

SOMERSET LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Somerset Local Pharmaceutical Committee held online via Zoom on Wednesday 22nd March 2023.

Members present: James Nicholas (Chair), Peter Whitaker (Vice Chair & PCN Coach Lead), Neil Kyle, Vasileios Alafodimos, Fivos Valagiannopoulos, Louise Larby, Nicola McKay

Officers in attendance: Michael Lennox (CEO), Yvonne Lamb (Engagement Officer), Philippa Hunt (Admin Officer)

Apologies: Shital Patel (Treasurer), Kyle Hepburn, Elin Palmer

Guests: N/A

Sponsors: Tim Robinson from Viatrix

Meetings notes and next stops documented by Philippa Hunt

1. Welcome and Introductions from James Nicholas

- James welcomed everyone and briefly talked through the agenda.

2. Declarations of Interest – none

3. Governance, Budget and Financial Matters

- January Full Committee Meeting and February Exec Meeting minutes were reviewed and ratified. **Action for Philippa to upload minutes onto website.**
- Michael gave an NPA update; they are launching innovators forum to feed into vision work. **Action for Yvonne/Philippa to confirm POC for contractor database asap.**

FINANCE

In Shital's absence, James gave a budget update/review with a view to year end approaching, along with what we want to achieve in 2023/24. The committee had received Shital's Treasurer Report in advance of the meeting.

- Winter Access Fund – this is for contractors for services. There was some discussion around GPCPCS project.
- CCG Engagement 21/22 fund is now empty.
- CCG PCSF 22/23 – This is likely to fund PCN Lead work along with funding for Clinical Lead role.
- CCG digital pot – this is supporting digital work as well as partly funding Clinical Lead and Engagement Officer roles. A large chunk of this (around £28k) is going to be used for IT licenses.
- CVD fund – this is pre-pandemic funding.
- Budgeting 23/24 – the aim is still to bring the core down to buffer of around £80k, with the intention that the budget this year addresses this.
- A final governance point was brought up; we are not profit making and therefore not liable for corporation tax.
- New funding opportunities this year; a lot of fresh funding opportunity is tied up in strategy and development and primary care goals. £18k of funding has been requested for IP Pathfinding and we are awaiting the outcome.

- James shared the budget spreadsheet for 2023/24 and talked through each section. There was discussion around funding and which pots various support could be funded from, what is needed to offer value to contractors, etc. The committee unanimously voted to pass the budget.
- The committee discussed the PCN Lead Coach role currently being undertaken by Peter Whitaker over one day per month. The committee were very happy with Peter's work in this area and voted unanimously to continue supporting this role.
- The committee discussed the Clinical Lead role. With a number of services developments expected in 23/24, including a potential IP pathfinder service, it was proposed that the committee would continue to fund this role going forward into the 23/24 year at one day per week. The duration of this will be dependent upon IP pathfinder funding. Fivos Valagiannopoulos agreed to continue in this role and the committee voted unanimously in favour.

4. TAPR / ELECTIONS

As the new constitution has been accepted, we are moving forward as Community Pharmacy Somerset, with plans to change from 1st July in line with the new committee cycle.

Michael and Philippa have completed work and planning around the upcoming elections.

Michael, as Returning Officer, ran through the timeline with the committee. The numbers of each representative should be based on where we were on 31/01/2023 and having gone through the contractors in Somerset, we believe the representatives will be 6 x CCA, 2 x AIM and 3 x Independent but are awaiting confirmation. **Action: Michael contacting the CCA and AIM formally to ask for nominations.** The timeline for the independent nomination and election process has been laid out as follows:

- Invitation to nominate to be sent to independent contractors on 18th April with closing date for nominations of 2nd May.
- Nominations to be collated and if election required, voting papers and candidate statements to be distributed on 10th May with closing date for return of voting to be 24th May with new members to take up office on 1st July.

5. STRATEGY

- Michael had provided a copy of the *Community Pharmacy Somerset Strategic Review of 22/23 and Planning for 23/24* PowerPoint in advance of the meeting and talked through the presentation with the committee with 8 priority actions and further discussion with the committee took place. The following points were raised and discussed:
 - The only way to get through the current challenges is with change in order to deliver.
 - Good outcome that ICS have committed to this over coming years.
 - DMS for MPH keeps being pushed back as they are not ready in particular due to ongoing issues with discharges. Will need to be managed closely by Yvonne once ready and DMS re-training will need to happen.
 - Laura Picton, the new Integration Lead, will start after Easter making Clinical Lead and Engagement Officer work easier hopefully.

