**Somerset LPC AGM – CEO’s Report**

**Michael Lennox**

Dear Chair, Committee and Contractor colleagues, my thanks for your time and for the opportunity to share some key reflections on 18-19.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of our dear LPC colleague and Chair, Andrew Downing. Andrew was a true ambassador for community pharmacy and a committed servant to our contractors in Somerset.

2018-19 has been a challenging year with community pharmacy trapped in our current national contract construct, delivering lower returns and limited financial sustainability for us all.

The LPC acknowledges the extent of the current financial pressures on our contractors and would like to thank our contractor teams for their resilience in such circumstances.

Last year at the AGM I predicted that better days will come.

This year in the LPC we have been working on your collective behalf to enable better days, faster.

Again, we supported you to optimise the Quality Payments Scheme contract outcome and again Somerset performed to maximise the return from the national contract.

We have worked with our Somerset County Council Public Health Teams to maintain the role and revenue associated in delivery of commissioned services.

This, despite savage council cuts across all other spending areas. We have negotiated a new contract for substance misuse with our Partner organisation Turning Point and are due to land new service pilots on areas such as alcohol misuse and Hepatitis C during this calendar year.

We also thank our NHS Health-checks partner, Lloydspharmacy for the successful contract extension for this year gone. We are one of the few health economies where community pharmacy is the at scale deliverer of Health-checks.

Last year was a challenging Flu season with supply issues sharpening operational delivery difficulties. Our numbers held up due to your tireless work and this coming season we are working with the LMC and GPs to develop an integrated approach that we believe will pave the way for opportunity by developing collaborative work, driving more activity, more revenue and better system health outcomes.

You will have been made aware of the forthcoming changes in the NHS both nationally and within Somerset. The landing of the NHSE Long Term Plan and the new GP contract has triggered a wave of change.

Your LPC has been actively involved in all aspects of the strategic development of this in Somerset. We are included in, influencing it and beginning to have positive impact on the new models of care and ways of working being created for this next phase of health delivery.

After a prolonged period of stagnation, the national pharmacy contract is also now being renegotiated to align how we are rewarded with this new NHS model.

I predict this will see an increasing emphasis on being rewarded for service rather than supply. We must be service orientated and service ready. We will support you to be ready with the launch of our Pharmacy Learning Zones training approach in July.

Our destiny lies with integrated Primary Care, collaborating with our General Practice colleagues and in the formation of the new Primary Care Networks (PCN).

Your LPC has been working to ensure each PCN has a nominated Community Pharmacy lead included and we look forward to announcing more on this work over the few weeks.

Our CCG and NHSE locally have been very supportive of us, ensuring that we can be hard-wired for integration and innovation. We have been granted support funding for engagement, digital and service development. This support will enable you as contractors to part-take in new services for new roles, for new monies as we move through 2019.

I will close with another expression of thanks. Myself and my LPC officer colleagues are eternally grateful for the professionalism and the positive LPC participation you exhibit in your day to day practice.At the risk of being provocatively optimistic, I believe we are well-placed to move from what is a difficulty present to a soon to be more rewarding future position.