



**Subject: Notice of Special General Meeting & Proposed Boundary Realignment –
Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northamptonshire**

Dear BLMK & Northamptonshire Contractor,

This is formal notification that Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northamptonshire will be holding a Special General Meeting alongside its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 7pm online.

Dedicated time within the meeting agenda will be allocated specifically to discuss the proposal in detail and provide contractors with the opportunity to ask questions, engage in discussion and fully consider the proposal prior to any vote taking place at the meeting.

The Case for Change

The NHS has evolved significantly in recent years, with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) now becoming the primary structure through which healthcare services are planned, commissioned and delivered. Community pharmacy is increasingly expected to work as an integrated clinical partner within these systems, supporting neighbourhood healthcare, prevention agendas, urgent care demand and population health priorities.

However, current LPC boundaries were designed around historical NHS structures and no longer consistently align with modern ICS footprints. This creates fragmentation across representation, stakeholder engagement and strategic working, particularly where system partners, commissioners and healthcare organisations are now operating across larger integrated geographies.

The proposed boundary realignment seeks to better align LPC structures with the evolving NHS landscape, enabling stronger collaboration, clearer system representation and more streamlined engagement with ICS partners. Subject to contractor approval, this would mean LLR merging its LPC boundary to include Northamptonshire to create a structure more reflective of the current NHS operating environment including the new ICB footprint.

Benefits for Northamptonshire Contractors

Northamptonshire contractors will gain a clearer, more aligned and more influential LPC structure under the proposed boundary realignment. The current arrangements place Northamptonshire within an LPC footprint that does not fully reflect the way the ICS and wider system partners operate. Aligning Northamptonshire with the LLR LPC footprint ensures contractors are represented within a structure that mirrors the modern NHS geography, strengthening strategic influence and improving system engagement.

This alignment will provide Northamptonshire contractors with:



- Stronger representation within an ICS-aligned LPC structure
- Improved access to system-level discussions, commissioning conversations and neighbourhood development
- More consistent engagement pathways with NHS England, the ICB and wider partners
- Greater operational resilience, shared expertise and coordinated support
- A clearer and unified voice across the wider ICS footprint

This change ensures Northamptonshire contractors are positioned within an LPC model that reflects how the NHS now operates.

Benefits for BLMK Contractors

BLMK contractors will benefit from a strengthened, more resilient LPC model that protects local voice while increasing overall capacity and strategic influence. BLMK already collaborates effectively with the other LPCs in the Central East ICB, and the proposed realignment builds on this foundation by ensuring representation mirrors the way the ICB itself functions.

The proposed alignment will provide BLMK contractors with:

- Enhanced system credibility and influence, through representation aligned to the ICS footprint
- Reduced duplication and greater efficiency, enabling more resource to be directed to frontline contractor support
- Access to a broader pool of expertise, improving service development, communications and advocacy
- Future-proofed representation, ensuring BLMK remains strategically aligned as the NHS continues to consolidate decision-making at system level
- Financial stability, with strong governance controls and shared processes that maintains value for money and maintain high-quality contractor support

This ensures BLMK contractors continue to benefit from a sustainable, strategically aligned LPC model capable of supporting them through ongoing NHS transformation.

Importantly, for both Northamptonshire and BLMK this proposal is not about reducing local contractor voice, but rather strengthening community pharmacy's ability to influence, engage and operate effectively within increasingly integrated healthcare systems. The aim is to ensure community pharmacy remains visible, sustainable and appropriately represented as the NHS continues to evolve.



Throughout this process, contractor engagement, transparency and governance will remain central, with contractors having the opportunity to fully discuss, question and ultimately vote on the proposal.

Key Recommendation

All contractors are asked to consider and vote on a proposal to:

- Align LPC boundaries with ICS footprints, enabling more effective system working
- Strengthen representation with a single, unified voice for community pharmacy
- Improve efficiency by reducing duplication across committees and administration
- Enhance sustainability, enabling LPCs to meet increased CPE contributions without increasing contractor levies
- Increase capacity and scale, allowing greater investment in executive resource to support system-level and place-based work

What This Means for our contractors

Importantly, maintaining local contractor engagement and visibility will remain a key priority.

The 124 contractors from the Northamptonshire area currently represented within the BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC footprint would transfer into an expanded LLR LPC boundary, subject to contractor approval through the formal voting process. This would create for them a single LPC structure aligned closely to the ICS footprint, representing contractors across the wider geography and supporting more integrated system working.

The proposed alignment would help enable the following for all contractors currently in the BLMK and Northamptonshire LPC footprint:

- Stronger, more coordinated and consistent engagement with the ICB, NHS England and wider system partners
- Reduced duplication across governance, administration and communication processes
- Greater operational resilience and shared resource opportunities
- Improved ability to influence local commissioning, neighbourhood healthcare development and future service opportunities
- A clearer and more unified voice for community pharmacy across the wider system footprint



As this proposal is linked to a Special General Meeting (SGM) and a change in constitution, the expansion would not technically take effect until an election is held. Therefore, if the transformation proceeds on 1 April 2027, the newly elected committee would serve as the first representative body for the expanded footprint, ensuring continuity and contractor support throughout the transition period. Further details regarding locality representation, engagement mechanisms and support structures will be discussed and shared at the meeting.

Timelines & Next Steps

- **Friday 14th August 2026:** Special Meeting notification issued
- **Tuesday 18th August 2026:** Voting opens
- **Tuesday 15th September (postal votes 10am) :** Voting closes
- **Wednesday 16th September:** AGM & Special General Meeting
- **The outcome of the contractor vote will determine the next steps.**

Why This Matters

This proposal represents a significant opportunity to ensure community pharmacy is positioned strongly within the future NHS landscape. By aligning LPC structures more closely with the wider NHS and ICS footprint, community pharmacy can strengthen its voice, improve system influence and place itself in a better position to shape future commissioning, neighbourhood healthcare development and long-term sustainability.

At a time of increasing operational, financial and workforce pressures, it is essential that community pharmacy has resilient, effective and strategically aligned representation capable of advocating for contractors and supporting the profession through continued NHS transformation.

This proposal is ultimately about ensuring community pharmacy remains visible, influential and embedded within the evolving healthcare system, whilst continuing to support contractors locally and operationally.

We strongly encourage all contractors to attend the meeting, engage in the discussion and participate in the vote. Your voice and involvement in shaping the future direction of community pharmacy representation across the area is incredibly important.



If you have any questions ahead of the meeting, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

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