

National Pharmacy Board meeting 7 November 2024

This meeting will be held face to face at East Smithfield London and via zoom

OPEN BUSINESS AGENDA 7 November 2024 AT 10.00AM

Item (approx. start time)	Subject	Purpose	Related papers/slides	Objective	Chair/or lead person
1. 10.00am	Welcome	For noting	No paper/Verbal address	Welcome and introductions	WPB Chair
	Apologies	For noting	No paper/Verbal address	To note apologies	WPB Chair
2	Declarations of Interests and Board Member' Functions and Duties	For noting	24.11.EPB.02(a) 24.11.SPB.02(a) 24.11.WPB.02(a) 24.11.NPB.02 (b)	To note (a) declarations of interest for Board members (b) Board members' functions and duties	WPB Chair
3 10.10am 20 mins in total	Minutes and matters arising	For decision	24.11.EPB.03 24.11.SPB.03 24.11.WPB.03	To approve the minutes of the EPB/SPB/WPB meetings held on 19 September, 18 September and 20 September and to discuss matters arising from these minutes.	WPB Chair

4. 10.30	Open Sale of P medicines	For discussion	Verbal	To discuss the responses received to the call for evidence and discuss next steps	Parastou Donyai & CDs
5. 11.10	Engagement approach	For update and discussion	Verbal	To provide an overview of the engagement approach and share future plans	Neal Patel & Amandeep Doll
6. 11.50	Medicines Shortages	For decision	Verbal (draft report shared in advance)	To discuss and approve the medicines shortages report and recommendations	James Davies & Alwyn Fortune
7. 12.20	Assessment & Credentialling	For discussion	24.11/NPB/07 and verbal	To discuss the questions posed in the A&C paper	Joseph Oakley
12.40 – 13.30 - Lunch					
8. 13.30	Business Plan	For discussion and sign off	24.11.NPB.08	Review and agree the final business plan for 2025-2026 with discussion to set expectations around what good looks like for key policy areas.	EPB Chair
9. 14.30	Papers for noting	For noting	24.11.NPB.09(i) – (vi)	(i) Implementing Country Visions (ii) Professional Issues (iii) Workforce (iv) Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (v) Education (vi) Science & Research update	EPB Chair

10.	Any other business	For noting/discussion	Verbal	Pharmacy Board Members should inform their respective Chair, Country Director or Business Manager in writing at least 48 hours before a the meeting of any matter that is to be raised.			EPB Chair
11. 14.40	Dates of next meeting	For noting		Dates for 2025 meetings			
				England	Scotland	Wales	
				25 and 26 February	27 and 28 February	20 and 21 Feb	
				18 and 19 June	18 and 19 June	18 and 19 June	
				23 and 24 September	17 and 18 September	25 and 26 September	
				6 Nov	6 Nov	6 Nov	
Close of Open business 14.40							
RPS observers requested to leave							

English Pharmacy Board

Declaration of Interests

Adebayo Adegbite

- Self-employed Locum Pharmacist Director of Amados Limited.
- Locum Pharmacist -various pharmacies including Pharma Alert 24/Integrated Care 24
- PDA Union South East Regional Committee Locum Representative
- Wife - Locum Pharmacist Director -Fabb Solutions Limited
- Member of UK Black Pharmacists Association
- Nigerian Pharmacists UK (NPUK)
- Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA)
- Member of The Pharmacist Co-Operative
- Member of the Primary Care Pharmacy Association
- Volunteer Fifth Sense charity
- NPUK member
- FIP member

Claire Anderson

- Professor of Social Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham
- Trustee Commonwealth Pharmacy Association
- member of the UKPPLAB

Martin Astbury

- Morrisons Pharmacy

Danny Bartlett

- Founder and Managing Director Primary Care Clinical Excellence Ltd. (PCCE)
- Coach for Sussex Training Hub
- Member PCPA
- HEE Interprofessional and Education Fellow
- Adhoc contributor Pharmaceutical Journal
- Adhoc contributor Chemist & Druggist
- Clinical contributor Clinical Pharmacist Solutions
- Clinical Lead for the KSS Primary Care School, NHS England

OPEN and CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- Adhoc guest clinical speaker Besins, Daiichi Sankyo, Amarin, CPPE, Bayer, NHSE (GP training) and others
- Member PDA
- Adhoc consultancy and clinical services
- Member of PM Healthcare Editorial Board

Sharon “Sibby” Buckle

- Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner, Boots UK
- Boots Pharmacists Association, Executive Board member
- Senior Director, Cairn Place Ltd
- Member of Women2Win
- East Midlands clinical senate assembly member
- Ad hoc consultancy
- Contribute to media articles in pharmacy/ medical/ health press
- Both daughters, Junior Doctors
- Mother, retired Midwife and health visitor
- Brother, Consultant surgeon
- Brother, Dental surgeon

Steve Churton

- Occasional contributor to pharmacy related publications
- Son – Consultant Anaesthetist
- Daughter in Law – Consultant Psychiatrist
- Member of Boots Pension Scheme

Ciara Marie Duffy

- Quality Manager/Qualified Person at Novartis
- Sister – National Lead Pharmacist Interface
- Sister – HSE Pharmacist
- Brother in law – Regulatory Pharmacist Uniphar

Brendon Jiang

- Senior Clinical Pharmacist, NORA PCN
- Superintendent pharmacist, Wychwood Pharmacy
- Medicines and Prescribing Associate, NICE
- Committee member, Primary Care Pharmacy Association
- Consultancy work for Haleon

OPEN and CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Sue Ladds

- Hospital Pharmacy Modernisation Lead, NHS England
- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Associate Member of the Association of Teaching Hospital Pharmacists
- Member of the Automating for Better Care (A4BC) group
- Partner is employed by University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust Pharmacy Dept.
- GPhC Statutory Committee Member - Fitness to Practice Committee
- Specialist Project Director with UHS Pharmacy Ltd (part-time 4-month secondment (Oct 24-Jan 25))

Michael Maguire

- North East & North Cumbria ICB
- RPS
- The Practical Leadership Training Company Ltd
- Lifestyle Architecture Ltd
- iTS-Leadership Ltd
- The Practical Leadership Training Company Ltd
- CPCS Support Ltd (no longer trading)

Ewan Maule

- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- North East and North Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board

Erutase Oputu

- NHS Kent & Medway ICB
- Member of UK Black Pharmacists Association
- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Pharmacy Research UK Trustee
- Member of Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Advisory Board, NHS England
- Ad hoc consultancy & speaker events
- Brother works at Astra Zeneca PLC
- Member of PM Healthcare Editorial Board
- Member of NHS Assembly
- Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

Ankish Patel

- Chief Pharmacist & Head of PCN Workforce
- Primary Care Pharmacy Association Leadership Forum
- Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee
- Pharmacy Defence Association Union Member

OPEN and CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- Nottinghamshire Medicines Optimisation Pharmacy Board
- Nottinghamshire Primary Care Equality & Diversity Group
- Community Clinical Leadership Pharmacy East Midlands PCN Representative
- Ad hoc consultancy
- Ad hoc speaker events

Matthew Prior

- Deputy Director of Pharmacy – University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire
- Deputy Chair of RPS Hospital Expert Advisory Group – until taking position with the RPS EPB
- Committee member – Coventry & Warwickshire Area Prescribing Committee
- Wife works for Boots as a category manager within healthcare retail
- Member of the PDA

Scottish Pharmacy Board**Updated November 2024****Declarations of interest****Jonathan Burton**

- Community Pharmacist & co-owner, Right Medicine Pharmacy – 2000 onwards
- Previous SPB Board Member, RPS, (incl. terms as Chair and Vice-Chair) – 2012-2021
- Previous Assembly Member, Royal Pharmaceutical Society – 2019-2021
- Member, Pharmacy Magazine Editorial Advisory Panel - 2023 –
- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Board – 2024
- Co-Editor of Pharmaceutical Press textbook 'Pharmacy management of Long-Term Medical Conditions
- Assist on sessional basis with workshops & OSCE assessment for Univ. of Strathclyde Independent Prescribing course

Lucy Dixon

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Pharmacist employee, NHS Highland
- Co-contractor (with husband), Dornoch Pharmacy Ltd
- Co-contractor (with husband), Mitchells Chemist Ltd
- Co-owner, Dornoch Properties Ltd
- Share-holder, Dornoch Pharmacy Ltd
- Share-holder, Mitchells Chemist Ltd
- Secondment to Effective Prescribing and Therapeutics Division of Scottish Government

Laura Fulton

- Director of Pharmacy, NHS Golden Jubilee National Board – January 2023 –
- Chair, NHS Golden Jubilee Medical Gas Safety Group
- Co-chair, NHS Golden Jubilee Drugs and Therapeutics Committee
- Member, NHS Golden Jubilee Climate Change and Sustainability Group and Chair of Health and Care Subgroup
- Member, the Stroke Clopidogrel Gene Test Value Case Steering Group, Centre for Sustainable Delivery
- Member, NHS Scotland Academy Strategic Delivery Group
- Member, NHS Golden Jubilee Research and Development Steering Group
- Member of NHS Golden Jubilee HePMA Programme Board
- Member, NHSGJ/University of Strathclyde Operational Delivery Group

- Chair, the National Health Board Directors of Pharmacy Group
- DoP, representative/member on the Healthcare Staffing Programme Board
- Member, West of Scotland Directors of Pharmacy Group
- Locum, community pharmacy
- Member and incoming co-chair, Patient Access Scheme Assessment Group (PASAG)
- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Board – 2024 –

Nicola Middleton

- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Employee, Bishopton Pharmacy

Josh Miller

- Advanced Clinical Pharmacist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Chair, Area Pharmaceutical Committee NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Member, Area Clinical Forum, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Non-Contractor Member, Pharmacy Practice Committee, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Member, UKCPA

Richard Shearer

- Lead Pharmacist for Pharmacotherapy and Community Pharmacy Services, NHS Lanarkshire
- Member of SP3A Practice Pharmacy Sub-group
- Professional Secretary for West of Scotland Directors of Pharmacy
- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board

Catriona Sinclair

- Member and Vice-Chair, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Community Pharmacy Scotland Board
- Chair, NHS Highland Area Clinical Forum (NED of NHS Highland Board)
- Chair, NHS Highland Area Pharmaceutical Committee
- Chair, Community Pharmacy Highland
- Director and Superintendent, Spa Pharmacy, Strathpeffer

Amina Slimani-Fersia

- Lead Clinical Pharmacist, Primary Care, NHS Fife
- Chair, Education and Training workstream, SP3A Practice Pharmacy Subgroup - from January 2023 until present.
- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Board – 2024

Richard Strang

- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Visiting Pharmacy Lecturer, De Montfort University
- GPhC Assessment Question Writer
- Associate advisor, Education for Health
- Membership Committee (Vice Chair) - Royal Pharmaceutical Society – September 2021 -

- Mentoring Advisory Group (Member) - Royal Pharmaceutical Society – November 2021 -
- Member, Action in Belonging, Culture and Diversity (ABCD) Group - RPS - August 2020 -
- Member, Core Advanced Curriculum Development
- Member, Critical Care Credential Development sub-groups
- Member, Workforce Wellbeing Action Group, RPS - February 2021 –

Jill Swan

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Member, Faculty of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Advanced Stage II)
- Member, UK Pharmacogenetics and Stratified Medicine Network
- Member, UKCPA
- Professional Secretary to Directors of Pharmacy (Strategic Framework Development)
- Previous Director of The Brush Bus Ltd (ceased directorship 12/08/22) - unpaid

Audrey Thompson

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Member, RPS Assembly (SPB rep)
- Member NHSGGC pharmacy practices committee 2024
- Member Scottish Practice Pharmacist and Prescribing Advisers' Leadership group 2015 – 2023
- Pharmacist, NHS Forth Valley

Updated: November 2024

November 2024

Welsh Pharmacy Board - Declarations of Interest

Aled Roberts

Community Pharmacy Wales

Various community pharmacy contractors via self-employed locum arrangements.

