

Pharmacy Thames Valley Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 27th January 2021

10.00-13.00 Online

Summary Minutes

Item

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Robert Bradshaw (Chairman), Akin Adeniran (Vice Chair), Ian Dunphy (Treasurer), Ketan Amin, Aron Berry, Navjot Chohan, Andrew Jones, Shelton Magunje, Corrin McParland, Vikash Patel, Barrie Prentice, David Dean (Chief Officer), Kevin Barnes (CSO), Amanda Dean (Minutes)

Welcome & Apologies: Apologies: Olivier Picard, Rohini Aerry

RB welcomed new Independent Member Aron Berry from Lloyds Pharmacy

2 Declarations of Interests

None

Introduction

Each attendee was invited to introduce themselves and comment on recent highs and lows. Common themes were the incredible work and commitment of pharmacy teams and the resultant higher profile of community pharmacy; and frustrations around remote working and staffing.

3 Action Log Review

The Action Log (previously circulated) was reviewed and updated. The following points were raised:

- Banking packs to be forwarded
- Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held
- COVID-related costs were funded out of HETV money
- Unlicensed drugs still on the drug tariff – issues ongoing.
- Issues with Treasurer move being resolved
- GP CPCS Liaison role – looking for candidates
- Levy increase – see Finance Report
- GP CPCS – disappointing attitude from non-CP pharmacists
- Self-Evaluation – VP now on PharmOutcomes, complete for next meeting
- MP Engagement – poor turnout but good engagement with those that did attend

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4 Chief Officer's Report

The following points were highlighted (report previously circulated):

- **Market Entry** – very busy. Challenge in Oxfordshire with closure of 10% of pharmacies in the last 10 months. Several changes of ownership. Currently 6 applications for new pharmacies.
- **Training** – HEE Health Champion course. We have 97 places. Starting in April. Awaiting details from Pharmacy Complete.
- **Hours** - Working Behind Closed Doors agreed (2.5hrs). Pharmacies encouraged to take advantage to catch up. Area Team still accepting short-term changes in hours.
- **COVID Vaccination** – Thanks to CSO for coordinating. Spread the word to colleagues in optometry, dentistry, etc. Initial Berkshire applications didn't come through. Oxfordshire has been well supported through PCNs.
- **Services** – concern about lack of services and funding. CSO to discuss.
- **GP CPCS** – struggling due to COVID pressures.
- **DMS** – only Royal Berks in our area. Delayed due to issues with Pinnacle. Potentially starting at the end of February. Pharmacies without a hospital that can deliver disadvantaged - discuss with PSNC. BP said he receives a few referrals from Swindon. Pharmacies will get £400 set up fee regardless.
- **Local Commissioned Services** – some concerns about expiring contracts. Hep C - poor take up; probably plan some training later in the year, however, little return for the work involved.
- **PQS Part 1** – CSO chasing those outstanding.
- **MDS** – policy published. A lot of local support from PCNs, CCGs and secondary care.
- **Flu** – still vaccinating. 53,000 last year, 94,000 this year. 15,000 50-64's now vaccinated. It is possible to offer flu and COVID vaccines together. Major review next month. Pharmacies advised not to order vaccines for 50-64's for next winter.
- **LMC** – a regular meeting has been set up. Good engagement. Positive about GP CPCS.

5 Treasurer's Report

Points highlighted from report (previously circulated):

- Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held; balance sheet was reviewed line by line and necessary corrections made.

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- Banking issues to be resolved. Consider changing software from Quickbooks to Xero.
- Levy Increase – before agreeing increase and timeline, accountant to provide forecasts modelling gradual versus immediate increase, and impact of larger potential PSNC fee increase.
- GP CPCS Engagement role to be funded through the HETV money.

6 Contractor Support Officer's Report

CSO highlighted the following points from his report (previously circulated):

- **PCNs** – slowly getting movement - about 25% of PCNs starting to work well. Some Clinical Directors are not engaging. COVID has meant we haven't been able to do the engagement we had intended. Committee to advise what training PCN Leads need so this can be considered.
- **Services** – emailed services list.
 - Concerns around Supervised Consumption as contract expired in March 2020 - needs formal extension and discussion around whether it is financially viable.
 - EHC – the Berkshire contract is up for renewal and they are requesting extension, currently under review. Suggestion that LARC injections once every 3 months are better funded and may be more appropriate
 - Substance Misuse is fine - good relationship with all providers.
 - OCCG – Smoking Cessation - good relationship; financial issues resolved. Previous contract across whole county, 10 isolated wards that are a problem. New contract in those 10 wards through ICE. 3 tiers – first 2 involve buying products in pharmacies, third tier is Champix. Committee asked for views on the contract. On a commercial level it doesn't make sense to provide the service at that cost, however, from a patient perspective we will always offer advice; this isn't where teams should be focusing their energy at this stage.
 - ICE have no infrastructure in Oxfordshire so suggestion that they consider renting space in pharmacies for drop-in clinics, thereby providing footfall and a bit of extra income. CSO to explore with pharmacies in those areas.
 - Asymptomatic COVID testing as a commissioned service – CSO to investigate.
- **Staff Vaccination** – Good progress; Reading pharmacy should go live shortly. PCNs increasingly vaccinating healthcare workers.
- **MCA** – no particular pushback. Disappointing that the regular meetings cancelled.
- **EPS** – only a handful of dispensing surgeries that refuse to move. Biggest challenge now is around online pharmacies.
- **Supervised Consumption** – details circulated. All to provide feedback.

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7 PSNC/NPA/CCA Updates

NPA – No update available

CCA

- Jan – Mar questions around DMS, GP CPCS and ICS & IPMO – the broad overview has been covered.
- GP CPCS – Implementation Lead has engaged with us. Not much activity due to COVID.

8 POC

- Report circulated – add link to web site
- Melatonin liquid – where particular brands are being requested, asked to specify on prescription. There is now a licenced Melatonin brand.

9 AOB

- COVID Vaccination & Fertility – guidance has been sent to the shared inbox50-64 Flu Patient Survey – looking for feedback.

Next Meeting – 10.00-13.00, Wednesday 10th March 2021, Online