



Minutes of a meeting of the BLMK and Northants LPC
Wednesday 18th March 2026

Attendees:

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

Amit Lakhani – Independent LPC Member (Bishopscote Chemist) **AL**

Lakhminder Flora - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **LF**
Tahera Dewji– LPC Member CCA Representative (Superdrug Northampton) **TD**

Conor Steele - LPC Member, IPA representative (Jardines - UK Ltd) **CS**
Has Modi - LPC Member, IPA representative (Jardines - UK Ltd) **HM**

In attendance:

Ann-Marie Carrey - Services & Engagement Lead **AMC**
Rita Patel - Services & Engagement Lead Northants **RP**

Guests:

Anna Towney – Regional Account Manager (Respiratory), Lupin Healthcare
Oliver Staunton – Developer, PharmData
Mini Satheesh – Head of Pharmacy Integration & Workforce, NHS Northamptonshire ICB
Funmi Balogun – Head of Community Pharmacy Integration, BLMK ICB

Apologies:

Ingrid Cruickshank - Services & Development Lead BLMK **IC**
Rishi Hindocha - Independent LPC Member (Pharmacy Cherry) **RH**
Mahesh Shah – Deputy Chair and Independent LPC Member (Sampson AP Ltd) **MS**
Gordon Ross - LPC Member, CCA representative (Boots) **GR**
Anil Sharma – East of England CPE Rep – **AS**

Absent (no apology received):

Mohammed Salloo- LPC Member, IPA representative (Peak Pharmacy) **MS**

Number	Agenda Item	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions (NS)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all attendees and confirmed the meeting was being recorded.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that Lupin Healthcare sponsored venue hire and had a promotional slot but had no influence over the agenda, speakers or venue.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest No additional declarations of interest were made.</p>	
3	<p>Apologies for absence (AMK) As noted above.</p>	
4	<p>Presentation – Lupin Healthcare Anna Towney delivered a non-promotional presentation relating to respiratory medicines and engagement with community pharmacy. The Chair thanked Lupin Healthcare for their support of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer’s update – (PF) The Management Accounts had previously been circulated. They are for the period up to the end of February 2026.</p> <p>1. Management accounts:</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All is in line with expectations. • March payment of Contractor Levy received in February. • Forecast for Interest reduced slightly because of lower interest rates. • Sponsorship includes the recent contractor event after the AGM on 17th September; forecast is £3,015. • Total income forecast: £338,000. <p>Expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payroll: within budget tolerance. • Meeting costs: lunches not included and the number of in-person meetings more than budgeted so forecast higher. • Meeting fees: under budget (attendance related, and will be reduced further to account for current meeting), does include meetings with LLR so around £8,000 forecast. • Insurance and Admin – new mobile phone costs included. • Levies and license fees: in line with budget. • Audit fee: slightly below budget. • Communication: IT licences have increased, extra payment for storage. • Events – cost of event in September wasn’t fully sponsored. • Contractor support includes February claims, forecast £76,000 rather than £84,000 in the budget. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total expenditure £323,000 which is below budget due to lower meeting attendance and pharmacy Contractor Support. <p>2. Bank Balances:</p> <p>Current account: inflated due to early payment of levy from NHSBSA Deposit Account: £63,102 Instant access (external funds): as reported</p> <p>3. External Funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance is £175, 865. <p>Tabs for Payroll and Committee Attendance were also reviewed.</p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viren has resigned so a new signatory, Lak Flora as Chair of the Finance Committee has been added to the bank account to join PF and NS. CS has joined the Finance Committee as an IPA member Please send in any expense claims for payment by 31st March. <p>PF advised that the Finance Committee had reviewed and endorsed both the management accounts and the proposed budget (which was discussed later).</p> <p>The Chair initiated a discussion on attendance and response rates from contractors. Low numbers were concerning, but it was agreed that this was not to do with communication from the office as more than enough attempts were made to engage contractors.</p>	
6	<p>Presentation from Mini Satheesh - Head of Pharmacy Integration and Workforce NHS Northamptonshire ICB</p> <p>MS provided an update on Pharmacy First, contraception and hypertension services which continued to perform strongly.</p> <p>DMS activity had increased significantly following NGH implementation of the NerveCentre system, with annual claims totalling 3,452.</p> <p>Independent Prescribing Pathfinder sites had delivered positive outcomes, particularly for acute care and lipid management. MS confirmed that this was due to end at the end of March.</p> <p>NHS Health checks with independent pathology infrastructure was also discussed. A test model around community pharmacies having individual pathology infrastructure where they would request blood tests, see the results and action where necessary is expected to go live next week.</p> <p>Incliseran for lipid management services has also had a positive response with around 100 patients responding via an evaluation form.</p>	

