



COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 21st May 2020

12noon - 1.00pm

Venue: Online meeting (Due to Covid 19 restrictions)

LPC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raju Malde (RM)
Carolynne Freeman - Vice Chair (CF)
Matthew Armstrong (MA)
Kishor Shah (KS)
Lakminder Flora (LF)
Amrit Minhas (AM)
Aimee Mulhern (AMu)
Anil Patel (AP)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Marie King - Chief Officer (AMK)
Giles Owen - Nene CCG

APOLOGIES

Sue Snelling
Rishi Hindocha (RH)
Hansa Bi (HB)
Daljit Poone (DP)
Amir Ismail (AI)
Has Modi (HM)
Veronica Horne (VH)

There were no declarations of interest reported with the agenda.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (Thursday 16th January 2020) were reviewed and approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting and action points. CF signed the minutes virtually as Vice Chair.

Reports

Chief officer report

AMK explained that the meeting would not follow a typical format. Giles Owen would update the committee regarding local matters in Northants. Committee members would then be asked to contribute with topics that were relevant to the LPC.

Finance Report

AM gave the report to the committee. (Report attached)

The committee discussed the funds in the account which now include money from the integration fund. (£11320.54). Due to reduced meeting costs (Covid), it was agreed that we would look at the funds going forward to prevent an excess in the account. If this was the case the levies could be reduced.

Contracts committee

There was no report

Governance committee

There was no report

Services (Strategy) committee

There was no report

Giles Owen - Nene CCG

Covid related issues

GO briefed the committee on the response to Covid19 led by Northants CCG. He explained how staff from the army / police had helped with their critical incident response.

Local distribution of PPE was from Francis Crick House, but this has now been moved.

The CCG has been involved in freeing up beds from the acute hospital.

A pharmacy response team has been set up with a group of pharmacists from the acute trusts. The group also includes the CCG and AMK from the LPC. The aim of this team is to feedback issues to the wider response team. Local issues mirrored those of national issues. ((PPE supplies / Covid Testing)

eRD (Electronic Repeat Dispensing)

eRD is on the agenda of the CCG. The committee discussed the push towards eRD locally and MA / LF expressed interest from a 'Boots' perspective.

The 2019/20 GMS contract stated that from April 2019, practices were expected to use eRD for all patients for whom it was clinically appropriate, and practices were encouraged to promote the use of eRD to their registered patients.

GO submitted the following report from the CCG regarding eRD:

- *We started to receive a few queries from practices regarding eRD so we put together a TPE on this towards the end of 2019 to provide some information. We are aware of the advantages of eRD but also know that there can sometimes be issues with eRD, particularly when it has been implemented for patients that are not appropriate, therefore the TPX was designed to give practices a basic starting point if they did wish to start implementing for some of their patients*
- *To help to reduce footfall and workload in GP practices in the early stages of Covid-19, NHSE recommended practices to increase their eRD usage*
- *NHSBSA announced that they were able to provide practices with a list of potentially appropriate patients for eRD and held some webinars relating to eRD*
- *There has been varying thoughts on eRD around the county but we did then have more practices, PCN pharmacists and Practice pharmacists enquire about eRD*
- *We therefore put together some additional guidance for those practices who were actively looking at initiating eRD; this built upon on the TPX and was created using a combination of resources already available*
- *When discussing eRD with practices, we have recommended that they discuss their interest with their Community Pharmacies as although eRD is within the CP contract, we (and the practices) acknowledge that the past few weeks have been extremely difficult for many Community Pharmacies with increased prescription volume, staff having to self-isolate and the other issues Covid has caused. Some Community Pharmacies may not have used eRD for a number of years, staff training may therefore be required and this could be a difficult time to implement such things. Therefore our team have suggested that if a Pharmacy is currently struggling and not able to implement currently, then to leave for the time being*
- *In one locality, a practice was very keen to start eRD but their PCN pharmacist was off sick so our Prescribing Advisor offered to help, phoning each of the local pharmacies to gauge their current capacity and willingness to accept eRD prescriptions and started patients (at those pharmacies who were happy to receive eRD prescriptions) on eRD batches*
- *We do still have some reservations with eRD (particularly due to stock shortages which have been amplified during Covid) but are happy to support practices, PCN pharmacists and Practice pharmacists if and when they ask for support*
- *We have also worked with one PCN in Northampton regarding using eRD as one of the potential options for shielding patients*

