

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the English Pharmacy Board - Open business

**Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00am on 20th June 2019 in the Events Space
on the 4th floor, at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 66 East Smithfield,**

Present

Claire Anderson (Chair)
Sibby Buckle
Sandra Gidley
Brendon Jiang
Mahendra Patel
Duncan Petty

Martin Astbury (Vice Chair)
Thorrund Govind
Hemant Patel
Tracey Thornley
Andre Yeung

Guests

Sue Kilby
Roger Fernandes
Pavitar Gandham
Aamer Safdar
Samrina Bhattie

Chair, Industrial Pharmacists' Forum
Hospital Expert Advisory Group
West Midlands South RPS Local
Member, Observer
CPhO Clinical Fellow

In Attendance

Robbie Turner
Ravi Sharma
Gino Martini
Wing Tang
Neal Patel
Melissa Dear
Heidi Wright
John Lunny
Jonathan Bisby
Gareth Kitson
Adele Mott
Nicola Gray
Amandeep Doll
Stephanie West
Hanna Jenvey
Corrinne Burns

Director for Pharmacy and Member Experience
Director for England
Chief Scientist
Head of Professional Standards
Head of Corporate Communications and Membership
Campaigns and Corp Comms Manager
Practice and Policy Lead
Public Affairs manager
Public Affairs executive
Professional Development and Engagement Lead
RPS Clinical Fellow
Regional Liaison Pharmacist
Regional Liaison Pharmacist
Regional Liaison Pharmacist
Events and Sponsorship Manager
Pharmaceutical Journal, RPS correspondent

Apologies

David Carter
Nadia Bukhari
Ash Soni

19/78 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed EPB members and staff to the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves. The Chair welcomed the three new board members to the meeting. She invited visiting members to contribute to the discussion if they wished.

19/79 Apologies

David Carter, Ash Soni and Nadia Bukhari gave apologies.

19/80 Declaration of Interests

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06/EPB.03. Board members were reminded to send in any amendments to their declarations to Yvonne Dennington and were also asked to state, in the interests of best practice, any declared interest at the start of the discussion to which it relates. Mahendra Patel updated his declarations.

19/81 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2019 circulated as 19.06/EPB.04 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

19/82 Matters arising not specifically included on the Open Business Agenda

19/47 – PPHF – the last meeting was cancelled. LPC guidance has been issued on how community pharmacy can engage at PCN level re the preventative agenda. This has been shared with the EPB.

19/51 – Digital Capabilities – discussion is ongoing on how to take this forward – the EPB will be kept updated.

18/114 – Health Literacy Coalition – this will be one of the streams at the RPS annual conference

18/121 – It is now sensible to wait to see who to meet with amongst ministers and MPs.

19/83 Updates from Team England

The English Pharmacy Board **noted** the update papers 19.06/EPB.06 (i) – (viii).

(i) Local Engagement – noted.

Action 1 – It was noted that local events (Notts and Sussex) are missing from the list – adjustments to be made.

(ii) Public Affairs – noted.

- (iii) Policy and Consultations – noted
- (iv) Digital (IM&T) – noted.
- (v) Medicines Optimisation – noted. RMOC updates have been circulated.
- (vi) Pharmacy Public Health Forum – last meeting was cancelled.
- (vii) Innovators' Forum – there is nothing to report
Action 2: a paper on the Forum will be presented at the EPB October meeting.
- (viii) System Leadership – this is covered under item 10 on the agenda

19/84 Public Affairs and Policy Statements

Diabetes Policy Paper

The English Pharmacy Board noted 19.06.EPB.07 (i).

The Diabetes Policy paper has now been finalised and is currently being branded. It is unlikely that NHSE will co-badge but they have been asked to write the foreword and a blog. It is hoped the policy will be launched in July as part of the Long Term Plan response. There was some discussion about including more recommendations and type II diabetes but the point was raised that now is the right time for launch from a commissioning point of view, therefore the policy should not encounter further delays. The policy will be supported by good practice examples.

Heidi Wright, the Board and in particular Mahendra Patel were thanked for their hard work on this policy.

The Chair summed up that it is important to get the final document out as soon as possible, hopefully with an endorsement by David Haslam from NICE, and a foreword from NHSE, and circulate it to the steering group.

E-Cigarettes

The English Pharmacy Board noted 19.06.EPB.07 (ii).

Concerns have been raised re our policy on e-cigarettes and vaping – currently our policy is very conservative. Work has been led by Simon White and the Science and Research team looking at new evidence that has emerged since the policy was written. We are also awaiting the MHRA view which is due in the Autumn. There is a holding statement on the website to say the policy is under review. It is hoped the policy will be finalised for the November Assembly meeting. Gino Martini asked for comments to be fed in outside of this meeting and added that the RPS had not changed its stance but had strengthened its position.

Some of the comments at the meeting included:-

- Tightening up of language and tone used with remarks about tobacco companies eg “one has to wonder why...”
- Opportunity to point out that e-cigs are not a NRT (nicotine reduction treatment)

Roger Fernandes offered to send an impact assessment to the Science and Research Team.

