



Minutes of a meeting of the BLMK and Northants LPC  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024  
Via Zoom

**Attendees:**

**Nishil Shah** - Chair and Independent LPC Member (Retrolink Ltd) **NS**  
**Anne-Marie King** - Chief Officer **AMK**  
**Paul Fearon** - Treasurer **PF**


**Bobby Arora** - LPC Member, AIMp representative (Peak Pharmacy Ltd) **BA**  
**Rishi Hindocha** - Independent LPC Member (Pharmacy Cherry) **RH** (arrived apx 1hr in to the meeting)  
**Lakhminder Flora** - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **LF**  
**Gordon Ross** - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **GR**  
**Ronak Maroo** - LPC Member, AIMp representative (Westbourne Pharmacy Ltd)

**RM**

**Has Modi** - LPC Member, AIMp representative (Jardines - UK Ltd) **HM**  
**Mahesh Shah** – LPC member, Independent LPC Member (Sampson AP Ltd) **MS**

**In attendance:**

**Rita Patel** – Pharmacy Support Team  
**Ingrid Cruickshank** – Pharmacy Support Team  
**Margie O’Connell** – Pharmacy Support Team

Number	Agenda Item	Actions
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions (NS)</b> NS confirmed that the meeting was quorate and made it known that the meeting would be recorded for administrative purposes only.	
2	<b>Apologies for absence (AMK)</b> Viren Bhatia - Vice Chair, Independent LPC Member (Kalki Health Ltd) VB (arrives	
3	<b>Declaration of Interests and Governance (all)</b> AMC – Also employed by Hertfordshire LPC MS - Member of BLMK ICB  <b>Minutes of Committee Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> Minutes of the previous meeting are embedded here:   Meeting minutes 20th March 2024 LPC meet	

4.	<p><b>Structure of Committee – (NS)</b></p> <p>NS noted that Paige Gresham and Veronica Home have resigned as LPC members. He wished to record huge thanks for their contributions made during their time on the LPC.</p> <p>NS advised that given that there was a big discussion about the Constitution in previous meetings regarding any drop in CCA members, the representation in the Committee would need to be reviewed.</p> <p>The Committee will consist of 3 CCA, 5 Independent and 3 AIMp representatives going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM questioned what defined an Independent vs a multiple. DoH views 5 and more as a multiple, whereas PSNC views 9+ as a multiple. There are also cases where there are more than one pharmacies owned within a family.</li> <li>• BA told the meeting that he, RH and GR had discussed this briefly before the meeting today, and they had concluded that 3 CCAs, 3AIMs and the rest independents was appropriate.</li> <li>• NS advised that CPE were expected to provide some legal advice on this and it was agreed that when this was available the LPC should make a decision.</li> </ul>
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5.	<p><b>Treasurer's update – (PF)</b></p> <p><b>ACCOUNTS FOR 2024/25</b></p> <p>PF advised that as only one month of the tax year 24/25 had elapsed, it was difficult to present much information. The Finance Committee has looked at the numbers and there is nothing of concern. This is the first time that the Committee has used the CPE format of accounts. PF explained the new format and made the following observations.</p> <p><b>PAYROLL</b></p> <p>Component parts will vary, but this is in line with the budget.</p> <p><b>MOBILE PHONES</b></p> <p>Broadband costs of £600pa have yet to be included.</p> <p><b>CONTRACTOR SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Expected to increase as in April there were only a few induction hours to calculate, with invoices to be paid in May for April working.</p> <p><b>BANK FUNDS</b></p> <p>These are now in the second tab of the new format.</p> <p>£165,000 is held at the end of April against a full year of £325,000 expenditure.</p> <p><b>EXTERNAL FUNDS</b></p> <p>Currently £107,000.</p> <p>£20,000 has been received from Northants ICB for IP support.</p> <p>£6,362.00 outgoings for the month of April.</p> <p>Interest £214.00: the balance of the IAS account is £197,000 and as that goes down, then the interest will also decrease. There will be some interest rate deductions which will also have an impact.</p> <p>PF advised that the only funds that are at risk is the Northants ICB, as the LPC have made some payments on their behalf. The Committee were reminded that Northants ICB have to authorise payments from this money and it is to support Community Pharmacy in Northamptonshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LPC Finance Sub-Committee</b> (meeting notes of 13<sup>th</sup> May circulated)</li> </ul> <p>Of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE letter was reviewed. The LPC pays by standing order which is of benefit to cash flow. The LPC's levy was lower than indicative levy due to a mixture of factors: number of contractors, service income and mis between prescription volumes and income.</li> <li>• LPC finance survey has been completed and the results should be available in a few months from the CPE. This will help in preparing the budget for 2025/26.</li> <li>• The Committee reviewed an PSNC signed letter querying whether the LPC is able to claim the Employment Allowance (£5,000pa). Historically, Northants LPC did not claim the employment allowance, whereas BLMK LPC did, on advice of the payroll manager and the auditor. If it needs to be repaid, there is a</li> </ul>
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6.	<p><b>Contractor Support</b></p> <p><b>AMK introduced the new Contractor Support Team:</b></p> <p><b>Ingrid Cruickshank</b> – qualified as a pharmacist in South Africa, where she spent 10 years there. Moved to the UK and joined Lloyds Pharmacy as a manager and served on the committee for the local LPC for 27 years. More recently she served as the Deputy Chief Officer for Herts LPC for 5 years. She retired in March 2024 and is now working in BLMK with AMC engaging pharmacies and PCNs. She has found the Pharmacy First webinars very valuable.</p> <p><b>Margie O’Connell</b> – Nursing background - has been supporting Practice and Professional development and has worked in Milton Keynes and across Bedfordshire. Margie gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on her work in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire with the Trusts, specifically with regard to DMS and SCS, and comparing them to Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire Hospital Trusts.</p> <p><b>Rita Patel</b> – qualified as a pharmacist and worked in head office for 15 years at Lloyds Pharmacy. She also has worked with Ingrid at Hertfordshire LPC. She is working together with Natalie, primarily on the Northamptonshire patch to engage with Community Pharmacies on Pharmacy First, Hypertension and Contraception services. Rita and Natalie recently attended a Train the Trainer course in Hypertension, which will mean they can offer further support to Community Pharmacies.</p> <p>Discussions followed, mainly focused on the relationship between Trusts and GP practices and Community Pharmacies and the CPE. The LPC were pleased to hear from the Contractor Support Team and looked forward to working with them.</p> <p><b>Other members:</b></p> <p>Natalie - will join at a meeting a later date.</p> <p>Ann-Marie Carrey - had joined at the March meeting.</p> <p>AMK reminded the Committee that the team will be guided by them.</p>
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## Market entry update (AMK)

