

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting - TAPR

Thursday 23rd February 2023 - 6.30pm

Venue: Online meeting

Special meeting to vote on proposed changes to the LPC, as a result of the 'Wright' review and work done by the Review Steering Group (RSG)

LPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolynne Allan - Chair (CA)
Veronica Horne (VH)
Anil Patel (AP)
Bobby Arora (BA) – Joined later to cast vote
Lak Flora (LF)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Marie King – Chief Officer (AMK)

The Special Meeting was held to discuss the 'Wright' review with contractors, and to vote on the proposals set by the LPC Committee. The vote covers the points below:

- adoption of the new LPC constitution written by the PSNC
- to delay the election of the new LPC committee for a further 3 months
- to discuss changes to the LPC as a result of the 'Wright Review'

Background to the proposed changes

The 'Wright' review was commissioned jointly by PSNC and LPCs in 2020. The review looked for ways in which PSNC and LPCs could work more effectively together, and ways to ensure that the representation and support network for contractors (both local and national) is fit for the future.

In 2021, the recommendations were published and taken forward by the RSG (Review Steering group), who proposed changes to how the PSNC and LPCs would work and would be funded.

In July 2022 contractors were asked to vote on these proposed changes, and subsequently voted overwhelmingly in support that the changes should be implemented.

The proposals were as follows:

- strengthening governance
- improving collaboration
- aligning with the NHS
- ensuring contractors' money is spent most effectively to get the best value

In the autumn of 2022, the Transforming Pharmacy Representation Programme (TAPR) group was formed to deliver the changes. As a result, each LPC was asked to address the following:

- being co-terminus with at least one ICS/ICB
- contractor numbers. An LPC having fewer than 200 contracts, should explore opportunities to create an LPC of greater size

- the name of the LPC. The recommendation to change the name to ‘Community Pharmacy.....’
- size of the LPC committee. The RSG suggested a committee size of 10-12 members.

What options have been explored / conclusions made

Option 1 – Stay as we are (Northants MK LPC)

This is not a financially viable option. We could not afford the increased PSNC levy. (The current PSNC levy is £55000, and in 2024 -25 this will increase to £94000) In addition, we would not fit with the RSG recommendations of being coterminous with at least one ICS, and covering more than 200 contracts.

Option 2 - Split the contracts to form a stand-alone ‘Northants’ LPC, with the Milton Keynes branches moving to Bedfordshire LPC

Although we would be coterminous with an ICS, the LPC would not be financially viable. We could not afford the increased levy to PSNC. We would not have the desired number of contracts.

Option 3 - Split the contracts, moving Milton Keynes to Bedfordshire LPC, and the remaining Northants LPC merging with Leicestershire LPC.

This option would enable the Northants contracts to fit with RSG recommendations, however Bedfordshire LPC would not fit the recommendations even with the addition of the Milton Keynes pharmacies.

Discussions have taken place with Leicestershire LPC to explore this option, however their committee has voted in favour of staying as they are ,because they already fit the recommendations without any change.

Option 4 - Merging Northants MK LPC with Bedfordshire LPC

Discussions with Bedfordshire LPC have shown that this option would meet RSG recommendations and the merged LPC could be financially viable. This would be the most logical option.

What changes are we proposing for Northants MK LPC

After careful consideration and discussions with Bedfordshire LPC, we propose to merge Northants MK LPC with Bedfordshire LPC.

A new merged LPC will fit the RSG recommendations as follows:

Will our structure match that of the NHS?

Yes, we will be coterminous with both Northants and BLMK ICS.

Will we be the right size?

Yes, we will cover approximately 280 pharmacy contracts, which will increase our efficiency and ensure we can deliver the best value for contractors.

Are we being effective and efficient with our finances?

Yes, we currently operate in a very efficient way, and will continue to look at our running costs closely to ensure we use our funds wisely.

What will we be called?

We propose to rename the merged LPC according to the RSG recommendation. The LPC will be named 'Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants'

What will be the size of the new LPC committee

Following RSG recommendations we will have 10-12 members who will be elected before the new LPC forms in July 2023. This figure will be finalised with updated information obtained from CCA and AimP

Constitution. We propose to adopt the new and updated constitution written by PSNC. (This can be viewed in full on the PSNC website)

Elections. We propose to delay elections for a further 3 months in order that a new committee will be in place from July 2023

Ballot and declaration of results

Votes were counted, and the chair declared that contractors had voted unanimously in favour of the changes:

- we will adopt the new LPC constitution written by the PSNC
- we will delay the election of the new LPC committee for a further 3 months
- Northants MK and Bedfordshire LPCs will merge to form a larger LPC covering both areas

Any other business

None

Close of meeting

Signed by

Carolynne Allan
LPC Chair