



Bedfordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee

Representing Community Pharmacies in Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton

Enterprise House, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire MK45 4HR

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Chief Officer

Gerald Zeidman FRPharmS

Chair

Coll Michaels

Vice Chair

Nishil Shah

Treasurer

Paul Fearon

An Open meeting of Bedfordshire Local Pharmaceutical Committee was held remotely on Thursday 2nd March 2023, using the MS Teams meeting platform.

Present: **Members**

Coll Michaels (Chair, Independent rep)
Nishil Shah (Vice Chair, Independent rep)
Amit Lakhani (Independent rep)
Harjinder Singh (Independent rep)
Mahesh Shah (Independent rep)
Lakhminder Flora (CCA rep)
Gordon Ross (CCA rep)
Rupal Sagoo (CCA rep)
Ronak Maroo (AIM rep)
Mari Williams (AIM rep)

Bedfordshire LPC - Office

Gerald Zeidman (Chief Officer)
Ethel Shaw (BedsLPC Business Manager)

Bedfordshire LPC - Treasurer

Paul Fearon

Guests - attending virtually:

Funmi Balogun, Pharmacist, BLMK Clinical Commissioning Group
Adewale Abimbola, MPH MSc PgDip MRPharmS, Regional Senior Pharmacy Integration Lead, NHS East of England

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1392	<p><u>Welcome by Chair</u> The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.</p>	
1393	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Dr Pinesh Patel, BedsLPC committee member & Independent rep</p>	
1394	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> LPC members' Declaration of Interests are available for viewing at the meeting, if requested. They are also posted on the BedsLPC website.</p>	
1395	<p><u>Minutes from meeting held on 24th November 2022</u> The committee approved the minutes of the Open meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2022 as proposed by Conor Steele and seconded by Amit Lakhani.</p>	

1396 **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda update**

1386 – BedsLPC committee members observed that if GP practices increased GP CPCS referrals to community pharmacy that this would help to alleviate pressure on GPs.

BedsLPC Chief Officer invited Funmi Balogun to work with him to achieve this, as it was agreed that better utilisation of this national service would benefit everyone – patients, GPs, practices and community pharmacies.

Better collaboration between practices and community pharmacy is essential to the success of the service.

1387 – As discussed in November’s LPC Open meeting, BedsLPC Chief Officer has been working with BLMK ICB on a Preconception project with the aim of helping to improve birthing outcomes and health for pregnant local women.

The estimated start date for the project was January 2023 with a champion promoting the project in each participating pharmacy.

Having obtained approval for the programme from BedsLPC committee at a special meeting in January 2023, the programme team asked BLMK’s ICB Finance team to approve the £50k programme budget being held outside of the ICB. They were unable to do so.

Therefore, the project will be reviewed with an estimate recommencement later in 2023 or early 2024.

1387 - BedsLPC committee members advised that improving 111 (HUC) call handler and also community pharmacy contractor training for CPCS referrals would significantly enhance the service. This will be fed back to the relevant 111 (HUC) team.

1397 Introduction by BLMK ICB Chief Pharmacist – Medical Directorate

Unfortunately Shabina Azmi was unable to attend the meeting. She will endeavour to attend the next LPC meeting on Wednesday 26th April and has requested that Mark Thomas, ICB Chief Digital Information Officer joins her for that update.

The informal update will include an introduction to both. At the meeting Shabina will also share her vision for Pharmacy. The aim of the session is to understand how to transform care in Community Pharmacy using access to Shared Care records.

Shabina does not want to devise a solution and not understand how it would fit into the current scope of community pharmacy and the potential impact on patient care.

Fundamentally whilst she understands that digital interoperability is a key enabler, she would like to understand how it can be used to deliver a better service to patients, whilst fitting into community pharmacy's current working practices.

She would like a meeting with BedsLPC Chief Officer and Northants MK Chief Officer before the next LPC meeting date.

1398 Introduction by the Regional Senior Pharmacy Integration Lead, NHSE East of England

Ade (Ade) Abimbola gave the update.

Ade is a member of William (Bill) Rial's team, who is Regional Chief Pharmacist, NHSE&I.

Ade is currently working on the Independent Prescriber (IP) Pathfinder programme which is funded by the Pharmacy Integration fund.