Richard Evans

- Self Employed Pharmacist
- Director of Llandysul and Pont Tyweli Ymlaen Cyf
- Member of Pharmacist Defence Association (PDA)
- Occasional Media work
- Member of PDA Union Wales and the West Regional Committee
Chair of Llangeler Community Council

Dylan Jones

HOW Pharm Ltd

Jones Pharm 2 Ltd

DL & CV Jones Agricultural Business

RPS Wales Board Member

AWMSG Community Pharmacy Representative

Powys Independent Representative for Community Pharmacy Wales

Eleri Schiavone

•Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee - NHS Wales hosted by CTMUHB

- Executive Board Member: Pharmacy Delivering a Healthier Wales
- Board Member: All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
- Member of All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
- Member of the Welsh Pharmacy Board

Geraldine McCaffrey

•Principal Pharmacist Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

•Member Pharmacy Delivering a Healthier Wales

•Member - UKCPA.

Member, National Pharmacogenomics Group Wales

•Member – Unite the Union/Guild of Healthcare

•Pharmacists.

•Vice Chair – Pharmacy Research Wales

Chair – Welsh Pharmacy Board

Helen Davies

Current Substantive post:

- Principal Pharmacist for Primary Care; Medicines Optimisation. Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board from March 2018.

Directly employed at Forest View Medical Centre, Treorchy for 1 day a week as a GP practice Pharmacist

From March 2018 to February 2021

- HEIW teaching sessions – cardiology
- HEIW teaching sessions – primary care

Sessions from 2011 onwards

- Honoraria from BMS to be an expert speaker for anticoagulation teaching sessions and attendance at a masterclass 2018
- Swansea Bay UHB bank staff – NHS 111 evening sessions 2017
- Pfizer sponsorship to attend anticoagulant and cardiology conference 2018 and 2015

- Boehringer to assist a consultant cardiologist with an anticoagulant clinic 2015
- Expert review of materials for WCPPE 2014
- Cardiology teaching sessions for WCPPE in 2014
- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Member of the UKCPA
- Member of the PCPA

Gareth Hughes

•GRH Pharma Ltd

•Director of GRH Pharma Ltd (t/a Tynewydd Pharmacy)

•Board Member of Community Pharmacy Wales

•Member of Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee

- Member of the Faculty of Clinical Informatics
- Community Pharmacy Cluster Lead for Rhondda
- Member of Community Pharmacy Microsoft Office 365 Project Board
- Member of the Pharmacists' Defence Association

Rhian Lloyd – Evans

. Medication Safety Officer – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

. Members of All Wales Medication Safety Network

. United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA)

Lowri Puw

Fferyllwyr Llyn Cyf

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Bangor University

Occasional media work for the BBC/itv/s4c

Liz Hallett

.ABHU

. PDA Union Member

. PCPA Member

Rafia Jamil

Prince Charles Hospital (CTM): lead Pharmacist Education and Training

Panel Member - Supported Lodging for Young people (Powys County Council)

Locum Pharmacist

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Powers, Duties and Functions of the National Pharmacy Boards
Open, confidential or restricted item	Open
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Business Managers Business Manager, England, Scotland and Wales 0207 572 2208, 0207 572 2225 and 0207 5722345 yvonne.dennington@rpharms.com ; carolyn.rattray@rpharms.com and cath.ward@rpharms.com
Item to be led at the meeting by	Chairs
Purpose of item (for decision or noting)	For noting
Headline summary of paper	Powers, Duties and Functions of the National Pharmacy Boards as taken from the RPS Regulations

Please note below the Powers, functions and duties of the Boards as taken from the RPS Regulations.

7.2 Powers and functions of the Boards

Subject to the Charter, any directions of the Assembly, and the provisions of any enactment, the Boards shall, within the relevant country, have the functions of:

- informing the Assembly on likely developments affecting pharmacy for the purpose of developing the Society's strategy
- providing strategic leadership, advocacy and support for pharmacy practice development
- leading the implementation of the Society's strategy by developing and implementing associated policies in the individual countries
- promoting the science and practice of pharmacy and its contribution to health
- providing professional advice to government and its agencies, NHS bodies, and other health and social care organisations
- guiding and supporting the Society's local organisations in the individual countries
- supporting pharmacists in their professional roles
- maintaining an overview of current and possible future developments impacting upon the science and practice of pharmacy in the individual countries
- setting policy and objectives for the individual countries within the overall strategy and ask the National Director to implement them
- agreeing policy positions, commissioning work as appropriate
- agreeing objectives for programmes of professional support of pharmacy to be delivered at a national level and at GB level on behalf of other National Boards
- overseeing the local engagement mechanisms within the relevant country
- may also itself establish limited lifetime working groups within existing budgets as required to deal with specific issues

Policy making at the national level is the responsibility of the individual National Pharmacy Boards who shall be accountable to the Assembly. No Board policy should be contrary to any overarching GB-wide policy. The Boards lead the agenda for the profession at a national level and are able to focus on the issues that matter to members in each of the countries. The Boards have responsibility for interpreting and developing policy and for overseeing the delivery of members services locally.

The Boards shall have no formal role in the operational matters of the Society, which are the remit of the Executive team.

The Boards shall be supported by the administrative services of the Society and shall have no power to incur expenditure, employ staff or enter into contracts.

7.4 National Pharmacy Board Members

7.4.1 Duties

Members elected to the National Pharmacy Boards are expected to provide advocacy, support and strategic leadership for pharmacy practice development, to promote the science and practice of pharmacy and its contribution to health and support pharmacists in their professional roles.

For the avoidance of any doubt, National Board members are not an employee or worker of the Society or any of its Group Companies or joint venture companies.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- representing the views of the Board to other bodies within the Society and in external forums
- attending regional meetings as and when required and be active in local and other professional networks
- marketing the Society to members and to potential new members
- participating in virtual communications
- providing professional advice to government and its agencies, NHS bodies and other health and social care organisations
- providing regular reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Board
- monitoring delivery of strategy
- acting as ambassadors and representatives of the profession
- providing a loud, motivating direction for the profession
- keeping cognisant of the financial aspects of the Board

ENGLISH PHARMACY BOARD MEETING – OPEN BUSINESS

Minutes of the open meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 9.30am on Zoom.

Present:

English Pharmacy Board

Erutase (Tase) Oputu (TO) (Chair), Adebayo Adegbite (AA), Claire Anderson (CA), Martin Astbury (MA), Danny Bartlett (DB), Sibby Buckle (SB), Steve Churton (SC), Ciara Duffy (CD) (in part only due to internet issues), Sue Ladds (SL), Michael Maguire (MM), Ewan Maule (EM), Matthew Prior (MP)

In attendance:

RPS Staff

Paul Bennett (PB) Chief Executive (from 10.30am), Osman Ali (OA), (CPhO Clinical Fellow), Prof Diane Ashiru-Oredope (DAO), Deputy Chief Scientist, Corrine Burns (CB), News Reporter PJ, James Davies, Director for England, Yvonne Dennington (YD) Business Manager, England, Amandeep Doll (AD), Head of Professional Belonging and Engagement, Hanna Jenvey (HJ), Events and Sponsorship Manager, John Lunny (JL), Public Affairs Lead England, Heidi Wright (HW), Practice and Policy Lead for England,

RPS Member Observers: None

Guests: Sunayana Shah, (SS), Chair of Industrial Pharmacy Advisory Group

Apologies

Brendon Jiang (BJ),

24.09.EPB.01	Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed board members and staff to the English Pharmacy Board open business session. Apologies were received from Brendon Jiang. Ewan Maule gave apologies for 11am – 11.30am when he will have to leave the meeting for another appointment. Ciara Duffy did not attend the full meeting due to internet failure. The Chair welcomed Osman Ali, the new CPhO Clinical Fellow for 24/25. She also paid tribute to Clare Thompson, the outgoing Clinical Fellow, and for the work she has done on the Repeat Prescribing Toolkit.	
24.09.EPB.02	Declarations of Interest The EPB noted paper 24.09.EPB.02 Further amendments to declarations of interests were received from:- • SL – addition of member of the GPhC Statutory Committee • DB – addition of role with NHS England (start date not yet confirmed) and removal of PCN Action 1: Update declarations of interest and put on website.	
24.09.EPB.03	Approval of the minutes and actions from the previous meetings held on 18th and 19 June 2024 The minutes of the EPB meeting held on 18th June 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Minutes Approved by: Adebayo Adegbite and Seconded by Danny Bartlett The minutes of the EPB meeting held on 19th June 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendments below:- • All track changes in the document were accepted	

	• 24.06.EPB.12 – England 2025 planning – page 8 – para Inclusion and Diversity – add: “The Board agreed that Inclusion and Diversity should remain as a separate workstream.” • 24.06.NPB.13 – page 11 – after “net promoter score” add (satisfaction and customer loyalty) as a way to explain the term. • 24.06.NPB.13 - page 15 – Action 6 – add “subject to action 5 above” • Action List: Action 6 is missing – insert with amendment. Minutes Approved by Steve Churton and Seconded by Claire Anderson. There was a board discussion raised by SB regarding future minutes attributing points raised to individual board members rather than anonymising comments. Board members were in agreement with this change of style for future EPB minutes.	
24.09.EPB.04	Science and Research Update The EPB noted paper 24.09.NPB.04 The Chair welcomed Prof Diane Ashiru-Oredope to the meeting. DAO presented a set of slides on behalf of herself, Amira Guirguis (Chair of SRC) and Parastou Donyai (RPS Chief Scientist) Action 2: Circulate S&R slides to board members. The presentation covered the S&R team and committee with a focus on ongoing work, project work and suggested policy areas for the Board to consider. The team are focused on developing research capability and capacity in pharmacy alongside driving innovation and building the evidence base. The work of the team has an external (member focused) and internal focus.	