6. SPONSOR PRESENTATION

- Tim Robinson from Viatris gave a presentation on Hiprex.
- Following presentation it was agreed that Tim would organise some further information to be sent for distribution in an upcoming bulletin. **Action for Philippa to follow up on this.**

7. People/Workforce/Development

- Michael and Yvonne gave an extensive update around priorities in 2023/24, continuing pharmacy pressures, services and how value can be added to help community pharmacies survive, particularly around supporting GP services.
- Michael explained further around the Save Our Pharmacies campaign. This included discussing the petition, social media input and politician engagement.
 - Tessa Munt pharmacy visit was really positive. She seemed to fully grasp the challenges faced and was very much behind the Save Our Pharmacies campaign.
 - Philippa sent info around the campaign to Somerset MPs and invited them to visit a local pharmacy and to engage. No response yet. **Action for Philippa to follow up in a week if no response.**
 - Campaign material will be landing with pharmacies to promote.
 - The committee agreed that they were happy with the approach for the campaign.
 - **Action for Michael to pursue BBC Radio Somerset engagement.**
 - There was further discussion around comms in general and social media going forward.
- HEE merging with NHS England and both are going through restructuring processes.
- Closures – these have been a little better although still more than is they should be compared to the rest of the region. The committee discussed the difficulty getting locums in Somerset.
- The committee discussed future plans for the bulletin in terms of frequency, change and how it can be re-launched with Philippa taking it over from Anne in the coming months. The committee agreed that this would be a good opportunity to reduce the frequency to monthly and to make some changes. This led to a wider discussion around comms, in particular social media.
- PCN Leads:
 - 2 vacancies (West Mendip and West Somerset) with possibly 3rd coming.
 - NHS England has funded PCN Leads for the last 12 months but we will be funding PCN Leads for next 12 months.
 - Peter talked through the 3 different levels approach that was presented at the Exec meeting in February and the committee all agreed that this sounded good and would allow accurate tracking of PCN Lead work and good governance.
 - As locality boards/neighbourhoods develop there are opportunities for PCN Leads to be more involved and work together.

8. OPS

- Yvonne gave a an Ops update:
 - Number of pharmacies signing up for new services contracts has declined.
 - MAS uptake increased.
 - GPCPCS is continuing to grow; Jan and Feb both had 1250, the highest ever done. This month is nearly at 1000 already and December was 1800.
 - Smoking services have dipped.
 - Needle exchange issues with claims not matching is better but still not quite marrying up. An extended grace period has been agreed.
 - There were not as many flu vaccinations in the most recent season as the previous year, but that was expected.
- There was a discussion with the committee around the PharmOutcomes renewal invoice this year and the committee agreed that Somerset Council and Turning Point

would be invoiced at the same proportional split as the previous financial year. **Action for Philippa.**

9. CUSTOMER/SERVICE

- Overspending on MAS. Allocated £30k spending, because doing more minor ailments. MAS + 111CPCS + GPCPCS = nearly 3k per month.
- 42 ICS have submitted bids for IP Pathfinding, many of which were same day urgent care with prescribing on the back of CPCS. Our bid is around Cardio Vascular support. A lot of work went into this idea with Fivos, Anne and Michael looking at areas where real impact could be made by community pharmacy supporting with IP. We are waiting on the outcome from NHS England, this will come to Sean (as the named person on the bid) in May.

10. FINANCE FOR CONTRACT AND CONTRACTORS

- Price concessions are a huge problem. This is a broken process leaving contractors out of pocket, with drug shortages leaving contractors out of pocket if they have to give branded alternatives that are enormously more expensive.
- PSNC continue to land messaging that there is not enough money in national funding budget and that pressure on contractors needs to be eased.
- Committee agreed that focusing on the Save Our Pharmacies campaign, promoting in pharmacies and on social media, is vital. We need to reassure and support, working with all contractors to navigate uncertain times. We want sustainability of pharmacies.

11. AOB – the committee had no further business and so the meeting was concluded.

DATE AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 2023

Full committee

Wednesday 17th May – last of our committee cycle so agreed to be in person. **Action for Philippa to invite Mary along. Action for Michael to invite Laura Picton along.**

Wednesday 12th July – face to face.

Tuesday 12th September – virtual. **Action for Philippa to set up on Zoom.**

Exec Meetings

Wednesday 19th April via Zoom

Tuesday 20th June via Zoom

August meeting to be decided at April Exec meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- 1) Philippa to add ratified full committee and exec committee minutes to website.
- 2) Michael to contact CCA and AIM to formally ask for committee nominations.
- 3) Yvonne/Philippa to confirm POC for contractor database.
- 4) Yvonne to contact Public Health to obtain stats around current activity.
- 5) Philippa to follow up with Tim Robinson/Viatrix for further info on Hiprix for an upcoming bulletin.
- 6) Philippa to follow up with Somerset MPs re Save Our Pharmacies if no response in a week.
- 7) Michael to pursue BBC Radio Somerset for engagement re Save Our Pharmacies.

- 8) **Philippa to organise invoicing for PharmOutcomes to Somerset Council and Turning Point.**
- 9) **Philippa to contact Mary and invite for lunch to committee meeting on 17th May and check with Dillington House that correct lunch provision in place.**
- 10) **Michael to invite Laura Pictor to committee meeting on 17th May.**
- 11) **Philippa to send out nomination information as agreed to independent contractors on Tuesday 18th April.**

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