Action 1: Please feed any comments on the draft policy to Aileen Bryson as per the paper.

Action 2: Roger Fernandes to send impact statement to Science and Research Team

19/85 Pharmacy and Member Experience

Professional Standards for Community Pharmacy Services

It was noted that a workshop session on this item had been led by Wing Tang at the EPB working day on 19th June. He will be analysing the feedback from this session and reporting back at the next meeting.

Prescribing Supervisors Framework

Adele Mott reported that the framework was ready for consultation which will open on 21st June. She encouraged board members to share the consultation on their networks to get as much traction as possible.

19/86 Science and Research Update

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06.EPB.12.

Gino Martini gave a short update focusing on:-

Vaccinations

Topical at the moment with measles crisis in USA and the mumps crisis in UK. He spoke about a recent enquiry re MMR and how over 1000 children have been treated with outdated homeopathic remedies. It was suggested that this enquiry be raised at FIP maybe under the AMR agenda.

Summer Summit

The 2020 summer summit will focus on pharmacogenetics and digital connected health.

QP Symposium

A QP symposium will be held in May. QPs have a pivotal role in releasing batches of material, which is a complicated process. QPs have delegated responsibility for this role from the MHRA. They have a vital role to play during this Brexit period, to ensure supply chains have minimal disruption. Increasing the number of QPs is what is required, the RPS needs to encourage this.

CAR-T Therapy

CAR-T therapy has exploded, lots of work going on. Pharmacists will need to upskill to become more involved in these therapies. This is a very complex area. RPS needs to get evidence of good practice examples. The previous map of evidence and existing template was highlighted, the issue of being able to share examples with members was raised.

DNP

A letter has been written to the Minister about his product, as 23 deaths have occurred over the past 10 years.

CBD oil

CBD oil is not cannabis oil and does not contain cannabis although it is being marketed as such. A letter has been sent to the Minister seeking clarity. Awaiting for guidance to be released. The RPS will then update its guidance. Roger Fernandes agreed there were many issues with CBD oil from a patient perspective and NICE will be issuing a consultation on this.

19/87 Education and Professional Development Directorate

The English Pharmacy Board noted update paper 19.06/EPB.08.

Gail Fleming gave a short update.

- NHSE has launched the People Plan with a specific section on pharmacy
- HEE – pharmacy workforce plan – makes specific reference to RPS as partners
- EGOB is evolving – post registration pharmacy training Board. They will be looking at pharmacy technicians training too.
- GPhC will be discussing undergraduate training at their next meeting
- Foundation training – completing draft framework – aligning with advance practice framework and education standards and hope to publish this year.
- Faculty review underway – making it more meaningful and relevant to career and role – recommendations to be ready for November Assembly. Looking at underlying principles of a Faculty – process and purpose are linked – looking at what a credentialing service is.
- Shortlife working group on Consultant Pharmacists looking at role approval and credentialing. Concerns were raised that the report of this shortlife working group has not yet been published. Dates for publication are being aligned with Scotland and Wales. Consultant pharmacists should be working across the system.
- Advanced Clinical Practitioners – involved in this work – there is a multi professional group looking at this. There are two routes – credentialing programmes and portfolio review.

19/88 English Pharmacy Board Work Plan

Ravi Sharma introduced this item outlining the work of Team England.

Action 1: Slides to be circulated to the EPB

Ravi said it is an important time for the profession with the Long Term Plan and the PCN contract. Pharmacy has a crucial role to play in delivery, with opportunities for pharmacists in the community and hospitals, working in a collaborative landscape rather than a competitive landscape.

There are four key areas on the workplan:-

- Leadership

- Engagement
- Stakeholder management
- Business as usual

Over the next 6 months the team will be focusing on:-

- System leadership – post launch events, webinars and podcasts
- PCN – visionary piece
- Launch of Diabetes and CVD policies
- Prescribing supervisor’s framework – consultation and launch
- Workforce pressures
- Digital and pharmacogenomics

The point was made that members must be consulted on what they want from a changing NHS landscape.

DMIRs (Digital Minor Illness Referral Service)

The issue of DMIRs was raised – the RPS has been involved in this work and realises its importance. Work is ongoing on how pharmacists are going to deliver this service – it is part of digital advancement. It was suggested that the RPS may need to issue guidance. It will be an important service and has the potential to change how pharmacy integrates with the health service. The service is being evaluated by NHSE and Newcastle University.

Action (2): There needs to be more discussion about this offline and possibly some communication to our members

System Leadership

Stephanie West and Amandeep Doll introduced this item.

This work has taken 12 months to come to fruition and the Regional Liaison Pharmacists have been working at all levels across the system, resulting in the launch of a resource for pharmacists on system leadership illustrating how to get involved at different levels of the system. Primary Care Networks are emerging resulting in new opportunities for pharmacists. The new resource is based on 6 elements:-

- Collaborative pharmacy vision
- Culture change
- Digital maturity
- Integrated governance
- Integrate into STP priorities
- Workforce development

The resource is supported by case studies and more case studies are welcome. The resource was launched at the Clinical Pharmacy Congress and was well received. There will be follow up events, webinars and podcasts.

