**To all Nottingham/shire Pharmacy Contractors,  
 area managers and superintendents**



The challenges facing contractors last year remain largely the same this year - basic cash flow and further uncertainty of the fragmented NHS, although as I write we have just had the changes to the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) announced, which offers to provide some stability, but couched in the uncertainty of the detail not being available yet. As an LPC much of our time is still taken up navigating the “system” and dealing with contractor queries. In some respects it is good that we are not short of engagement opportunities and involvement in the Integrated Care System (ICS) – was called STP – in fact, we’re having to decline attending some of the workshops we get an invite to because there are so many and would not have enough time left to do anything but attend such events. I am massively grateful to my LPC members and executive officers who give up their time as volunteers for their continued commitment and support.

We have developed further the training events the LPC offer under the LPC Training Academy – this is a joint venture with Metaphor Developments, and still very much work in progress so please continue to feedback about the workshops we provide. The LPC have invested a significant amount of time and resource into developing the training academy which was in response to the feedback contractors gave – and as such we need to make sure the training academy provides value for money for contractors so request contractors make use of the training events with consideration – for instance if you book on and can no longer attend then please cancel so we are not wasting catering, etc. We try to use Pharma sponsorship and goodwill, but increasingly finding due to the general economic challenges they have less resource to spare in supporting our events so it often falls to the LPC and therefore contractors and NHS money.

I have tried to précis the year in my report without duplicating the newsletters we produce. We have continued to distribute the newsletter electronically via MailChimp which seems to work well and provide us with a balance between efficiency and readability. As with NHSE we now use pharmacy NHSnet email addresses, but also continue as well with those contractors have given. Please inform Alison of any email address changes to ensure you continue to receive a copy, although we continue to publish on the LPC website along with the archive of past copies at <http://psnc.org.uk/nottinghamshire-lpc/lpc-activity/lpc-newsletter/> .

I have outlined key points from the LPC for your information below, but as always if you want more information or just to discuss things in general don’t hesitate to get in touch with me or any of the LPC members. As an LPC we try to run our meetings in an as open environment as possible which means we welcome contractor observers. Indeed many contractors or their staff have come along to LPC meetings and some do so regularly, even bringing with them their pre-reg’s.

If you are interested in attending LPC meetings or just receiving the meeting papers to keep abreast of things then let Alison know so she can add you to the circulation list. We don’t routinely circulate LPC meeting papers to all contractors as we are conscious of the amount of information contractors are already receiving from other sources. However, as an LPC we don’t want to not share information we have available and therefore are continually adding more to our website - <http://psnc.org.uk/nottinghamshire-lpc/>.

**Clinical Commissioning Groups**The CCGs have continued to work closely and are now merging. In practical terms for the LPC this makes little difference, because the key engagement opportunities were already sitting across the new footprints - the LPC is routinely involved in both the Mid Notts and Greater Notts medicines / prescribing meetings, as well as the area prescribing committee (APC). We’ve discussed with several working on an extension to the 111-DMIRS to a GP-DMIRS and hope to be launching a pilot in the Rushcliffe CCG area in September. These GP-DMIRS will inform the development of the recently announced national Community Pharmacy Consultation Service <https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/community-pharmacist-consultation-service/>

**NHS England**We have maintained our excellent working relationship locally with NHSE commissioners despite the still ongoing merger with NHSI. We continue to be active with the Local Professional Network which we are working on several initiatives in collaboration with Derbyshire LPC – including extending the ENT MAS service to include UTI and providing additional training to manage pharmacist churn and further upskill the community pharmacy workforce. Our biggest challenges continue to be that funding available is non-recurrent, so services continue to be “pilots”. The AF / BP is also going well and the LPC encourages contractors to engage as much activity as they can while the funding exists.

The East Midlands DMIRS service – digital minor illness referral service, or also known as the community pharmacy referral service was fraught with challenges, but still in place albeit referrals still low – this will be replaced with the new national Community Pharmacy Consultation Service.

Transfer of Care Around Medicines (TCAMS) was launched from NUH in July following successfully using with Kings Mill for several years now. This involves pharmacies receiving discharge summary information via PharmOutcomes from the hospital to support improvements in care and more efficient working saving pharmacy team time. An early observation is that pharmacies are not recording an intervention as complete, so referrals remain open on PharmOutcomes. In some case the record of the intervention can be “completed” at time of acceptance, on other occasions it requires logging back in to update that record. For further information see the help guides on PharmOutcomes.

**Local Authorities**The LPC continues to meet regularly with the two-upper tier local authorities – County and City Councils and although we do not have a place at the Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) we frequently attend meetings as observers, although less regularly than last year in order to release time to attend the many ICS meetings we are now involved with. More about that below.

**Media and PR**The LPC has continued its relationships with our MPs and local councillors including pharmacy visits and meetings to discuss funding and current issues contractors are facing. We have several meetings with MPs planned for September. If any pharmacy teams are interested in being further involved in our work with local elected members then please contact us.

**Integrated Care System (ICS) – was STP**Despite the ICS structure and workstreams changing several times during the year the LPC is still well positioned to influence so that community pharmacy is well represented on all the key workstreams. We have been key partners in the Clinical Strategy Redesign work and also contribute to the Medicines Optimisation workstream as well as the ICS partnership board. Below the ICS there are now three Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) – mid-Notts, South Notts and City plus Bassetlaw which sits in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS. The LPC are engaging with each ICP and have several meetings lined up for the autumn. The ICPs will be the body that provides the 23 Primary Care Networks (PCNs) with day to day support and strategic direction, so an increasingly important organisational relationship.

Finally, all the LPC members give up their time as volunteers and the work they do is for you and to represent your interests. To do this more effectively we need your input. Please tell us what’s important to you and how we can help you further. If you have identified any particular local need and want help from the LPC in progressing this then please get in touch. The LPC meeting dates are on the website and any contractor or their representative is able to come along as an observer. Please contact me or Alison in advance for further details.

… and a final “finally” – thanks to Alison who keep LPC members and me organised, sends all the emails to contractors, updates the website and has worked painstakingly on the comprehensive contractor events with Liam from Metaphor, in addition to all the mundane tasks like minutes and governance support.

This report, along with the Chairman’s report, Treasurers report and member reports constitutes the LPCs annual report to its contractors and as always contractors requiring further information on anything in this report or otherwise don’t hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

***Nick Hunter***