	<p>MS also advised that she had ensured Community Pharmacy was being well represented in the new Neighbourhoods in the ICB.</p> <p>Mini confirmed she had accepted voluntary redundancy and expected to leave her role after May; the Committee thanked her for her contribution.</p>	
<p>(5)</p>	<p>Budget for 2026-2027</p> <p>PF continued with the Treasurer's Report. He advised that there is a tab on the circulated spreadsheet that compares the budget for 2025/26 to the forecast for 2025/26 and the budget for 2026/27.</p> <p>The budget for 2026-2027 is for a deficit of £10, 262 and a year end bank balance of £210,000.</p> <p>The following is contained within the Budget Commentary:</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total income expected: £335,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHSBSA Contractor Levy: £330,000 (£27,500 per calendar month) ○ Interest received: £4,150 - lower interest rates predicted ○ Sponsorship for Committee Meetings: £1,800 ○ No other income budgeted <p>Expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total expenditure budgeted at £346, 212. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payroll: £80,472 – No Employer NI payable.No salary or fees increases included in the budget. ○ Meeting costs: £50,740 - Includes room hire (£3, 600) and meeting attendance for Committee Meetings and Federation Meetings as well as costs incurred in the proposed boundary change for Northamptonshire contractors pharmacy contractors to L&R LPC. ○ Insurance and admin: £3,331. ○ Levies and license fees: £133,509. ○ Communication: £77,050 of which £76,000 is ringfenced for contractor support and the remainder for attendance at CPE meetings. ○ Finance costs: £102 for bank charges. ○ Capital expenditure: £1,008 (Corporation Tax) 	

	<p>External funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External funds total £175,000 which is almost all restricted to supporting Northants ICB pharmacy contractors. £9,000 assigned to BLMK ICB contractors <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The key goals for Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants for 2026/27 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare for the implementation of the NHS 10-year Plan • transfer the Pharmacy Contractors in Northamptonshire ICB to Leicestershire and Rutland LPC • then agree a strategy and operational plan for BLMK LPC • continue discussions within the Federation of the three LPC's BLMK & Northants, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and Hertfordshire to further engagement with the new ICB structure • implement a programme of effective pharmacy contractor support • maintain financial stability. <p>The budget for 2026/27 is for a deficit of £10,262 and a year-end bank balance of £210,000. The deficit is a result of the exceptional events – transfer of Northamptonshire contractors following the boundary change and the ongoing Federation discussions. The deficit will be funded from reserves and there are sufficient reserves to do so. It should be noted that without these costs normal expenditure would be covered by income.</p> <p>The approval of the budget was proposed by Amit Lakhani and seconded by Lak Flora. It was approved unanimously by the Committee.</p>	
7	<p>LLR Collaborative update</p> <p>The Chair confirmed ongoing collaboration with LLR regarding the proposed Northamptonshire boundary transfer.</p> <p>A full contractor consultation across both LPC areas will be required, with a two-thirds majority needed for approval.</p> <p>Draft documentation including a Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution changes is being progressed and is due on 27th of March.</p>	
8	<p>Central East LPC Collaborative update</p>	

