



Minutes of a meeting of the BLMK and Northants LPC
 Wednesday 21st January 2026

Attendees:

Nishil Shah - Chair and Independent LPC Member (Retrolink Ltd) **NS**
Mahesh Shah - Vice Chair and Independent LPC Member (Sampson AP Ltd) **MS**
Anne-Marie King - Chief Officer **AMK**
Paul Fearon - Treasurer **PF**
Ann-Marie Carrey Services & Engagement Lead BLMK **AC**
Rita Patel Services & Engagement Lead Northants **RP**
Ingrid Cruickshank - Services & Engagement Lead BLMK **IC**

Rishi Hindocha - Independent LPC Member (Pharmacy Cherry) **RH**
Amit Lakhani - Independent LPC Member (Bishopscote Chemist) **AL**

Tahera Dewji- LPC Member, CCA representative (Superdrug) **TD**

Has Modi - LPC Member, AIMp representative (Jardines - UK Ltd) **HM**
Mohammed Salloo- LPC Member, AIMp representative (Peak Pharmacy) **MS**

Guests:

Becky Butterworth- LPC Engagement and Support Manager

Apologies :

Viren Bhatia - Independent LPC Member (Kalki Health Ltd) **VB (resigned)**
Conor Steele - LPC Member, AIMp representative (Jardines - UK Ltd) **CS**
Lakhminder Flora - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **LF**
Gordon Ross - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **GR**

Number	Agenda Item	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions (NS)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the members, confirmed that the meeting was quorate and made it known that the meeting would be recorded for administrative purposes only.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>As above</p>	
3	<p>Declaration of Interests and Governance (all)</p>	

	None declared.	
4	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2025</p> <p>No changes were suggested, and it was proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: AL Seconded: HM</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee that documents are now hosted on the LPC site, and an email will be sent to advise they are ready for review. He suggested that the Committee get into the habit of reviewing the site on a regular basis.</p>	
5	<p>Vacancy for Independent Member and on Finance Sub-Committee</p> <p>The Chair advised that VB has stepped down from the Committee There is now a vacancy for an Independent member.</p> <p>He was also a member of the Finance Sub-Committee and it was agreed that an IPA should join to continue representation across the board. It was agreed that the Chair would speak to CS and MS separately.</p> <p>The vacancy on the LPC itself was discussed. Contractors will be invited to indicate their interest. It was confirmed there was no reserve list kept of those names who were previously interested. RH indicated he knew someone who might be suitable.</p> <p>It was agreed that this information should be included in the next LPC newsletter and as a separate email, with a decision to be made by the next meeting in March.</p>	
6	<p>Treasurer's Update – PF</p> <p>Finance Report (PF)</p> <p>1. Management accounts for nine months to 31st December 2025 (distributed with the agenda):</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with budget: • Contractor income is in line with budget but note payment for January was received on 31st December • Interest received will come in at the end of the year, due to reduction in interest will be marginally less than expected. • Sponsorship budget for alternate committee meetings is higher than usual. <p>Expenditure:</p>	

- Payroll: in line with budget.
- Meeting costs:
 - Lunches had not been included in the budget and had only been forecast for three meetings
 - Meeting fees under budget due to lower attendance.
- Office rental will be higher – PO box is mandatory
- Insurance will be under budget
- Admin: Transcribing of minutes is costing more as the meetings are longer, and a fee is charged rather than a Committee member doing so.
- Meeting costs over budget as this covers the share of the LPC Federation meetings.
- Events: event in September was not fully sponsored
- Contractor Support: Includes December claims. Forecast updated.
- Bank charges in line with budget
- Corporation Tax slight increase as expected.

Surplus at this stage expected of £13, 000 to reflect lower meeting attendance and Contractor support.

2nd tab: Bank Funds:

- £ 273, 787 belonging to the LPC
- £ 183 087 in External Funds

3rd tab: Committee Expenses:

Nothing of note

4th tab: Payroll Costs

- Summarised in Management Accounts

5th Tab: External Funds

- PF advised that the Northant ICB money should not be considered part of the LPC's funds.

6th Tab: Committee attendance record

- Agreed per last meeting and will continue to be issued as part of management accounts. The Chair advised that this was done at his request. He reminded the Committee that they have been voted in by their fellow contractors to represent them, and they have a duty to do so. Meeting dates are set well in advance and locum costs are covered, and every effort should be made to attend. If there are not sufficient attendees at the meetings, then the contractors are not represented fully and fairly on any given topic. He asked the Committee to reflect on this, and to let him know if attendance was providing a challenge.

RP queried the line referencing her on the External Funds tab. PF advised that this represented her portion of costs, but that she did not need to log anything. RP was satisfied with this response.

	<p>PF advised that the BLMK Northants budget will be put together and reviewed by the Finance Committee in early February. The CPE levy is expected around 11th February, at which point he will be able to move forward. A 1% increase in the levy is expected from the NHS income, and then the CPE expect to further that by up to 3%. A total increase of 2% will be used for the budget, which will be available for approval at the March meeting. A separate budget will be available for BLMK only.</p> <p>AL raised the surplus</p> <p>The Chair noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting is scheduled next Friday with LLR, to discuss the possibility of Northants being taken over by LLR. • Contingency will be made in the budget for all collaborative work with Central East. • Contractor support has had an impact as the data coming out shows that engagement is working. AMK to circulate data after the meeting. MS suggested that this data could be made available on a regular basis – it was agreed it could be put onto the Member’s area on the LPC website. NB: RP’s work is not coming out of that pot. • Further discussion confirmed that the data is available in two different forms from BLMK and Northants. The Northants data is not as detailed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TD to get in touch with the CCA’s reps to discuss access to a dashboard showing contractor level data. ○ Access to Pharmedata was also discussed – AMK to discuss with HM. 	
7	<p>Governance – Governance SubCommittee</p> <p>The Chair advised that GR had sent around a paper regarding health and safety. Feedback from all members has been requested; to be discussed at March meeting.</p>	
8	<p>Becky Butterworth (CPE)</p> <p>Becky was welcomed to the meeting. She introduced herself as the LPC Engagement and Support Manager and explained her role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devising and supporting events and training • Scoping templates and other efficiencies • Discussion with LPCs about development opportunities, especially for new members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last CPE Committee meeting: 	