	The committee currently has 3 working groups and plans to form a fourth working group on “new medicines and emerging technologies”. Some suggested policy areas for the boards to consider were put forward:- • Taking a strong stance on vaping • Raising public awareness of dangers of online purchasing • Position statement on Medicines Reuse SC asked what collaboration there was currently with the RPS and Pharmacy Research UK, which is an independent charity and draws funding from National Institute for Health and Care Research. DAO said that conversations were ongoing regarding the next conference and there was a willingness to work together and access funding opportunities. CA asked if the medicines shortages literature review will be going to peer review and then published. DAO said that was in the plan. S&R will be running a webinar for members and non-members highlighting the S&R webpages – this will be open access and will demonstrate the value of the member proposition. AA mentioned World Suicide Day and any publications going out about this should not mention specific drugs. DAO said she will check any messages that go out from the media team to ensure drug names are not mentioned. AP raised the issue of pharmacy services being evaluated and the RPS position on this. DAO said she would report back on this question. Action 3: DAO to report back on the RPS position in relation to evaluating pharmacy services, adding that this may be for the Boards and Executive team to consider. The RPS has no direct influence on NHIR but does have influence on the Pharmacy Research Advisory Group, which is co-chaired by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and	
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	Christine Bond, (Emeritus Professor, Freelance Research Consultant and Member of the RPS Panel of Fellows). CA also represents Nottingham University on this group. It was noted that the Pharmacy First evaluation is being funded by NHIR. DAO added that currently work was going on with the Pharmacy Deans on how the pharmacy profession contribute and impact on pharmacy services – how can we justify the time away from core role to do research – there is a systematic review taking place. SC asked if this would include an economic evaluation, DAO said that this is not included currently but could be in the future. SB referred to the suggested work on taking a strong stance on vaping and asked if there was more evidence in this field. Robust clinical evidence was needed and suggested this work could be done in partnership with other Royal Colleges. DAO said she would look for updated evidence on which the Board could base its decision on whether to take this work forward. Action 4: DAO will check if S&R have any updated evidence on vaping and report back in the form of an options paper. The Chair raised the issue of improving diversity in the field of research noting also the lack of diversity in the shortlist for the OPERA (Outstanding Pharmacy Early Career Researcher) award. DAO said that the Chief Scientist was active in this area and was having conversations on the diversity of those put forward and those on judging panels. The Chair said that as this is a GB wide issue it may need to go to Assembly for consideration. Action 5: Chair to raise I&D aspects of OPERA award via Assembly. The Chair thanked DAO for attending and thanked her and the team for their contributions to the EPBs workstreams.	
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24.09.EPB.05	Open Display of P medicines – update JD gave an update saying that this item was discussed in some detail at the June Board meeting by all three Boards and emphasised that the RPS policy position remains unchanged at this point. After the June meeting a call for evidence was published and this closed on 6 September. The S&R team are working through the responses and have also carried out a literature review. The results of the call for evidence and the literature review will be put together in a pack for Board members at their joint meeting on 7 November, to enable board members to make a decision on the way forward. Action 6: Open Display of P Medicines literature review and call for evidence results will be forwarded to Board members in time for their meeting on 7 November.	
24.09.EPB.06	Public Affairs Update The Chair welcomed JL to present at the meeting. JL highlighted the following • Election in July – new government – new ministerial team • Huge turnover of MPs – Labour has large majority – over half MPs are new • Political landscape – challenging – NHS waiting lists/constrained public finances • Labour keen to set our challenges and saying will take a few years to address • They need to build an NHS fit for the future • Health and growth agenda – cut waiting times/getting people back into work/creating jobs in the NHS • Darzi Review – called for evidence – review reported quickly - NHS broken – new government will take time to address problems – setting the stage – 10 year plan • Review mentioned a community pharmacy prescribing service	

	• New Parliament – new shadow ministers – new select committees – new Pharmacy APPG (RPS co funds this) – new health select committee • Medicines shortages – great interest from MPs The Chair said there was a huge amount going on and there will be many MPs who do not have a great understanding of pharmacy. MP raised the issue of secondary care and not forgetting about this sector. The Chair responded saying that evidence was submitted for secondary care but we are aware of the large lobbying group for community pharmacy. DB added that we should make the most of opportunities and raise the profile of “prevention” on the NHS agenda and now was a good opportunity to shine the light on pharmacy. AP added that there needs to be a greater understanding of general practice and pharmacy. EM raised the issue of the rising cost of drugs and the financial impact. Pharmacy is a big part of the budget and pharmacy teams could be impacted. It is important to raise the profile of what pharmacy teams do. SB added that there is still an issue with bringing the legacy workforce up to speed with prescribing and asked if RPS should be doing anything about this. JL thanked the board for their comments and said the 10 year plan will be the opportunity to push areas of concern forwards. The Chair thanked JL and said the discussion had been a good precursor to the upcoming session in confidential business on the EPB/GB workplan for 2025. She added that the discussion was testament that the EPB spans across the whole of pharmacy.	
24.09.EPB.07	Events update The Chair welcome HJ to the meeting.	

	HJ gave some background on the team and the work they do. So far this year they have held 89 events with 9000 attendees. They have a further 44 events planned for the autumn, 64% are in person events. Constitution and Governance (C&G) Roadshows 14 in person events have been planned and 2 events on zoom. There has been positive engagement so far and 15% of the bookings have been from non-members. HJ asked Board members to book on to events asap to enable the team to identify any gaps. AA said he had been promoting the events on his networks and had forwarded some suggestions to LNorth which he would share with HJ. SC asked if there was the opportunity to add more events. HJ replied that they have already had requests to host an event in the East of England, most likely Cambridge, and were looking into this. The London Event was expected to draw the most people and it was taking place at the RPS offices. AP requested tools to promote these events. PB assured board members that LNorth had this on her agenda. The timings of the evening meetings have been adjusted following requests from Board members to accommodate community pharmacy opening times. HJ was asked to state the timing of the presentations, HJ said that all information was in the confirmation for those attending in the form of an agenda for the evening. RPS Conference – 8 Nov HJ gave a short update on the conference planning to date:- • 204 abstracts/ posters have been received • Our conference is gaining recognition and is “the place to be” • 4 content streams • Key note speaker Dr Liz O’Riordan • Across 2 floors again this year but enhancements have been made to feel better connected • Conversations are continuing with perspective sponsors • Dedicated RPS Zone – will be manned by staff and board members	
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	• Board members to use dedicated link to book for conference • AP offered help in facilitating sessions – HJ said she would be in touch with board members about facilitating sessions and manning the RPS zone. HJ said she would be having a further briefing meeting with the keynote speaker. SL asked her to highlight technical services and cancer treatments needing aseptic services. Action 7: HJ to link in with JL and SL to discuss technical services/aseptic services for key note speech. HJ reminded board members to let her have any leads for potential sponsors for the conference. The Chair thanked HJ and the team for supporting the work of the EPB.	
24.09.EPB.08	Papers for noting and a short update. The EPB noted papers 24.09.NPB.08 (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). JD gave a short update on some areas covered in the above papers. <u>Prescribing</u> – mentioned by the new Labour Government – community pharmacy prescribing service. RPS website change – engaging with members on prescribing – all information in one place and supporting members with prescribing. <u>Access to Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs)</u> – working in collaboration with National Pharmacy Association. Hosted roundtable and produced report re improving access to DPPs for community pharmacy and foundation trainees – highlighting the challenges. A follow up roundtable (on-line) is planned for 9 October to understand the progress made in this area. <u>Prescription Charges coalition</u> – continue to campaign with patient groups in this area. <u>Supervision</u> – awaiting (new) government response – this will lead to legislative change – looking at early 2025.	

	<u>Environmental sustainability</u> – developing Greener Pharmacy Toolkit for hospital and community pharmacy giving support to decarbonise. Currently undergoing usability testing and sign off from NHSE. Launching early 2025. <u>Medicines Shortages</u> – receiving more data through the support line re ethical responsibilities. Currently working on thought leadership piece – project adhering to timelines – 3rd advisory group meeting next week – parliamentary launch event at the end of November. The board thanked JD for the Friday emails and asked for them to continue. The Chair thanked JD and suggested that board members read the papers for noting as they contain a lot more detail.	
24.09.EPB.09	Papers for Noting The EPB noted papers 24.09.NPB.09 (i) and (ii) (i) Education update (ii) Accreditation and credentialing update	
24.09.EPB.10	Any other business The Chair introduced this item saying that MA asked for the following item to be discussed under any other open business:- “a vote to support or otherwise the Assembly’s governance proposals”. She added that board members had been kept informed and had the opportunity to feedback about the Assembly’s proposal. The Chair made the point that a vote in the EPB is not binding on the Assembly. She added that the EPB function is for pharmacy policy and not for voting on Assembly matters as Assembly had a different function relating to the strategy for the organisation	

	MA said he felt the current proposals for the Senate disadvantaged those members who are from England and was hoping that the Assembly could look at this issue again. He asked for his request for a vote to be withdrawn at this stage. SB made the point that the Chair's comments on the different roles of the Assembly and Boards makes it sound that non-Assembly members were being excluded and we have always been inclusive, and this matter is about the future of the organisation. The Chair responded saying that she has taken significant steps to ensure that all board members have the opportunity to feed in their points to the Assembly on any matter, especially the current proposals for change.	
24.09.EPB.11	Dates of next NPB/EPB meetings: 7 November 2024– face to face in London (day before RPS conference)	
24.09.EPB.12	Close of meeting at 11.25am	

Action list

Action No	Action	By whom	Open/Closed/Comments
June			
24.06.EPB.13	Action 5: Review RPS position on self-selection of P Medicines in Community Pharmacy using evidence to support any changes and to use the RPS Expert Advisory groups when gathering evidence	Chairs and Country Directors	Open – on agenda for EPB meeting on 17 Sept and 7 November
24.06.EPB.13	Action 6: Review MEP and professional guidance subject to Action 5 above.	Support Team/JD	Open - As required
September			
24.09.EPB.02	Action 1: Update declarations of interest and put on website	YD	
24.09.EPB.04	Action 2: Circulate S&R slides to board members.	YD	
24.09. EPB.04	Action 3: DAO to report back on the RPS position in relation to evaluating pharmacy services adding that this may be for the Boards and Exec	DAO	Nov
24.09.EPB.04	Action 4: DAO will check if S&R have any updated	DAO	Nov

	evidence on vaping and report back in the form of an options paper		
24.09.EPB.04	Action 5: Chair to raise I&D aspects of OPERA award via Assembly	TO	Nov
24.09.EPB.05	Action 6: Open Display of P Medicines literature review and call for evidence results will be forwarded to Board members in time for their meeting on 7 Nov	JD/YD	End Oct
24.09.EPB.07	Action 7: HJ to link in with JL and SL to discuss technical services/aseptic services for key note speech	HJ/JL/SL	Nov

SCOTTISH PHARMACY BOARD MEETING – OPEN BUSINESS

Minutes of the open meeting held on Wednesday held on Wednesday 18 September 2024, at 09:15 at RPS offices, 44 Melville Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7HF.

Scottish Pharmacy Board (SPB): Jonathan Burton (JB) (SPB Chair), Lucy Dixon (LD) (Remote), Laura Fulton (LF), Nicola Middleton (NM), Richard Shearer (RSh), Catriona Sinclair (CS), Amina Slimani-Fersia (ASF), Richard Strang (RSt), Jill Swan (JS), Audrey Thompson (AT).

Apologies: Josh Miller (JM)

In attendance:

Professor Claire Anderson (CA), RPS President, Diane Ashiru-Oredope (DA), Deputy Chief Scientist, Paul Bennett (PB), RPS CEO, Avril Chester (AC), Chief Technology Officer, Amandeep Doll (AD), Head of Engagement & Professional Belonging, Hanna Jenvey (HJ), Events & Sponsorship Manager, Fiona McIntyre (FM), Scottish Practice & Policy Lead, Liz North (LN), Associate Director, Strategic Communications Carolyn Rattray (CR), Business Manager and Laura Wilson (LW), Director for Scotland.

Observers:

There was one RPS Member observer.