	<p>A scheduled meeting with the Central East ICB had been cancelled at short notice.</p> <p>A further meeting has been set up on Tuesday (24th March), at which an MOU between the three LPCs will be discussed.</p> <p>Prepared service proposals remain ready for presentation once engagement resumes.</p> <p>NS confirmed that there was no plan for a full merger with the 3 LPCs of Central East.</p>	
9	<p>Presentation from PharmData (Online)</p> <p>Oliver Staunton delivered an online presentation outlining PharmData’s capabilities and potential use for service monitoring.</p>	
	(LUNCH)	
10	<p>Presentation from Funmi Balogun Head of Community Pharmacy Integration BLMK ICB</p> <p>Funmi Balogun provided an update on ICB restructuring and the significant workforce changes underway.</p> <p>Pharmacy First activity across BLMK continued to grow strongly, with significant increases in contraception and hypertension services. This represents a £200,000 cost avoidance, a vast reduction in repetitive contact points for patients, and a reduction of 12 tonnes of CO2 emissions.</p> <p>An Emergency Department referral pilot into community pharmacy had launched on a limited basis in Luton and Bedford, involving Halfway and Janssens pharmacies.</p> <p>FB advised her role would not continue in the new structure; the committee expressed thanks for her work and collaboration.</p> <p>Following FB’s presentation, the committee discussed recent pharmacy ownership changes and clarified the regulatory distinction between asset sales and share sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that share sales (changes in company shareholders or directors) do not require notification to, or consultation with, the LPC. • Asset sales, where pharmacy assets transfer to a new legal entity, do require LPC notification and consultation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent ownership changes had not been visible to the LPC due to being conducted via share sale. Members noted that Companies House is currently the only reliable means of identifying such changes. LPC awareness of ownership changes is limited where transactions occur via share sale. 	
11	<p>Appointment of Independent LPC Committee Member</p> <p>The committee considered candidates for appointment to a vacant Independent LPC Member position.</p> <p>Agreed actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further due diligence to be undertaken, including Companies House checks. Chair to speak directly with shortlisted candidates. Recommendation to be brought back to committee prior to formal appointment. 	
12	<p><i>Governance (H&S)</i></p> <p><i>This agenda item was not discussed as the lead was not in attendance at the meeting.</i></p>	
13	<p>Services Update and June Event Planning</p> <p>The committee received a detailed update on planning for the June 2026 contractor engagement event at Cranfield University.</p> <p>Key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening pharmacy businesses Supporting workforce resilience Promoting collective action and collaboration <p>Proposed structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration and sponsor session Plenary keynote (NPA): maximising NHS and private income Three rotating breakout sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the pharmacy team Strengthening personal wellbeing Third session (options under consideration, including a CPE-style exercise, technology demonstration, or pharmacist panel) Stakeholder networking lunch 	

- LPC session on standing together and contractor Q&A

The committee agreed:

- A planned finish time of approximately **2.30pm** to encourage attendance
- Strong emphasis on engagement from **Northamptonshire contractors**, given stakeholder attendance
- Sponsor funding and cost assumptions based on approximately 100 delegates

Services Updates

Health Checks Pilot (Milton Keynes & Bedfordshire)

- A pilot health checks service is proposed with Public Health.
- **£35 per health check** agreed (increased from initial offer).
- Pilot to involve **six pharmacies** initially.
- Service to include cholesterol testing, blood pressure, and onward referral.
- Pharmacy technicians confirmed as eligible to deliver the service.

Next steps:

Expression of Interest to be issued following Public Health meeting.

Drug and Alcohol Services (CGL / Core MAT)

- Transition to **Core MAT** confirmed in areas where system readiness allows.
- Northamptonshire implementation delayed due to technical constraints.
- Benefits noted include reduced administrative burden via PharmaOutcomes.

Concern:

Frustration expressed regarding lack of interim financial uplift despite inflationary pressure.

COVID Housebound Vaccinations

- Pharmacies collectively declined to deliver housebound vaccinations due to absence of ICB funding.
- The committee commended pharmacies for unified action.
- Alternative provision arranged by the ICB through external providers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some pharmacies continue delivery under direct GP-practice arrangements. 	
13	<p>CCA Q1 Questions</p> <p>Responses were captured regarding financial resilience, service data availability and neighbourhood engagement, as a whole committee exercise.</p>	
14	<p>Concluding Comments (future minutes)</p> <p>The Committee was asked to complete an RSG/TAPR Effectiveness Review Survey which was completed as a whole committee exercise and submitted.</p> <p>No additional items of business were raised. The Chair stressed the importance of timely committee responses to consultations and requests.</p>	
	Close of Meeting	
15	<p>Next meeting Wednesday 13th May 2026 – ONLINE</p> <p><i>Please submit Agenda items to AMK in a timely fashion.</i></p>	

Approved
Chair:
Date:



13th May 2026