

LPC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 30th June 2021

Present:	Bina Patel	Chirag Patel	Rajiv Sharma	Jon Lake
	James Chaplin	Penny Skellern	Sanjay Patel	Moksha Popat
In attendance:	Karen Samuel Smith	Ashok Pattani	Angela Culleton	Sarah Read
	Hema Patel	Frank McLaughlan	Mo Raje	
Apologies:	Tunde Sokoya			
Part of Meeting:	via zoom Bharat Patel			
	via zoom Simon Moul			

Introductions

For the last 16 months the committee has met via zoom, this was the start of meeting face to face again. Moksha Popat has been recently appointed to the committee and was welcomed to the meeting.

Etiquette

Bina set out some etiquette guidelines for the meeting, requested all members to turn off mobile phones. Contribute clearly, and for only 1 meeting to take place at any one time.

Action Points

Reflected over action points from the minutes of last meeting, 14th April 2021.

Pro-Action have been deferred back to later in the year.

The 100-hour pharmacies have now resumed back to their full contractual hours. The minutes were agreed as an accurate and true record.

Ashok asked whether future forum meetings have been arranged, these will resume in September, several Pharma companies have already expressed an interest in sponsoring.

Update from Frank McLaughlan – Field Officer

Frank highlighted some of the key areas he has been involved in since the last meeting.

Some pharmacies within West Essex are hiring out their consultation rooms to IAPT for a day a week over the next 16 weeks, contractors should bear in mind their contractual duties and income from services are not impacted on.

Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) referral take up has been lower than expected although this appears to be large numbers of referrals to a small number of pharmacies. Overall acceptance rate is 83% and completion rate 78%. There has however been a technical glitch at PAH since 8th June, and no referrals are currently coming out of Southend Hospital. Basildon and Colchester remain active with making referrals, and Broomfield is now starting referrals. Frank is in the process of contacting pharmacies who have either not opened the referral or completed the second stage, noting that DMS has been an essential service since 15th February and by not completing can be a breach in terms of service as well as representing a loss of income.

The mental health trusts have recently also started making referrals, and in particular identifying potential suicide risk cases.

ACTION: Rajiv suggested that hospital representatives could attend future forum meetings, to see patient point of view through the system.

Update from Mo Raje -GP CPCS

Mo presented an overview of GP CPCS within Essex. 96% contractors have now signed up (1st stage), and currently GPs are being trained or due to be trained (2nd stage)

Mo highlighted for every £1 spent, £10 is being gained back by Contractors.

GSOC Report

Penny reported back issues discussed at the last GSOC meeting held on 16th June, via zoom, as follows:

- The possibility of delaying the members election for a year, need to vote today so that it can be discussed at the AGM in September.
- Review steering group webinar held on 14th June was felt to be disappointing. It appeared to be selective in the questions that were answered, money is being spent and are not being as transparency as we hoped.
- Possibility of additional levy holidays for contractors later in the year
- Simon Moul has moved out of Essex, therefore an alternative AIMp representative may need to be appointed to the committee. **ACTION:** Essex LPC to approach AIMp
- Committee member representative numbers may be reduced due to RSG
- Formal structured annual reviews to start taking place for office team members

Update from Karen Samuel-Smith – Chief Officer

Karen shared some details on current performance cases, when they have closed, some of the learning points will be shared in the newsletter.

CPAF open from 28th June to 24th July – to complete the short survey is “a must do” otherwise may be a breach of terms of service

Update from Ashok Pattani – Finance Manager

End of year accounts are not yet available from Fisher Michael, hopefully they will be by the next meeting. Ashok asked for an emergency provision for 2 months levy holiday for contractors if levels of reserve are deemed excessive, this would not be implemented unless GSOC are consulted, but avoids the need to call full committee. unanimously agreed.

Rajiv proposed. Chirag seconded.

It was felt by all members that Essex contractors should benefit, either by means of levy holiday or training open to all (possibly when PQS, PCN Leads have been confirmed)

No changes to the expense allowances. However, Rajiv raised the issue about locum costs are currently high. GSOC to review locum rates before the next face to face meeting.

ACTION: James, Rajiv and Mo to provide average locum costs prior to next meeting

Flu Vaccination Service

Mo proposed HLPartnership to provide flu vaccinations for staff at Essex Police, like the current arrangements for Thurrock Council, subject to appropriate commissioning. Members agreed

Essex County Council - Caroline Adlem – “Find your active”

Caroline joined the meeting virtually and explained that following the pandemic Essex County Council are keen to get people active and was seeking the assistance of pharmacy teams. “Find your active”, would fit within the essential healthy lifestyles and/or as a Healthy Living Pharmacy outreach programme. Members discussed various options including PCN events with nominated budget (ECC have a £10k media budget for this project). 1 day for all pharmacies to be involved to have an impact visually. CCA members agreed that they would have the scope to do locally (ie Essex) as long as it was not complicated nor time consuming. Karen will feedback the details to Caroline.