24.09.SPB.01	Welcome and Apologies <i>Led by Jonathan Burton (JB), SPB Chair</i> The Chair welcomed board members, staff, invited guests and one observer to the meeting, noting those joining online: Lucy Dixon (LD), SPB member, Paul Bennett (PB) RPS CEO, Corrinne Burns (CB), Reporter, PJ team, Diane Ashiru-Oredope (DAO),	
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	Deputy Chief Scientist and Oshuwa Ibhanehebhor (observer). A warm welcome was also extended to Nicola Middleton (NM), nominated to the SPB as a casual vacancy and Claire Anderson (CA), RPS President. Apologies were received from: Josh Miller (JM)	
24.09.SPB.02	Declarations of Interest <i>Led by SPB Chair</i> The Scottish Pharmacy Board noted Paper 24.09/SPB/02(a) Board Members (BMs) were asked to send any updates to CR. Action: BMs to feedback any changes to declarations of interests to CR.	BMs/CR
24.09.SPB.03	Minutes and matters arising The minutes of the open business meetings held on 18 and 19 June 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record. 24.09/SPB/03(a) (elections) – Approved by Jill Swan (JS); seconded by Richard Strang (RSt) 24.09/SPB/03(b) – Approved by Laura Fulton (LF); seconded by: Audrey Thompson (AT) With one amendment: 24.06/SPB/11 – Women’s Health Plan. JS noted that there is interest in the acute services setting around maternity services and discharge. In NHS Ayrshire & Arran (A&A) there is a women’s health pharmacist, funded by Scot Govt. JS confirmed that all outcomes have been recorded and will be evaluated. The Women’s Health Pharmacist role in A&A is not funded by Scot Govt but by NHS A&A. JS to email CR with correct wording. CR to update the minute Action: JS to email change re: employment of the Women’s Health pharmacist in A&A and CR to update the minute.	JS/CR

	<u>Matters arising:</u> 24.06/SPB/10: A reminder that RPS has a statutory obligation for to register all conversations with MSPs (if on behalf of RPS), wherever they take place. BMs to keep RB informed so he can record. All other actions were either closed or were to be considered at this meeting.	BMs/RB
24.09.NPB.04 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) & (vi)	Papers for noting <i>Led by SPB Chair</i> The Scottish Pharmacy Board noted the following papers: (i) Implementing Country Visions (ii) Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (iii) Professional Issues (iv) Workforce (v) Science & Research Update (vi) Education Update It was noted that the papers provide information but no details of the ‘challenges’ Guidance is required on what Board Members (BMs) are expected to contribute to them. It was suggested that time should be set aside to consider the papers, particularly education and science & research. Action: SPB to consider how papers for noting should be dealt with and if further discussion is required.	BMs/LW
24.09.SPB.05	Election of SPB Vice Chair <i>Led by SPB Chair</i> LW provided a summary of the current governance regarding the role of Vice Chair, i.e. that the role of VC is an official role in England but is unofficial in Scotland and Wales. This may change in the future as a result of the C&G review.	

	There were two nominees: • Catriona Sinclair (CS) seconded by Audrey Thompson (AT) • Jill Swan (JS) seconded by Josh Miller (JM) Both spoke of how they could contribute to the role of Vice Chair but both were supportive of each other's nomination. They spoke of the exciting times ahead and that it was important for Scotland's voice to be heard. A vote was held; the successful candidate was Jill Swan. JS accepted the role of Vice Chair of the Scottish Pharmacy Board. CS was thanked for her positive contribution as Vice Chair of the SPB.	
24.09.SPB.06	Science and Research <i>Led by Diane Ashiru-Oredope (Deputy Chief Scientist), on behalf of Professor Parastou Donyai (RPS Chief Scientist) and Dr Amira Guirguis (Chair of RPS S&R Committee).</i> Diane Ashiru-Oredope (DAO) introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her career. The purpose of the presentation was to share the structure of the Science & Research team (S&R) and S&R Committee, its projects and working groups. There are also some proposals for the Boards to consider in the context of policy areas. <u>Core objectives of the S&R team include:</u> • Developing research capacity and capability across the profession • Driving innovation • Ensuring that, internally, RPS products are evidence based have a research approach • External facing work is focussed on members and includes: • Support sessions around research needs • Mock interviews	

	• Development of research and evaluation guides • Monthly blog by the Chief Scientist, published in the PJ • In collaboration with the PJ, the S&R team runs the Outstanding Early Career Research Award. The S&R team also leads the Hanbury and Harrison Memorial Research Awards From an internal perspective, the S&R team supports RPS teams in developing evidence based decisions; it also delivers literature reviews on topics of interest, e.g. medicines shortages and menopause. Other work includes supporting the evaluation and analysis of the I&D programme, the annual workforce wellbeing survey and the call for evidence re: the facilitated selection of medicines. The S&R team reports to the Chief Scientist who, in turn, reports to the CEO; also reports into Assembly and provides an update to the Boards at each formal meeting. Working groups include: • New medicines and emerging technologies • Safer medicines and safer medicines' usage • Research across the profession – one of the key aims of this group is to convene a community of Practice to support pharmacists to achieve the research competence frameworks There is a proposal for a new working group which will focus on the online sale of supplements and counterfeit medicines. The proposal will be considered at the next S&R Committee meeting in November. <u>Suggested policy areas for the Boards to consider</u> • A strong stance on use of vapes by non-smokers, children and pregnant women as well of sales of illicit vaping devices • Raising awareness of the risks of purchasing medicines online; whether RPS could lead an online public health campaign in collaboration with other organisations	
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	RPS statement on medicines re-use, working in collaboration with MHRA to consider and clarify the ethical, legal and practical challenges of such a statement. JB thanked DAO for the S&R presentation. It was confirmed that the remit of the S&R Committee is to advise and support the RPS Assembly. The remit of S&R team is to advise and support the organisation and the three NPBs. Although the areas proposed by the S&R Committee align with the RPS, it is for the NPBs to determine policy areas to be taken forward. Action: DAO to share presentation with the SPB.	DAO
24.09.SPB.07	Events update <i>Led by Hanna Jenvey (Events & Sponsorship Manager)</i> HJ introduced herself and the work of the Events team. The Events' presentation focussed mainly on the Constitution & Governance (C&G) events and the RPS Annual Conference. SPB was provided with an update on activities in 2024. The Events team has delivered 89 member-facing events, with nearly 9,000 attending. There are a further 44 events scheduled before the end of the year. This week alone the Events team is enabling RPS members to observe all 3 country board meetings online, one expert group meeting and one action group meeting. The team is also on-site in Cardiff delivering the RPS Wales Conference. It is also supporting the delivery of recognition events in Cardiff and Edinburgh and a 5-day venue hire booking at 66ES. <u>C&G engagement events</u> 14 in-person events across England, Scotland and Wales have been scheduled and are open for registration. (three in Scotland). The events will last for 2.5 hours with 1 hour 10 mins of content and 1 hour 20 mins for local networking and catering. - Two online events via Zoom (for members and students)	

	• Currently 15% of all bookings are from non-members CS noted that she would be attending online but was concerned that the options for joining online seemed only to show members and students and not non-members. HJ to check the website and ensure that the correct categories appear on the registration page. Action: Board members were asked to: • Register for an event(s) using the stakeholder registration link (sent) • Encourage colleagues to register for events Action: HJ to check the registration page as it should denote members and non-members. Annual Conference HJ reported that registrations for the RPS Annual Conference are progressing well but there are still places so, BMs were asked to encourage colleagues to attend. • A record number of abstracts have been submitted (204) • There will be four content streams, offering more varied content than in previous years in order to meet different learning styles, e.g. presentations, round table discussions and debates • There will be a partners' showcase demonstrating the many partnerships that RPS has nurtured • The key-note speaker (KNS) will be Dr Liz O'Riordan, an Oncology surgeon who has had breast cancer three times • C&G will be covered, introducing branding, half-day content stream, opportunities to have informal meetings with CA and PB; C&G will be embedded in presentations and speeches • BMs were asked to support the RPS Zone; the aim is to have BMs from each Board manning the RPS Zone at all times to engage with delegates • BMs will be more visible this year, promoted through the dedicated RPS Conference app before, and during, the conference and BMs will be identifiable by their badges	BMs HJ BMs
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	• Conversations with potential sponsors are ongoing; it has been more challenging this year with many organisations citing 'budget cuts' • HJ confirmed that briefing documents for BMs are being finalised. • AT asked if the effectiveness of the app had been evaluated as nobody had been in contact with her as a result of the app. HJ to ask the supplier for the data It was noted that the judging of posters had proved onerous in the past; Each judge had 10 posters to assess; considered too much. HJ advised that the posters would be uploaded to the app in advance so that they can be considered before the actual conference takes place. Also, consideration will be given to the number of posters each BM has to judge. Action: BMs to get in touch with any questions or things that they would like the KNS to consider Action: BMs to promote the RPS Conference to colleagues Action: BMs to support the RPS Zone Action: HJ to ask the supplier for data re: contact rates	BMs BMs BMs HJ
24.09.SPB.08	Open Display of P medicines <i>Led by SPB Chair and Laura Wilson (LW), RPS Director for Scotland</i> LW provided an update on progress since the Boots/GPhC presentation at the joint NPB meeting in June, following which, RPS produced a statement acknowledging the changes and recognising that policy and guidance needs to be updated as practice changes when appropriate. RPS put out a call for evidence, which ran from 12 July to 6 September; the responses are being evaluated by the S&R team and a report will be presented to the November joint NPB meeting for consideration. If changes to RPS policy are required, the policy leads and Professional Standards team will be brought in to support this work. It was noted that, at the June meeting, there was a discussion as to how it should be described. GPhC states that it is 'facilitated self-selection', however, GPhC's FAQs uses both 'open display' and 'facilitated self-selection'; the terminology needs to be clarified to avoid confusion.	

	It was noted that Boots had introduced their facilitated self-selection model in Scottish pharmacy locations and it was interesting and useful to see how it was working in practice. Action: Report to be presented to the joint NPB meeting in November for consideration.	CDs
24.09.SPB.09	Public Affairs Update <i>Led by Ross Barrow (RB), Head of External Relations – Scotland</i> RB provided a political update at this point in the electoral cycle. Since the collapse of the Bute House agreement, where the SNP and the Green Party parted company, the SNP no longer commands a majority and so getting budgets and legislation passed will be challenging. The SNP has announced many cuts, particularly to health, social care, mental health and travel; the proposed cuts are unpopular and it is unlikely that the SNP budget, scheduled for 4 December, would be supported by opposing parties particularly the Greens (because of the travel cuts). If the budget isn't passed, it can be amended and presented again, but with no guarantee it would be passed. Potentially, this could lead to a vote of no confidence and an early election. The RPS public affairs plan could be impacted by the prevailing political uncertainty at Holyrood, and we should be prepared for an election earlier than scheduled (currently May 2026). Relevant legislation 2024/25 – RPS priorities <u>Assisted Dying for terminally ill Adults (Scotland Bill)</u>: This Bill could be implemented via a Private Members' Bill in Westminster, wouldn't change the legislative process in Scotland, but it might add to the debate in Scotland. <u>Proposed Right to Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill</u>: This is a stand-alone Bill, proposed by Miles Briggs MSP. The RPS consultation response emphasised the need for pharmacy to be sufficiently resourced to provide effective palliative care support. The response also referred to the RPS/Marie Curie Daffodil Standards work. If the Bill is passed, pharmacist involvement would increase and so needs to be considered.	

National Care Service (NCS) (Scotland) Bill:

There has been much debate around the NCS Bill; it was introduced in 2021 but there has been insufficient investment to date and, going forward, with the proposed cuts to spending. The Bill is now at Stage 2 in the process. Need to see what happens and if there is sufficient time in the current Parliament to see the Bill passed into legislation.

The Environmental Protection (single-use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024:

It is expected that this bill will be passed in 2025.

RPS Medicines Shortages Report:

The RPS report will be published in late November – Although access to Parliament is proving challenging, RPS has secured an MSP Drop-In event, which will be sponsored by Daniel Johnson (DJ) MSP; DJ has ADHD. The event will take place in December 2024.