There was some constructive feedback at the meeting regarding the resource not being system leadership in its true sense, this is more about programmes of work and not looking at the system as a whole. It was felt that this would not get STP buy in. A glossary of terms for the resource was suggested. It was explained that

this resource was to help the beginnings of a conversation with the right people in the system as many are on this journey rather than being already established in these positions.

Board members were encouraged to take an in-depth look at the resource as this presentation was just a taster. The resource is to help members to get involved and take the first steps.

It is important that pharmacists are able to write to the patient record for true integration to be effective. The RPS should lobby harder to make this a reality.

The profession needs more leaders and this is a good enabling resource to get started. Networks are self-organising and members of the network will require all sorts of skills, this resource will enable them to have the conversations. The resource has been well received by members.

Ambassadors

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06.EPB.10(i).

Gareth Kitson introduced this item and asked the Board for their views on how to proceed with this initiative. Gareth gave some background on how the initial 10 ambassadors were recruited and their remit. Face to face interaction with members has been successful, they have also assisted with LPC engagement, working within their personal networks, blogs, events, conferences and media enquiries. It is hoped that by retaining and growing the cohort of ambassadors they will be able to work in areas where member engagement is poor.

Gareth explained the 3 options and recommended option 1 to retain and expand the cohort.

There was much support from Board members for option one with a few further suggestions:-

- Have clear KPIs – measure specifics
- Get tutors involved if possible
- Link ambassadors to some of the experts
- What is the link between RPS locals and ambassadors?
- Include hospitals
- Put something on the website

Action 3: Create a landing page on the website for ambassadors

The English Pharmacy Board **agreed** to support Option 1 – the Ambassador role becomes a student and early year's engagement role.

Public Affairs

John Lunny highlighted a couple of points:-

- Legislative agenda is in paralysis – due to Brexit
- National Audit Office has paused the work on medicines
- Parliamentary monitoring – mapping out MPs to visit

- APPG – currently reviewing a change to the secretariat appointing new agency
- How the Long Term Plan is going to work in practice – where does Public Health and prevention fit in
- Planning an event on commissioning
- A campaign workshop is planned for later this year.
- Party conferences – it is anticipated that there will be attendance at all 3 conferences but the RPS will not be holding any fringe events.

Workforce Pressures

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06.EPB.10 (ii).

Heidi Wright introduced this item giving 3 options and stating that this is a GB piece of work.

There was some discussion regarding the length of time it has taken to get to this point and that through the contractual negotiations Government should be lobbied for parity with GPs, pharmacists should get the same level of support for workplace stress. It was highlighted that it took GPs some time to get support and they lobbied hard for some 3 years.

The English Pharmacy Board **supports** option 3.

Primary Care Networks

Heidi Wright introduced this item saying that a discussion paper or opinion piece should be published summer 2019. It will be developed with board members and others and be used for members and clinical directors of PCNs. It will not duplicate the work done on system leadership.

Board members were split into 3 groups to give their feedback on the key questions presented on the slide.

Action 4: From the feedback Heidi will develop a first draft and share with Board members as soon as possible for comment.

19/89 English Pharmacy Board Communications Plan

Neal Patel introduced this item, giving the board an updated version of the weekly dashboard and explaining some of the highlights, eg:

- Increase in traffic to the website
- Good engagement from pre reg pharmacists re help with exam – 80% opened email and 36% clicked through
- MEP is still the most important resource accessed by members
- E-library also gets a lot of traffic
- Email is a good way of tracking what members are interested in
- Nurofen featured quite high on the list of activity – do we know why people are accessing this?

This dashboard is helping with decision making and also helps with decisions about the website, what to update and what not to update.

Action 1: Circulate dashboard

19/90 Brexit Update

John Lunny introduced this item saying he is in regular contact with NHSE and DH and working on contingency planning with PSNC and others. Bruce Warner is the key person on Brexit at NHSE. Guidance regarding stockpiling is on the RPS website.

Still awaiting details on the serious shortage protocol on how it may work in practice. RPS needs to be sighted on any guidance that may be issued.

There has been some discussion on whether the RPS wants to form a view on a “no deal” Brexit, relating to the risks associated with this outcome. Currently we have taken the stance “keep calm and carry on”. There will be risks associated with making any kind of statement. If any questions are asked we could respond by saying that normal ordering patterns should be manageable.

The medicines shortages poster has been well received by members, but we should reinforce the message to ensure members print and display the poster.

19/91 Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

19/92 Key Messages

The key messages from the meeting were:-

- Workforce pressures
- Ambassadors
- QPs
- System Leadership Resource launch

19/93 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 15.45pm

19/94 Dates of next meetings

EPB working day 9th October

EPB meeting – 10th October

Board Members please note: *All of the above dates are to be diarised across all EPB members. Board meeting dates are firm dates but Working Days will only be used at the discretion of the Chair and the Director for England.*

The dates for 2020 will be approved by Assembly in July, they will then be circulated.