefton are well placed having already been accepting TCAM referrals and this is hopefully likely to increase.

Community Pharmacy Sefton has also seen commissioned three pharmacy led local vaccination sites who have been outstanding in implementing and providing thousands of Covid -19 vaccines. CPS has helped support these sites and thanks each site for their amazing work.

All other existing services have remained, only the Blood Pressure commissioned services have been paused due to Covid -19 but will resume in the near future.

### **Work in Progress**

CPS has engaged with Sefton public health on various proposals such as a commissioned Vit D supply service, LFT service and Healthchecks service and continues to discuss various projects.

We have continued to try and secure a UTI PGD with the CCG, a recent update has meant the service implementation is paused due to Covid-19, but we endeavour to push for this and other PGDs to help strengthen the GP CPCS service.

We have also been working with the CCG on a potential new service -Medicines Support Service pilot. This is for new MDS patients to undertake an Equality Act assessment and if required a clinical intervention. Again, due to Covid-19 this has been paused (An amalgamation of ND and MDS assessment service).

Linked with Healthwatch, CVS and local carer groups to promote pharmacy services and respect new ways of working during Covid-19.

CPS has also provided various training events for all contractors to help support new services and provide clinical training e.g., DMS, GP CPCS, Dry Eye training, osteoporosis, etc  
CPS 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. 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 Community Pharmacy Sefton website. <https://psnc.org.uk/sefton-lpc/>

### **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 CPS 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 11 to 9 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, CPS 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/meeting 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. Although due to Covid -19 we have met more frequently due to the rapid changes emerging due to the pandemic. All meetings have taken place virtually via Zoom. The CCGs, NHSE&I, 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.

Please remember:

- To regularly visit your CPS website at [www.psn.org.uk](http://www.psn.org.uk) (go to LPC portal for Sefton LPC) [www.psn.org.uk/sefton-lpc/](http://www.psn.org.uk/sefton-lpc/)
- To inform us of any new email contacts that may benefit from receiving CPS 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](mailto:lisa@sefton-lpc.org.uk), 07912043872

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

Finally, but not least I would personally like to mention the Sefton Community Pharmacies excellent response to COVID-19 and their continued service to their communities. I am extremely proud and humbled by all our Sefton pharmacies who have all remained open throughout, putting themselves at risk when there was inadequate PPE etc and still they continued to deliver excellent healthcare for their patients - you are all heroes.

Dr Lisa Manning  
CEO Community pharmacy Sefton