CS noted that, in Scotland a pharmacist can amend a medicine, e.g. from a tablet to a capsule (this is not the case in England); this needs to be emphasised so that true shortages can be determined. It was noted that there are recommendations in the report, e.g. supply chain issues, that are Westminster focussed but which remain pertinent to the Scottish context.

RB noted that attendance at the Scottish Labour Conference was very useful with a lot of engagement with MSPs. It was at the Conference that the team were able to engage with DJ MSP about medicines shortages providing an opportunity to hold a 'Drop-in' event in December 2024 which highlights the benefits of a significant presence at these events.

Daffodil Standards – Parliamentary Reception - 28 January 2025. This event is to be sponsored by Jackie Baillie and Darrell Baker (RPS Wales), who has been leading on the Standards will also attend

	<u>Public Affairs Plan for 2025</u> • Manifesto launch – November 2025. The Manifesto will be important, especially, with the C&G work. Need to engage with members re: what is important to them. AT volunteered to support the Manifesto work. • Hustings events will be considered. The team completed work on hustings previously, most of which will still be relevant and can be reinstated. Suggestion of one online event and one in person event at 44MS. • Exhibition on Greener Pharmacy Standards (TBC but likely to be December 2025). Gillian Mackay MSP has agreed to sponsor this event. • Planned media engagement – Holyrood thought columns <u>Scottish Election Manifesto</u> Work on the Scottish election Manifesto needs to start soon as an early election could be called. A specific Scottish Manifesto is required as Scotland is devolved and has different needs; it is a positive process as it allows the SPB/RPS to consider its own priorities. The aim will be to have a draft manifesto by the end of 2024/early 2025. Action: RB to send out a template to BMs; BMs to share their priorities. Action: BMs to indicate to RB if they would like to be involved in the manifesto. Action: RB to ask LN if a question re: Member priorities could be added to the end of the C & G meetings; it would be a good opportunity to share our vision with Members and, also, to find out what is most important professionally to Scottish members.	RB BMs RB/LN
24.09.SPB.10	Any other business <i>Led by SPB Chair</i> There was no other business.	
24.09.SPB.11	Inclusion & Diversity (I&D) work going forward (This was originally in Confidential Business – 24.09.SPB.08C) <i>Led by Amandeep Doll (AD), Head of Professional Belonging</i>	

	Amandeep Doll (AD) led this agenda item and noted that it followed on from the GB work plan item that had just been discussed. SPB was asked, from a Scottish perspective, what should the focus be for I&D for 2025? <u>GB focus for 2025</u> • Updating the RPS I&D strategy; a new version will be launched in 2026 • Continue to focus on Differential Attainment, broadening the working group to include Scotland • Ongoing work with GPhC. They are looking to produce a much more 'hard-hitting' policy on zero tolerance. RPS will produce guidance in the background to support the policy <u>Scottish focus for 2025</u> • There are resources available from NES, before developing new RPS resources, check that not duplicating. If RPS produces a resource, it needs to be something different. • Remote and Rural, e.g. professional isolation (can be geographical or social) • Increased amount of prescribing and decision fatigue, path to burnout, mental toil in all work settings. • Being able to access a DPP in a remote and rural area; this is a different world with no support. Other professions have so few prescribers that it is very challenging, particularly, in the north of Scotland. • AD was asked about the survey and if anything showed up as Scotland specific? Socio-economic factors were the only issues highlighted by the survey. AD confirmed that socio-economic factors included, e.g. access to equipment/technology. • Disability and access - Could we advocate for a consulting platform, Video platform, e.g. 'Near me'? • Health Inequalities - Payment gap. • Thinking of DPPs and professional isolation, I&D should be threaded through all workstreams.	
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	JB summarised the discussion citing that remote and rural and professional isolation would be most relevant to Scotland.	
24.09.SPB.	Date of next meeting <i>Led by SPB Chair</i> The date of the next meeting will be the NPB meeting at RPS Head Office, 66-68 East Smithfield, London, on Thursday 7 November 2024. Board dates for 2025: These need to be agreed by CDs and then ratified at RPS Assembly in November. Action: CDs to discuss with Alison Douglas, Governance Manager.	CDs/AD
23.09.SPB.	Close of meeting at 11:00	

Action List

Item	Action	By Whom	Open/Closed/Comments
24.09.SPB.02(a)	<u>Declarations of interest:</u> • BMs to feedback any changes to declarations of interests to CR.	BM/CR	Ongoing
24.09/SPB/03(b)	<u>Minutes:</u> JS to email CR with correct wording re: Women's Health pharmacist in A&A. CR to update the minute. <u>Matters arising:</u> 24.06/SPB/10: A reminder that RPS has a statutory obligation for to register all conversations with MSPs (if	JS/CR BM/RB	September 2024 Ongoing

	on behalf of RPS), wherever they take place. BMs to keep RB informed so he can record.		
24.09.NPB.04 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) & (vi)	<u>Papers for noting:</u> SPB to consider how papers for noting should be considered and if further discussion is required.	BM/LW	Ongoing
24.09.SPB.06	<u>Science & Research:</u> DAO to share S&R presentation	DAO	September
24.09.SPB.07	<u>Events update</u> C&G Board members were asked to: • Register for an event(s) using the stakeholder registration link (sent) • Encourage colleagues to register for events • HJ to check the registration page as it should denote members and non-members. RPS Annual Conference • BMs to get in touch with any questions or things that they would like the KNS to consider • BMs to promote the RPS Conference to colleagues • BMs to support the RPS Zone • HJ to ask the supplier for data re: contact rates	BM s BM s HJ BM s BM s BM s BM s	September September 20 September November November November November
24.09.NPB.08	<u>Open display of P Medicines</u> Report to be presented to the joint NPB meeting in November for consideration.	CDs	November
24.09.SPB.09	<u>Public Affairs update</u> • RB to send out a template to BMs; BMs to share their priorities.	RB	September

	• BMs to indicate to RB if they would like to be involved in the manifesto. • RB to ask LN if a question re: Member priorities could be added to the end of the C & G meetings; it would be a good opportunity to share our vision with Members and, also, to find out what is most important professionally to Scottish members.	BMs RB/LN	September September
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DRAFT

Welsh Pharmacy Board meeting 20 September 2024

OPEN BUSINESS

Minutes of the Welsh Pharmacy Board Open Business meeting held on Friday 20 September 2024 AT 9.30AM

**RPS Wales Office, 2 Ash Tree, Woodsy Close, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RW
and via teams meeting**

Present

Welsh Pharmacy Board

Geraldine Mccaffrey Chair (GM), Richard Evans (RE), Dylan Jones (DJ), Liz Hallett (LH), Rhian Lloyd Evans (RLE), Gareth Hughes (GH), Aled Roberts (AR), Rafia Jamil (RJ), Lowri Puw (LP) Helen Davies (HD) Via Teams.

In attendance

Elen Jones Director (EJ), Paul Bennett CEO (PB), Professor Claire Anderson President (CA), Alwyn Fortune Policy and Engagement Lead (AF), Iwan Hughes Head of External Affairs (IH), Dafydd Rizzo Policy and Public Affairs Executive (DR).

Attendance via Teams

Corrine Burns PJ (CB), Professor Diane Ashiru – Oredope Deputy Chief Scientist (DA), Item 4 only, Hanna Jennvy Head of Events, (HJ) Item 7 only, Cath Ward Business Manager (CW).

Apologies

Eleri Schiavone (ES)

Item (approx. start time)	Subject	
1 (9.30am)	Welcome	The Chair welcomed Welsh Pharmacy Board (WPB) Members, and staff to the meeting.
	Apologies	Apologies were received from Eleri Schiavone, Rhian Lloyd Evans would be late attending.
2	Declarations of Interests	24.09.WPB.02(a) Declarations of interest were noted by the WPB. Amendments needed to be made to Dylan Jones and Richard Evans declarations of interest. Action 1 – CW to make amendments for November board meeting.
3	Minutes and matters arising	24.09.WPB.03 The WPB agreed that the minutes of the WPB meeting held on 18th June and 19th June were an accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed by Dylan Jones and seconded by - Lowri Puw Matters arising 24.06.WPB.09 (ii) - Send declarations of interest to WPB. Action completed. 24.06.WPB.10 – Share information of the Senedd Perception survey with CB. Action completed. 24.06.WPB.12 – Country Directors to take ideas around business planning for 2025 and develop a workplan to bring to the next board meeting in September. Action completed. 24.06.NPB.13 - Review RPS position on self-selection of P Medicines in Community Pharmacy using evidence to support any changes and to use the RPS Expert Advisory groups when gathering evidence. Agenda Item.

4 (9.40)	Science and Research	Professor Diane Ashiru-Oredope, Deputy Chief Scientist presented an update on the Work of the Science and Research Team. The presentation covered the S&R team and committee with a focus on ongoing work, project work and suggested policy areas for the Board to consider. The team are focused on developing research capability and capacity in pharmacy alongside driving innovation and building the evidence base. The work of the team has an external (member focused) and internal focus. The board noted that the team have three working groups - New Medicines and Emerging Technologies - Research Across the Profession - Safer Medicines and Safer Medicines Usage - There are also proposals for a new Working Group – to be ratified at SRC meeting in Nov 2024 The board discussed the importance of research for pharmacy professionals and that it should be active research – to demonstrate supporting and delivering the agenda, noting that is not only about clinical trials. They also discussed the role of RPS providing support on research methods to support colleagues and a want to further highlight the NIHR modules. The board noted that the plan is to demystify research and this part of the myth busting is happening with the Opra award jointly with NHRA and elearning modules. WPB asked if RPS can publish and share case studies. DAO advised that there are pages on website looking at research methods and a webinar will be held soon soon. As a team, S&R are working through this and are working with UK advisory groups and networks working with the UK advisory group on Clinical Academic Career pathway.
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		Suggested policy areas for the board to consider - A strong stance on vaping - Raising public awareness of dangers of online purchasing - Position statement on Medicines Reuse EJ advised that all 3 National Pharmacy Boards took a strong stance on vaping and the use of e cigarettes when developing policy in 2021. This resulted in the RPS stepping back from some working groups where vaping was being advocated, without sufficient restrictions applied to their use. RPS's cautious approach to use of e-cigarettes proved to be absolutely the right stance to take. The evidence continually emerges in this area and S&R team are well placed to update the board on this but we would need sufficient new evidence to warrant an update to the policy. Action 2 - DAO To ensure SRC is fully aware of the current policy and to advise if further work could be needed. Naturally, the three National Boards will need to discuss and mutually agree on next steps.
5 (10:00)	Open Display of P medicines	EJ advised that following the detailed discussion at the June board meeting, the results of the call for evidence and the subsequent report on this evidence, produced by the S&R team, will be available for board members at the November meeting. This will enable board members to analyse and reflect on this information and determine the way forward for policy in this area.
6 (10: 10)	Public Affairs update	IH presented this item. He advised that following the results of the Sendedd Perception audit RPS are showing:- - Far greater clarity in the role of RPS and how we differ from other organisations, - RPS seen as <u>influential and informative</u> organisation – on pharmacy and health issues. - Growth in <u>'reputation'</u>