Contract Changes

Only 1 contract change, Harlow Healthcare, no significant change relocation. Karen to respond positively to the application.

Chief Officer and Chair Conference

Bina fed back details from the conference that took place 24th June 2021, in particular the discussion that took place around HR policies, RSG proposal for LPCs to use a central HR company. Essex LPC currently use Peninsula, and all were happy for this to continue.

Bina agreed to contact LPC Chairs within the area (Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Luton and Beds) to find out what the general feeling was about the recent RSG webinar.

Bharat Patel - PSNC Update

Bharat joined the meeting virtually but was unfortunately not able to share details from PSNC, as negotiations are ongoing.

No communication from new Secretary of Health, however PSNC have contacted him.

Hannah Cordell (Nestle Nutrition)

Nestle Nutrition kindly sponsored part of the Essex LPC meeting. Hannah shared details about the SMANutrition Programme and will send links and details onto Karen. Nestle Nutrition are also keen to support locality meetings in the Autumn.

Contractor Issues

Health checks

Karen relayed a proposal from Provide to resume health checks in pharmacies up to April 2022 where GPs have opted out, payment per check would be £30. However, the health checks would only be available in specific localities as determined by Provide (Basildon, Harlow, Canvey, Tendring) for 20 pharmacies near to GPs that are not wanting to offer health checks this year. It was felt that a lot of pharmacies have put time and money in developing staff to do health checks but may miss out as they may not be in the designated areas.

Member decision was it should be patient choice, not happy with just the 20 licences near to opted out GPs, should be open to all qualified/willing providers. Karen to report back to Provide.

Adult Self Harm Assessments

Karen has been working with a group on a toolkit for adults who may have self-harmed, plan to self-harm etc. She is setting up a task and finish group, and EoI already received but would like the members views by 16th July whether the toolkit would be useful to be held in pharmacies.

Pharmacy Needs Assessment

The 3 Pharmacy Needs Assessments (PNA) for Essex, Southend and Thurrock have been deferred to October 2022 to be published. Work will start on Essex and Southend from this September and Karen has already been invited to be on steering group. Thurrock have not yet planned but intend to ask an agency for assistance.

Rurality reviews will also take place in line with the PNAs

Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

Current arrangements are Mid and South, North & Suffolk, West & Herts. The geographics may alter in the proposed ICS

Regional Meetings and workshops are currently taking place, as well as meetings arranged between GPs, Dentistry, Ophthalmic and Pharmacy representation

HLP Services

1237 people quit smoking during 2020-21, there is currently a shortage of Champix but this is likely to be resolved soon.

Karen is involved with ongoing discussions for the new Essex Wellbeing Service which will be commissioned from April 2022.

Essex LPC Annual AGM and Conference – 15th September 2021

All members agreed for the decision for the elections to be deferred for a year (April 2023) and this will be discussed at the Contractors AGM in September. May require an EGM but this can take place at the AGM

Rising Star

A few names have been put forward already, but if Members would like to nominate more, please let the Office know, rising stars will then be invited to the next face to face committee meeting.

Essex LPC Conference

Members agreed to have local commissioners as speakers at the Conference rather than national, possibly representatives from ICS, Public Health or PNAs. Will wait until 5th July before making contact and finalising arrangements.

Annual Report

Angela is currently preparing data and details for the annual report, Chair and Chief Officer to include their forewords, if members would like to include articles please let the Office know as soon as possible, so that it can be approved ready for print.

AOB

Rajiv asked if there is an update on the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations. This is still to be confirmed, but likelihood is vaccines will be given at the same time, but the COVID vaccine should be different the first administered, issues around this to be resolved as clinical at risk or under 40 are not recommended to have AZ. Will await the final decision in due course.

Frank asked committee members what the general feelings of contractors is at this present time. All appears quiet, and no issues have been raised with members. Frank offered his assistance if it was required to speak to Contractors.

Service Finder is a DoS look up tool and can be accessed to find "back door GP numbers". Karen has also found out recently that all options for CPCS to be ticked on the DoS entry and to make sure all hours are showing, both supplementary and core hours.

Sarah raised on behalf of Ani the drop single assessment fee (SAF) did any members know any reason for this? No one knew.

James has heard that the cost of GP CPCS referrals was reducing from £14 and asked if any other members had heard, again, no one was aware of this.

IT funding implications from October – PharmOutcomes/Sonas – consideration governance and availability to all. To be discussed at the next meeting.

AC/July 2021