Each ICB is to submit Expressions of Interest and to date all six East of region ICBs have submitted theirs. Ade thanked BedsLPC Chief Officer for his engagement and Funmi Balogun for her submission on behalf of BLMK ICB.

Ade is in the process of reviewing all submissions. The NHS E&I national team will feedback to all representatives by mid-April 2023.

The expected date for the first phase is September or October 2023. March 2024 is the final date after which it is expected to become business as usual.

The change for direct commissioning from NHS E&I to ICBs is expected to affect the role that Ade is holding currently, but is not imminent due to the integration aspect of the role.

Funmi will be the contact for all IP Pathfinder queries.

BedsLPC committee members requested that issues relating to mental health and obesity are included in the bidding process, which were noted by Ade. BedsLPC Chair thanked Ade for his introduction and update.

1399 Bedford Hospital NHS FT update

Pritesh Bodalia and Karan Punni gave the update.

DMS

Pharmacy hospital workforce continues to be a problem for both recruitment and retention. This is having a negative impact on achieving service targets which is causing issues for community pharmacy, as there is no consistency in the number of referrals received.

This means it is not “business as usual” for community pharmacy staff, resulting in some missed or incomplete referrals.

Hospital senior management are addressing these problems. Pritesh would like to work with Funmi and BedsLPC to help mitigate these issues.

Referral numbers and inconsistency in relation to IT for the service is also a barrier. There are too many ways that referrals are received into community pharmacy resulting in some referrals being missed.

BedsLPC Vice Chair requested that patients are discharged from hospital with more than one week’s supply of medication. He thought this would help to alleviate some of the pressures on community pharmacy.

Nishil requested that discharged patients are also given a discharge letter similar to the one that is sent GP’s. This could then be shared with community pharmacy improving the service.

It was acknowledged by Pritesh that he is reflecting on the overall picture from a system point of view and it isn’t reflective of the work that community pharmacy is actually doing.

ACTION – BedsLPC, Funmi and Pritesh to continue collaborating on ways to improve the service to the benefit of the hospital, community pharmacy and most importantly patients.

**BedsLPC,
FB and PB**

E-Portal (BLMK Shared Care Record)

Karan explained that he had recently joined Pritesh’s team. He has previously worked with BedsLPC on DMS and the TCAM project.

He demonstrated the E-Portal (BLMK Shared Care record) system live to give everyone an understanding of how it will function.

A BedsLPC committee member asked if the BLMK E-Portal was linked to the National Care records system. Karan confirmed that it wasn’t. This concerned BedsLPC as it meant that it was disjointed for community pharmacy, resulting in them having yet another system to work with.

BedsLPC Chair raised a concern that community pharmacy faces a very real challenge of where to go to for information which is stored on too many systems.

Caution was advised as this proposed system is local and the drive is for

1400 Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead introduction

Funmi Balogun gave the update.

Funmi introduced herself. She has been in post since the end of January 2023 on a two-year contract. Funmi hopes that it will be extended beyond that period.

Since starting she has been engaging with local contractors, BedsLPC and NorthantsMK LPC in relation to their MK contractors. It is a 'visible' role with direct links into contractors and stakeholders. It will include an evaluation of community pharmacy's role and services, with a view to help community pharmacy improve the delivery of commissioned services.

Funmi is currently working on the IP Pathfinder programme bid as mentioned in Ade's update.

Her initial findings have shown that locally there are pockets of excellence. Her aim would be to see this replicated for all contractors. She will work with contractors to identify what is working well and help to share that expertise to all contractors.

She will work closely with the two LPCs and has already met with both LPC Chief Officers on several occasions.

Funmi invited committee members to engage with her for the benefit of all contractors. One committee member raised a concern that future commissioned services will only go to IP pharmacies and that others will be left behind.

Contractors would also like to see how services such as DMS and CPCS benefit patients.

This will involve updating systems e.g. IT, which may take up to three years. Committee members warned that this is too long; investment needs to be made now.

Both Funmi and Ade agreed. This will be part of their strategy going forward.

BedsLPC Chair thanked Funmi for her full and clear strategy for the future of community pharmacy.

1401 Any Other Business of a non-confidential nature

None was raised.

1402 Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked members and guests for their attendance.

1403 Date of next open meeting

There will be no further BedsLPC Open meetings due to the merger with Northamptonshire and MK LPC on 1st July 2023.

The meeting closed at 16:15hrs