- Discussion about preparing for negotiations and updates on economic and dispensing projects.
- DT changes – Category H – some FAGs will be made available with a briefing.
- Next steps for LPCs – what the ask is for any support
- Neighbourhood health – may be some time before any funding comes through, the stretch for attending meetings and so on is understood.
- Suggested that the recording of the conference be shared as it has some great ideas
- Prescription for Success report – template letters and slides for local sharing. Becky reported particular success in sharing with Social Care teams.
- Recent polls – Abuse in CP and gathering data on financial pressures
- The CPE has partnered with Pharmacist Support for 2026 – a charity supporting wellbeing. There is a Wellbeing and Resilience workshop in late February.
- Becky also gave her insight into LPC meeting attendance and suggested that conversations could be had with members who are absent twice during the year to preserve the quality of representation.
- She offered support on the changes with the ICB
- Next meeting on 4th and 5th February

The Chair thanked Becky for attending and commended the efforts of her and her team.

In response to further questions, Becky confirmed

- that the role of the CPE was to negotiate directly with the government, despite any information in the media.
- all the information that is received from the polls is extremely important – for example information about wellbeing and pressures has directly influenced the involvement with Pharmacist Support.
- responses from the polls provide data to support change.
- that she has taken onboard the opinions expressed around highlighting the capabilities of pharmacists, particularly in taking on some of the work from GPs.
- the next webinar will be recorded and available on the members side of the CPE website.
- there will be further events with Pharmacist Support this year, with resources on the website.
- that CPE should be able to confirm what the final levy fee will be after the February meeting. She acknowledged that the more pressure there is on Community Pharmacy the more of a budget is needed. She was not aware that any breakdown of the levy fees or cost efficiency decisions would be made available, but she will take that back to her team.

11	<p>Central East LPC Collaborative</p> <p>Notes for this Agenda Item will be made available separately.</p>	
12	<p>CCA Quarterly Questions</p> <p>(GR and LF absent)</p> <p>Q - Is all the Committee involved in reviewing the past year and planning for the coming year?</p> <p>A - There is no formal process for reviewing – it is done on an ongoing basis. In terms of the plan for the forthcoming year – the budget will be set, and plans depend on the outcome from discussions with the ICB. The Committee are fluid in reacting to output from the CPE and nationally, where any new national services or changes in service specs are reviewed and support is continuously provided to contractors.</p> <p>Q- Is your LPC undertaking a zero-based budgeting process for the 26/27 budget? A – Yes.</p> <p>AMK will be able to respond to the other questions</p>	
13	<p>Services Update</p> <p><i>All associated papers had been put onto the website for Committee members to review before the meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs and Alcohol Contracts for West Northants– papers on website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was confirmed that there was no baseline data. AMK has sent GR the current payment structure for CGL. ○ IC and AMC are meeting with CGL for Luton and Northants ○ MS and AL expressed dissatisfaction with the fee. A discussion was held around negotiating the types of raises that were being suggested, including considering whether the time spent by the LPC in such issues was proportionate. MS suggested that an increase in fees in line with RPI should be written in to the SLA. ○ Becky advised that any SLA of service spec should have a clause in it allowing for negotiation of the fee on an annual basis. ○ IC confirmed she has received a comparison of fees from the CPE for similar services. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Doodle poll will be sent to contractors for further input – action AMK <p>Between now and June, a GPhC webinar is to be offered, open to all BLMK and Northants contractors.</p> <p>An agenda should be ready for the next meeting on 18th March.</p> <p>Workstreams:</p> <p>The information on the website has been updated.</p> <p>IC informed the meeting that the payment for a health check has been increased from £25 to £35. The Chair thanked IC for her hard work.</p> <p>MS suggested that costs that are covered for GPs but not for Community Pharmacies should be taken into account.</p>	
14	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>AL checked his understanding of the Covid19 and Flu vaccinations service.</p> <p>The Chair advised everyone to check the service spec especially around the withdrawal of the payment for housebound and care home visits. He was also concerned that this service would be imposed on contractors under duty of care to patients. If this is the case, it may need to be raised with the CPE.</p>	ALL
15	<p>AOB</p> <p>HM expressed his concern over CPE becoming a quango. NS agreed over the lack of transparency as raised with Becky earlier. It was hoped that as requested, Becky would take that back to her colleagues.</p> <p>MS suggested that it be written into the constitution for the LPC send an annual report to CPE about their performance. The Chair agreed that this should be given some thought, perhaps after Becky's response.</p>	
16	<p style="text-align: center;">Concluding Comments</p> <p>There being no other items, The Chair declared the meeting closed.</p>	
17	<p style="text-align: center;">Close of meeting</p>	
	<p>Next meeting Wednesday 18th March 2026 <i>Please submit Agenda items to AMK in a timely fashion.</i></p>	

Approved
Chair:
Date:



18.3.26