Matters brought forward by committee members

AMK

AMK thanked GO for the help and support provided by himself and the CCG during the first weeks of the Covid Pandemic, particularly for matters relating to testing for local pharmacy staff.

AMK explained that how local LPCs (approximately 11) have grouped together in the east and central area to share experiences and ideas. The group is in its infancy and AMK will update the committee going forward with matters discussed and progress made.

MA

MA gave an update from the working group for the May PSNC conference, which was postponed. He discussed the output from the LPC / PSNC review which is due out. This is planned for July in which 2 reps from each LPC will be invited to attend a meeting in which David Wright would present his report. There would be time for Q&A before recommendations are discussed. The committee agreed that this would be difficult to do in the current climate when meetings would need to be held remotely. AMK explained that the LPC would receive prior preview of the review in June in order that we could discuss and make comment before the main meeting in July.

CF

CF expressed concern that pharmacists are struggling to provide NMS services due to the restrictions of a hard written consent. Many patients are asking relatives or volunteers to collect their prescriptions after having a telephone consultation with their GP. This restricts sign up to what is a valuable service. CF has already contacted PSNC, NPA and AimP in regards to this, and all state that at present the written consent remains as specified. MA / LF / AMu informed the committee that Lloyds and Boots have also raised these concerns. The feedback given from the PSNC is that discussions are being held regarding the signature of consent and what it should look like. A verbal consent would enable and benefit other services in the future - not just NMS!

LF

LF asked if committee members have experienced problems with Supervised Methadone patients who are being given large quantities to take away instead of daily supervised doses. He explained that DAAT teams had responded to individual cases where there may be problems with overdose or theft but there had not been a proper review to cover all clients. The committee discussed the issue presented and agreed there was a problem. AMK will feedback to CGL locally.

AMu

AMu reminded committee members of the need to claim for CPCS referrals as it has been highlighted nationally that there are a lot of unclaimed funds attributed to this service. Some of the funds are lost due to initial set up and some to service delivery.

AMK

AMK asked the committee if they have experienced problems in obtaining PPE. It was agreed that at present there had not been a problem.

AMK reported that the new advanced delivery service for shielded patients is now up and running and figures have shown that some pharmacies have mistakenly claimed for all deliveries and not simply those for their shielded patients. In Northants the fire service have been delivering to patients and to date have successfully delivered over 1000 prescriptions.

AMK asked for feedback regarding the format of this meeting. The committee agreed that it was not ideal but meant that we could hold future meetings whilst Covid restrictions are in place. The meeting in July will follow the same format.

Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting is confirmed as Thursday 16th July 2020

There will be an interim meeting in June to discuss the review when details are sent to the LPC for discussion. The details of the meeting will be confirmed in due course.

The meeting was closed at 1.00pm

X Sue Snelling

Sue Snelling

Finance report

11320.54	PHARMIF			
27999.98	Levys			
39320.52	TOTAL			
TOTAL IN THE ACCOUNT AS OF		01/03/2020	£ 128,725.17	
TOTAL INS			£ 39,320.52	
TOTAL			£ 168,045.69	
TOTAL OUTS			£ 14,193.00	
			£ 153,852.69	
TOTAL AS OF		30/04/2020	£ 147,514.71	
		20/05/2020	£ 132,511.35	<i>(PSNC Levy Paid)</i>
			£ 11,320.54	<i>Pharmacy Integration fund</i>
			£ 6,000.00	<i>MK council</i>
			£ 18,994.00	<i>Northamptonshire council</i>
		TOTAL	£ 96,196.81	