		- Growth in '<u>effectiveness of communication</u>' - Growth in '<u>influencing policy development</u>' This growth is attributed to regular engagement at the Senedd, more email briefings, more meetings and visits and most importantly for 'knowledge of pharmacy/RPS' and reputation and constant reinforcement 'our key messages'. Next steps – To maintain the focus on reputation IH asked the board to consider establishing 4 key policy asks of MS's which will be the themes for the four Senedd events and will ultimately become the RPS Wales Manefesto Asks for the upcoming Assembly Elections. The board were happy with the approach being forward looking and also agreed to set up a short life working group. LP, RJ, RLE, GH and LH all agreed to be part of this group Action 3– IH to set up a short life working group to determine the four key policy asks for Senedd events.
7 (10.30)	Events update	Hanna Jenvy presented the update. HJ gave a flavour of the activity of the Events delivered to date. She advised that 2024 RPS Events delivered to date: 89 2024 RPS Event attendees: 8,823 There are currently 44 upcoming events open for registration via the RPS website (64% in-person) This weeks tangible outputs: - Enabling RPS Members to observe all 3 Country Board meetings online, 1 Expert Advisory Group meeting and 1 Action Group meeting all taking place this week - On-site delivering the RPS Wales Conference in Cardiff

		- Delivering Recognition events in Wales and Scotland - On-site delivering a 5-day venue hire booking at 66ES for an external organisation - Launched resit RPS Mock Assessment for Foundation Trainees preparing for November WPB were asked to join events and cascade to colleagues to register at the Conference. Annual Conference update - Annual conference – encourage colleagues to join - Again this year the conference will be spread conference across two floors, and taking on board the feedback from last year where delegates felt that there was a disconnect. Posters will be judged on both floors. There will also be catering on both floors Disconnect last year posterb across two floors. WPB were asked to sign up for the conference, if they hadn't to date and make themselves available for the RPS Zone during the day.
8 (10:50)	Papers for noting with a short update	24.09.04(i) (ii) (iii) and (iv)(v) (vi) (vii) WPB noted the papers (i) Implementing Country Visions (ii) Strengthening Pharmacy (iii) GovernanceProfessional Issues (iv)Workforce (v) SRC update (vi)Education and Professional Development (vii) Assessment and Credentilling update GM noted that the focus of work around Health Inequalities should remain strong for the organisation and would like further updates in subsequent board papers on work in this

		area. Work in this area is currently being supported by S&RC and remains a key focus and strand that runs through all work at the RPS and through lobbying work, highlighting the essential role pharmacy plays in helping address health inequalities and the determinants of these.
9.	Any other business	There was no other business notified to the Chair within the 48 hours before the meeting.
10.	Date of next meeting	7 November 2024– face to face in London (day before RPS conference)
		Meeting closed at 11.05

ACTION LOG	Action	Status
24.09.WPB.02(a)	Action 1 - CW to make amendments to Declarations of Interest ready for November Board Meeting	Completed
Science and Research	Action 2 - DAO To ensure SRC is fully aware of the current policy and to advise if further work could be needed. Naturally, the three National Boards will need to discuss and mutually agree on next steps.	Open – SRC meeting on 7th Nov
	Action 3– IH to set up a short life working group to determine the key policy asks for Senedd events.	Plans being finalised to take this forward

DRAFT

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Assessment & Credentialing: July – November activities update
Author of paper	Joseph Oakley
Position in organisation	Associate Director: Assessment & Credentialing
Telephone	0207 572 2334
E-mail	joseph.oakley@rpharms.com
Headline summary of paper	Assessment and Credentialing activities report July – Nov 2024
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	n/a
Resource implications	n/a

Activities update to National Boards

Assessment & Credentialing

1. Activity summary

- **Key purpose of credentialing** is to protect the public and integrity of the profession by assuring patient-focussed pharmacists working at advancing levels of post-registration practice.
- **Credentialing assessment data** are available in **Appendix 1** of this documents. More detailed assessment data is reviewed by the relevant RPS assessment panels under the Education & Standards Committee and released annually in [RPS Assessment & Credentialing annual reports](#)
- Key updates since last report:
 - BAU delivery of credentialing assessments reported in Appendix 1
 - We credentialed our **first** community pharmacist at core advanced level (based in Scotland) in October 2024.
 - Delivery of FPAP (July 24), APAP (September 24) and ESC (October 24) governance meetings
 - Engagement with post-registration Foundation chairs following initial pilot cohorts and review of assessor and training provider feedback
 - Drafting of joint RPS/PhSC advanced practice strategy for publication Q1 2025
 - Delivery of successful Advanced Practice summit (September)
 - Publication of [two advanced specialist curricula](#) in critical care and mental health, developed in collaboration with UKCPA and CMHP
 - Engagement with other specialist pharmacist interest groups about future curriculum development
 - Responding to increased engagement from system about credentialing since royal college announcement, including preparing response to Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists [open letter](#).
- We have also developed our 2025 strategic plan which is outlined in section 2 of the report.

Question

Do National Pharmacy Board members have any questions or comments about our 2025 plan?

Reflection

How can National Pharmacy Board members:

- help promote the value and importance of RPS credentialing across the countries, especially with employers?
- lobby and influence system leaders to adopt RPS credentialing as the preferred approach to post-registration pharmacist workforce assurance?

2. Our departmental plans for 2025

2.1. What is our strategic focus for 2025 as a team?

To promote integration of RPS core advanced credentialing

- Our ambition is that all pharmacists working in patient-focused roles who wish to progress to advancing levels of post-registration practice are on one of our credentialing pathways; this is good for the advancement of the profession and the assurance of practice for the public and wider system.
- Focusing on core advanced is the logical next step for us. With consultant credentialing already embedded in NHS guidance with stable candidate numbers, and PRF being redefined in 2025, we need to focus on the integration of advanced practice credentialing as the largest workforce segment. Core advanced credentialing has the greatest potential impact on practice and patients in the current landscape vis-à-vis the other levels of post-registration practice.
- There is significant competition in the advanced space from alternative multiprofessional assurance pathways (ACP courses, RCEM credentialing); it is essential we gain greater traction for our pharmacist-specific curricula and credentialing within the system as the one true assurance pathway for pharmacists, preserving professional identity and USP as leading the safe and effective use of medicines in an ever more nebulous advanced practice landscape; we need to clearly plant our stake as the exclusive owner of the pharmacist post-registration development and assurance pathway and integrate it more strongly into the pharmacy employment system, beginning with those working in NHS directly employed and GP sectors whilst continuing to engage with community pharmacy, especially as we now have an example of a successfully credentialed individual in the community sector.
- Our advanced practice credentialing has already attracted multiprofessional funding opportunities, particularly in England. However, this funding has been significantly reduced in 2025; more intentional promotion, marketing and engagement is required to

mitigate this and drive employer-led or individual-led submissions as well as other national funding options from pharmacy.

- Core advanced credentialing lacks the funded national programmes seen at PRF and the policy drivers of consultant practice; it therefore needs more active promotion within the system to candidates and employers directly.
- Although advanced credentialing will be our key area of focus for 2025, it will not be our exclusive focus. A key parallel project will be the review of the RPS post-registration Foundation curriculum as this will lay the foundations of a key strategic opportunity for the RPS in 2025/2026 as well as a focus on optimising our BAU activities.

2.2. How will we know we have been successful?

We will be able to quantify our success by measuring:

- 1) The increase in e-portfolio sign up from pharmacists working in these sectors
- 2) The increase in conversion to assessment from pharmacists working in these sectors by the end of 2026
- 3) The awareness of NHS and GP pharmacy senior managers and leaders of RPS core advanced credentialing and its purpose and benefits for them
- 4) The support of NHS and GP pharmacy senior managers and leaders for RPS core advanced credentialing as a model of workforce assurance

2.3. What are our key activity 'buckets' for 2025?

Buckets	Strategic rationale	Planned activity
BUCKET 1 Assessment BAU optimisation	• Revenue generating • Demonstrates organisational capability to deliver assessments at a national level to the wider system • Review and improvement of current processes required to optimise efficiency and resource utilisation. • Reporting and feedback processing are currently very resource intensive, require lots of manual working and are open to risk and data breach; automation through the e-portfolio will be more efficient and mitigate risk of manual processing errors and unintentional data breaches.	Technology • Reporting functionality • Feedback integration • Increase of automated processes • Other eportfolio functionality Stakeholder experience • Communication • Response time • Support • Information Process review & improvements • Consultant posts • File/data cleanup • SOPs review

OPEN BUSINESS

		• Standardisation: data sharing, contracts, fees • Succession planning & knowledge
BUCKET 2 Promoting integration of RPS Core Advanced credentialing	• Promotes integration of core advanced credentialing into career progression, initially focussing on engaging employers and system leaders in the secondary and primary care sectors in Scotland, Wales and two/three regions of England. • Promotes value of credentialing for patients, public, professionals and the wider healthcare system, strengthening support for the wider post-registration assurance model more widely with employers and professional leaders	• Development of engagement strategy identifying key geographies to target for 2025 (likely Scotland, Wales & 2 x regions of England) • Development of marketing strategy in collaboration with strategic communication department. • Implementation of strategies through 2025 to increase core advanced take up.
BUCKET 3 Review of RPS post-registration Foundation curriculum	• Review of PR curriculum essential to position RPS credentialing as provider of UK workforce assurance for new pharmacist prescribers post 2026. Potential to engage whole UK NQP cohort onto an RPS credentialing pathway.	• Establish programme steering and T&F groups with representation across the sector. • Undertake curriculum review with iterative consultation with wider profession as per RPS curriculum development process.

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Appendix 1 – Credentialing data

Post-registration Foundation (2024)

	April 24	May 24	June 24	Sep 24	Nov 24	2024 Total
No. Submitting	4	7	21	12		44
Credential rate	75%	71%	38%	58%		52%
Credential no.	3	5	8	7		23

Core Advanced (2024)

	2024/1	2024/2	2024/3	2024/4	2024/5	2024/6*	2024/7	2024 Total
No. Submitting	1	7	17	16	15	29	37	84
Credential rate	100%	57%	65%	44%	93%	59%	pending	64%
Credential no.	1	4	11	7	14	17	pending	54

Consultant (2024)

	2024/1	2024/2	2024/3	2024 Total
No. Submitting	7	17	October	24
Credential rate	43%	53%	pending	50%
Credential no.	3	9	pending	12

Cumulative

	Submission numbers				First time pass rate	Resit pass rate
	Total	E	S	W		
Post-registration Foundation	44	0	23	21	52%	-
Core Advanced	124	113	11	0	60%	86% (2 nd attempt)
Consultant	121	87	12	15	49%	76% (2 nd attempt) 100% (3 rd attempt)

Candidate numbers are currently small as credentialing embeds. However, the following early trends are beginning to emerge:

- Females tend to outperform males
- Non-clinical domains have lower pass rates than clinical domains
- Candidates' ability to clearly evidence their practice in a portfolio format is inconsistent, especially their approach to mapping and high-quality reflection
- Further data and analysis are available in the [RPS Assessment & Credentialing annual reports](#)

National Pharmacy Board meeting – 7 November 2024

Title of item	Business Plan
Author of paper Position in organisation E-mail	Elen Jones James Davies Laura Wilson Country Directors
Item to be led at the meeting by	CDs
Headline summary of paper	To Discuss and sign-off the work plan for 2025-2026
Purpose of item (decision / discussion)	Discussion and decision
For consideration	1. To provide feedback on the overarching business plan 2. To agree that this is a two year plan, rather than a one year plan 3. Ask board members to step forward to support key 'hot topics' so they can further shape the policy work on behalf of their board. 4. To gain sign-off of the plan
Risk implications	There are a lot of priorities to cover, appropriate allocation of staff and board time will be essential to ensure RPS continues to channel country teams work in areas that matter to patients, the profession and our members.
Resource implications	Staff capacity Board members input