AMK advised that there are a couple of contracts due for reps – one due on 1<sup>st</sup> June (consolidation in Kempston) and 15<sup>th</sup> June (distance selling in Houghton Regis). She reminded that Committee that they have received the papers and if they wish to comment that they need to do this soon so she can submit a response.

MS asked whether a note could be made when a pharmacy closes as this may impact on local service. AMK responded that the only time this has been brought to the LPC was when Lloyds Pharmacy in Milton Keynes closed and the contract was taken up by Jardines. She said that she does not get any notification when a pharmacy closes. GR suggested that the Pharmacy Needs Assessment should deal with any issues with lack of coverage of pharmacy support. AMK advised that the PNA for BLMK are due next year (except Luton, for which AMK would be pleased to receive contacts), Northamptonshire will be due this year.

## Governance (BA)

Brief meeting was had before the start of today's meeting.

- The Association of Independent Multiples is looking at a name change to Independent Pharmacies Association. A discussion was had around the impact this may have on the Committee. There is no issue with the name change, but there were concerns around how the IPA would support true independent contractors. This relates to HM's comment about what is an independent contractor.
- Representation had been discussed following the two resignations as discussed above. The Governance Sub-Committee concluded that 3 CCAs, 3AIMs and the rest independents was appropriate and proportionate. This will develop as the definition of Independent is confirmed.
- The Sub-Committee also discussed a robust framework for themselves.
  - They will produce minutes for reporting back to the Committee.
  - They will create a spreadsheet for market entries and exits to ensure that they are feeding back information correctly – AMK advised that she already has one in use.
  - They agreed that they are expected and ready to listen to any concerns from any committee members and will take forward any issues; this includes any investigations about themselves.
  - They will keep track on finances.
  - They would like to consider an appraisal system for salaried employees and contractors of the committee to ensure all work is staying on track. The Bedfordshire model was to do this annually, but the Sub-Committee would like this to take place twice a year.
- BA was thanked for this excellent and comprehensive report.

NS asked if the CCA would be advised of the resignation of the two members. He believes that Milton Keynes has not been represented by an Independent Contractor on the Committee and informed the meeting that efforts were being made to seek one to appoint. Updates in due course.

7	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>HM expressed his concern regarding representation of the LPC. He would like the Committee to consider a vote of no-confidence in the CPE. The main issue is that, he feels, the CPE has made no attempt to negotiate with the PSNC, nor have they employed a professional negotiator, and this is to the detriment of the LPC.</p> <p>NS agreed that there was a strong feeling that the CPE has not been transparent with its contractors and despite the extra funding, there seems to be no benefit received.</p> <p>GR agreed that CPE should be negotiating on behalf of LPCs, but seemed to be impotent in representation against the Government. Other groups have been successful with trained negotiators, and it seems that their approach and strategy seems to be misguided. A letter raising serious questions about the strategy should be written.</p> <p>LF agreed that there is lot of frustration. He suggested that other LPCs are approached to see if there is a consensus, as it would be more powerful to work together to express concern to the CPE with more evidence.</p> <p>MS agreed that this is a longstanding issue and that as a consequence of the bad negotiation demonstrated by the CPE, there have been closures and consolidation of Community Pharmacies. He suggested that a letter highlighting concerns is drafted to sent to CPE and if they then fail to take account and act on it, a vote of no confidence should be brought.</p> <p>BA advised that the Committee may face pressure if support from other LPCs is not gained as soon as possible.</p> <p>RH and RM reiterated several points raised above. RM also asked if LF, as the only CCA, had seen any directive about the CPE as in previous situations, there had been a reluctance amongst CCAs to put their name to a similar issue.</p> <p>LF confirmed that he had not seen any CCA directive regarding this matter, but that in any case CCAs were only part of the Committee so would go along with any decision made. He stated that he agreed with other members.</p> <p>HM advised that BLMK and Northants are not the only LPC who have lost confidence in the CPE.</p> <p>NS acknowledged that the Committee needed to take action, and that the best way forward was for the Committee to have a letter ready, and then to reach out to other LPCs in a timely fashion so that a reviewed version goes to CPE in a very short time.</p> <p>After some debate, it was proposed that HM should start writing the letter with support from MS and NS. They will bring the draft back to the Committee.</p> <p>There being no other comments, the meeting closed.</p>	<p><b>N S / HM/MS</b></p>
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10	<b>Next meeting Wednesday 17th July face to face</b> <i>(Please submit Agenda items to AMK in a timely fashion)</i>	
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Approved  
Chair:  
Date:



17 th July 2024