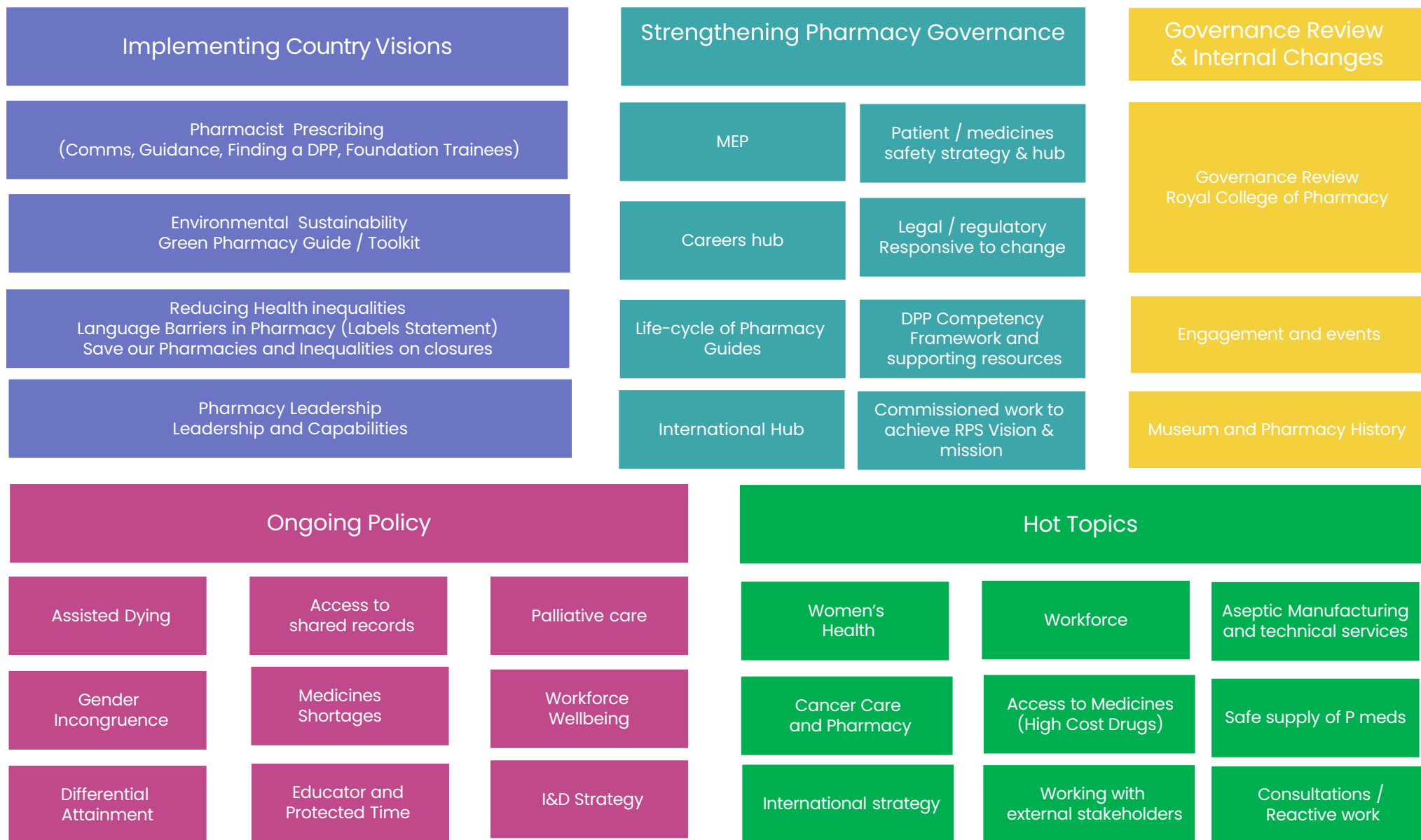
GB Workplan for 2025 & 2026

Country Teams

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION & DECISION



Draft/ Suggested GB Workplan 2025 - 2026



National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Implementing Country Visions
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Laura Wilson, Iwan Hughes, Elen Jones, Heidi Wright, Alwyn Fortune, James Davies,
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas: Pharmacist Prescribing Environmental Sustainability Pharmacogenomics Reducing Health Inequalities
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	
Resource implications	

Implementing Country Vision

Pharmacist Prescribing (Laura/Heidi)

Highlights

- Held a follow up DPP roundtable in England with key stakeholders and we are currently drafting a meeting note.
- The project is now 'Business as Usual' and prescribing services are now a well established element of the member proposition
- Since the website was launched - there have been 100,000 visits to the prescribing home page.
- The levels of interest continue, with an average of 7,000 visits monthly
- The number of prescribers who are members of the RPS has risen by 23% since the project started
- The number of prescribers on the GPhC register continues to rise by around 1% per month so there are still many prescribers who we want to recruit
- Our qualitative and quantitative research into prescribers' needs resulted in a poster presentation at FIP
- A series of educational events is planned, along with DPP events and the e-portfolio should land early next year.
- Please check out our great new video summarising our prescribing services! www.rpharms.com/prescribing
- Continued collaboration with HEIW hosting face to face IP training events on a monthly basis across Wales, targeted at community pharmacists delivering the Pharmacist Independent Prescriber service (PIPS) under the terms of the contractual framework.

Next Steps

- Continue to keep an eye on the situation for those qualifying as prescribers in 2026
- Continue to support pharmacists to become prescribers
- Work ongoing in Scotland looking at how we continue to engage with prescribers and showcase our support offering
- Regular meetings with NHSE around the pathfinder sites
- Continue to collaborate with HEIW in Wales to deliver educational content for IP training events and support those events on the day.

Environmental Sustainability (Iwan/Elen)

Highlights

- Work is ongoing to develop a Greener Pharmacy Toolkit and Guides to support pharmacy teams working in community and hospital pharmacies to make their professional practice more environmentally sustainable.

The content is now finalised, and internal User Acceptability Testing (UAT) to test usability and functionality has also been completed. We're now entering external beta tests with EAGs, board volunteers and other expert groups.

In preparation for the full launch a draft communications and engagement plan is in place, and initial meetings with the GPhC, community pharmacy chain and other stakeholders have also/are taking place.

- In Wales, we held a meeting with the Deputy Future Generations Commissioner & Director for Health which included a briefing on pharmacy's role within sustainability within healthcare and delivered a presentation on why climate change is an important topic for community pharmacy at a Public Health Wales engagement event.
- We have also met with members of the UK Climate Change Committee to share insights on the UK's cold supply chain to rising and extreme temperatures - including medicines.
- We've continued to engage with other health bodies through our membership of the UKHACC through our regular meetings. Activity has included:
 - Co-signed a Letter to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to press him to put health at the forefront of discussions at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in November.
 - Submission of case study on our investment to make our buildings more sustainable that align to the UKHACC organisational commitments with the aim of spreading best practice among the membership.

Next Steps

- Continue work on the toolkit with a view for a full launch in the coming months.
- Continue to be actively engaged with UKHACC.

- Explore opportunities within the profession and other bodies for collaboration on climate action within healthcare and pharmacy.

Pharmacogenomics (Alwyn)

Highlights

- Continue to participate in the task and finish group to refresh the 'Direct to consumer Genomic Testing' position statement in association with BSGM and RCGP with representation from RPS expert members.
- Approached by HEIW in Wales to collaborate and support delivery of their pharmacogenomics delivery plan.

Next Steps

- Continue to participate and inform the refresh of the 'Direct to Consumer Genomic Testing' position statement with the aid of RPS expert members, with a view to endorsement of the statement.
- Continue to support members with Pharmacogenomics resources and educational material

Reducing Health Inequalities (James/Heidi)

Highlights

- In Scotland we are part of the Remote and Islands workforce stakeholder focus group meetings
- Visited a pharmacy in Glasgow to talk about their use of translation services following the transfer of a large number of patients who did not have English as their first language
- In England we continue to work with the Prescription Charges Coalition and support their messages
- In England we are a member of National Voices and we support their work and messaging on health inequalities
- In Wales, we held a successful and engaging joint session with Community Pharmacy Wales at the Senedd, engaging with Members of the Senedd (MS) around the pressures on community pharmacies, closures and reduced service delivery and how this will exacerbate health inequalities. Solutions around support for the network to limit the impact were highlighted.

- Actively engaging with Llais, the patient representative body in Wales, who also have representation on the working groups for Pharmacy: Delivering a Healthier Wales. Providing a strong voice representing patients on these groups ensures as we develop pharmacy services and the profession, these are centred around the patients in our communities.

Next Steps

- We will continue to work with patient representative bodies across GB on a number of health inequalities issues
- We will continue to support the workstreams above and ensure we highlight the role of pharmacy within the wider healthcare context when addressing health inequalities
- The NHS 10 year plan has a focus on health inequalities so we will review the role pharmacists can play in line with that.

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Professional Issues
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Fiona McIntyre, Darrell Baker, Elen Jones, Heidi Wright, James Davies, Alwyn Fortune, Ross Burrow, Laura Wilson
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Artificial Intelligence (Fiona) Palliative Care (Darrell/ Elen) Digital Prescribing and Access to Records (Heidi) Medicines Shortages (James/Alwyn) Assisted Dying (Ross/Laura) Gender Incongruence/Gender Dysphoria (Fiona/Wing/Elen) Consultations List (Policy Leads)
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	
Resource implications	

Professional Issues (Policy Leads)

Artificial Intelligence (Fiona)

Highlights

- Revised draft policy prepared
- Review process with RPS team and EAGs complete

Next Steps

- Consulting with stakeholders to secure examples of AI deployment to include in paper
- Share with Board members for comment by end October
- Date of publication 14th January 2025 accompanied by blog.
- As Artificial Intelligence is evolving, policy work in this topic will continue to develop and inform any future standards and/or guidance

Palliative Care (Darrell/ Elen)

Highlights

- Daffodil sign-ups are up to approx. 800 and Northern Ireland launch event scheduled for 6th November 2025.
- Feedback from first quarter sign ups continues.
- Undergraduate pilot project on learning needs completed and now extended to a wider group.
- Lack of nominations for RCGP/Marie Curie Award for General Practice Clinical Pharmacist 2024. To develop future work with RCGP.
- Implementation of Wales SLWG recommendations ongoing.
- Initial meeting with Manchester University research team to explore use of carer support needs assessment tool (CSNAT).
- RPS Palliative and End of life care Policy refresh work progressing and on schedule for December completion.

Next Steps

- Theory of Change workshops planned with Daffodil Steering Group members- to inform impact evaluation of Community Pharmacy Daffodil campaign.
- Draft proposals for Daffodil project 2025 to be discussed with Marie Curie
- Research funding being sought to take forward care home work on access to medicines

- Presentation to Holyrood MSPs scheduled 28th January 2025
- Complete work to refresh palliative and end of life care policy

Digital Prescribing and Access to Records (Heidi)

Highlights

- Digital Capabilities for the Pharmacy Workforce position statement has been published: <https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/all-our-campaigns/policy-a-z/digital-capabilities-for-the-pharmacy-workforce>
- Poster accepted to RPS Conference on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of pharmacist access to digital records in Scotland

Next Steps

- Shared patient data work to be shared at annual conference also scoping how best to share wider
- RPS to facilitate discussions on how the recommendations from the policy can be implemented in practice

Medicines Shortages (James/Alwyn)

Highlights

- The final report is close to publication, with the launch event planned for the 27th November in Westminster.
- The final advisory group is on the 25th October, for agreement on the draft report including recommendations, allowing for final design and production of the report. The key point summary and recommendations are shared separately with board members for agreement

Next Steps

- Discussion about medicines shortages at the RPS Annual Conference as part of the workstream for the day
- Discussion with the minister with responsibility on 11th November.
- Research-led conference at RPS on 15th November
- Westminster Parliamentary launch of the RPS Report 27th November
- Scottish Parliament Medicines Shortages drop in event 28th November
- Welsh Parliament Medicines Shortages event booked for 4th December

Assisted Dying (Ross/Laura)

Highlights

OPEN BUSINESS

- Invitation to give evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee in November in relation to the Member's Bill introduced into the Scottish Parliament
- Private Member's Bill on Assisted Dying being introduced into the House of Commons
- RPS Assisted Dying policy undergone a rapid review to reflect draft legislation progression. Updated policy has been published:
<https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/all-our-campaigns/policy-a-z/assisted-dying>

Next Steps

- Prepare for evidence session in Scottish Parliament
- Monitor progress of Bills across both parliaments, noting the joint jurisdiction in Westminster for England and Wales.

Gender Incongruence/Gender Dysphoria (Fiona/Wing/Elen)

Highlights

- Submitted response to the DHSC targeted consultation on proposed changes to the availability of puberty blockers.
- Provided additional feedback to the DHSC from members accessing the RPS Professional Support line indicating the prescription of gender affirming hormones in children and young people from EEA prescribers.

Next Steps

- Continue to liaise with external stakeholders to raise awareness of the potential criminalisation of pharmacists who dispense these medicines
- Continue to engage with DHSC on the impact of the emergency legislation

Consultations List (Policy Leads)

Highlights

- 11 consultations responded to in the period September to October 2024. All consultation responses can be found at
<https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/working-with-government/consultation-responses/2024-consultation-responses>

Next Steps

- Continue to respond to relevant consultations, horizon scanning across external stakeholders such as DHSC, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, regulators and others.

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Workforce
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Heidi Wright, Amandeep Doll, Laura Wilson James Davies
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Workforce Wellbeing (Heidi) Access to DPP (Heidi/Laura) Workforce Numbers (James) I&D (Aman) Differential Attainment (Aman)
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	
Resource implications	

Workforce

Workforce Wellbeing (Heidi)

Highlights

- The 2024 WWB survey launched on Friday 18 October and will run until 12 November: <https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/all-our-campaigns/workforce-wellbeing>
- GPhC are sending the survey to all registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) and APTUK are a collaborator alongside Pharmacist Support
- CQC developed some helpful guidance around their quality statements supporting wellbeing: <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS document library/Open access/Workforce Wellbeing/CQC Wellbeing for RPS.pdf>
- We provided an update on the actions from the Workforce Wellbeing roundtable:
<https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Workforce%20Wellbeing/Workforce%20Wellbeing%20Actions%20Update.pdf?ver=5bdMei4lvZYgELqkbd2Gcw%3d%3d>

Next Steps

- The survey results will be analysed and we will publish a report in Q1 2025
- We will hold another roundtable Q1 in 2025

Access to DPP (Heidi/Laura)

Highlights

- Position statement on DPPs published
- DPP roundtable held and report with recommendations published
- Follow up roundtable was held and a meeting note is being drafted

Next Steps

- Refresh of the RPS DPP Competency Framework scheduled for inclusion in 2025 workplan

Workforce Numbers (James)

Highlights

- Since the last board meeting we have continued to explore the challenges with access to DPPs in England, holding a further collaborative roundtable with the NPA, building on our previous publication.
(<https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/rps-and-npa-urges-action-on-dpps>)

OPEN BUSINESS

- We continue to engage with NHSE over the training places and to understand the changes that will happen for multi-sector places in 2026/7.
- In light of the new government we are waiting for clear direction on the Long Term workforce plan in England and continue to lobby for further access.

Next Steps

- Continue to work to support access to DPPs
- Monitor situation in Wales and Scotland

I&D (Aman)

Highlights

- Celebrated Black History Month across October, by hosting a hybrid event at the London RPS offices, showcasing black pharmacy colleagues across our social media channels and presenting at BPSA BHM webinar
- Invited to be a panel member at a Nottingham University student initiative of advancing Black student careers.
- Presented at APTUK conference on unconscious bias

Next Steps

- Planning International Men's Day and Disability History Month (December)
- 2025 I&D workplan planning
- Starting work on the I&D strategy and aligning with RPS 2026 strategy

Differential Attainment (Aman)

Highlights

- Hosted the first EDI forum to education supervisors, really positive feedback
- Terms of Reference agreed for the working group
- Presented the differential attainment report at CPC North with members of ACPN

Next Steps

- Host the next working group meeting
- Work with pharmacy organisations to establish clear outcomes and actions

National Pharmacy Board meeting – November 2024

Title of item	Strengthening Pharmacy Governance
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Wing Tang, Laura Wilson, Heidi Wright, Elen Jones
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Supervision (Heidi) Hub and Spoke RP/SPCP Guidance Original Pack Dispensing
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	
Resource implications	

Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (Wing/Elen/Laura)

Supervision (Heidi)

Highlights

- No significant update

Next Steps

- We await the outcome of the consultation process from DHSC, we anticipate this now won't be considered until 2025.

Hub and Spoke (Wing/Heidi)

Highlights

- The government's response to the consultation process was published in May 2024 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hub-and-spoke-dispensing/outcome/government-response-to-the-consultation-on-hub-and-spoke-dispensing>
- Government committed to a process of engagement with NHS national pharmaceutical service representatives. The RPS was invited to attend the first Community Pharmacy England Hub and Spoke expert group meeting in June 2024 to hear discussions about potential implications of NHS hub and spoke dispensing between legal entities.

Next Steps

- We are on standby to support with professional guidance as needed as Government moves to implement the legal changes, but we understand this has been delayed into 2025.

RP/SP/CP Guidance

Highlights

- No significant update since responding to the GPhC consultation on draft Chief Pharmacist standards in April 2024

Next Steps

- Await outcome from GPhC consultation

Original Pack Dispensing (Wing)

Highlights

- No significant update since original pack dispensing introduced for valproate-containing medicines.

Next Steps

- The RPS remains on standby to advocate for original pack dispensing where possible

**National Pharmacy Board meeting
November 2024**

Title of item	Education and Professional Development: July to September 2024 activities
Open, confidential, or restricted	Open
Authors of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Helen Chang Associate Director for Education and Professional Development Helen.Chang@rpharms.com
Headline summary of paper	An update to Boards of education and professional development activities for the period July to September 2024 (Q3)
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	N/A
Resource implications	N/A

Education and Professional Development activities update to Assembly

1. Background

Education and professional development activity for July to September 2024 largely focussed on developing learning content and resources to support members, including eLearning, webinars, and events. We continued to deliver support for prescribers and are collaborating with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to provide a new learning programme for pharmacists in Wales.

2. Summary of activity

2.1. Students

We delivered our second joint webinar for 2024, with NHS England (NHSE), NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA) to support third year undergraduate students prepare for the national foundation training recruitment scheme (Oriel) 2024/25. 545 students registered for the webinar which focussed on the recruitment process.

We also delivered workshops in August and September which focussed on the numeracy and situation judgement test assessments, which form part of the recruitment scheme. Workshop sessions were received well by over 200 students who were in attendance. We are also continuing to develop practice questions to support students in preparing further for the assessment. This will be a key element of our support programme in 2025.

Details of resources for the current national recruitment scheme can be found in our website: <https://www.rpharms.com/development/students/national-pharmacist-foundation-training-recruitment/national-pre-reg-pharmacist-recruitment-help> We've recently updated this with new information from NHSE, HEIW, and NES.

2.2. Foundation training

We launched our foundation trainee programme 2024/25 in September. The programme supports the development of effective practice during the training year. We commenced the programme with a series of webinars, which prepares trainees for key elements and milestones of foundation training.

The pass rate for the registration assessment in Summer 2024 was low in comparison to results from previous years, thus we are planning additional support for members. We plan to offer a mock assessment and deliver a webinar focussing tips for preparing for a re-sit of the assessment.

We continue to work with NHSE to develop their Foundation Trainee Pharmacist E-Portfolio; a new cohort of trainees were enrolled onto the platform in June/July. We have also worked closely with the NHSE team to develop a new pathway to support trainees who are completing an integrated 5-year course at Bradford University; this was launched in August.

2.3. Prescribing

We are in the process of developing and delivering learning programme for pharmacists in Wales to deliver the Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Service (PIPS) with confidence. The programme is designed to equip pharmacists, mainly in primary care settings, with the essential knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to provide excellent patient care. So far, we have successfully delivered 14

training sessions across Wales on dermatology, ear and respiratory conditions. There are a further 18 sessions planned on children's health, urinary tract conditions and contraception. Further information about the programme can be found on our website: <https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/new-programme-to-enhance-prescribing-skills-in-wales>

We are preparing a 'Becoming a designated prescribing practitioner (DPP)' event in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing. This is a multidisciplinary event with representation from nursing and paramedic healthcare professionals. The event will take place in October. This event will come at a prudent time as the need for more DPPs within pharmacy increases in preparation for the training of trainee pharmacists graduating independent prescribers and requiring training as part of their foundation training.

In line with our activities focusing on the role of DPPs, we have also released a blog authored by a DPP. The blog focusses on their experiences and journey in becoming a DPP. It is hoped this will encourage others who may be considering the role but don't know where or how to get started.

2.4. Mentoring

We continue to see good engagement on the mentoring platform; we have 2140 registered users. We regularly promote mentoring to members through our various communications and social media channels.

Our Mentoring Advisory Group continues to support our work; we met in person in July 2024 where we discussed the process for the Barnett Award – an award that celebrates individuals who have dedicated their careers to supporting, mentoring, and advancing others, and have instilled a culture of professional development excellence within the profession. A working group and judging panel were formed to assess the nominations received, which were of an excellent calibre and standard. We will be presenting the award to our winner at the RPS conference – the first ever recipient. We have also expanded membership of the Mentoring Advisory Group to ensure that we have a diverse representation from across the profession (different stages of practice, and settings of practice).

2.4. Educational webinars and events

We continue to deliver a range of live learning content to our members, Between July to September, we have delivered two webinars. This includes a break over the summer period. A summary of the sessions can be found in the table below.

Month	Webinar content	Number of registrations	% Learners who would recommend to a colleague
July	Portfolio careers	182	91%
September	Sepsis awareness: Recognising and responding to signs and symptoms	133	100%

Sessions planned for later this year include a series on human factors (a collaboration with Royal Colleges), and clinical learning sessions, such as awareness of Lyme disease.

2.5. Learning hub (e-learning)

We are currently developing a new digital learning platform to host all our educational and learning content. Our learning hub will contain interactive, bite-sized learning all in one place. Members will be able to access learning 24/7, at a time and location that best suits them. There will be a variety

of blended learning presented in a range of formats – we aim to deliver accessible and inclusive content that considers individual learning styles and needs. We are currently organising user testing. We are showing the platform at the RPS annual conference and looking to launch a beta version of the platform to members later in the year.

We are currently developing e-learning modules as part of our wider learning offer for members. We are focussing on learning in areas of common clinical conditions, mentoring, prescribing, professional practice and research & evaluation.

2.6. Annual conference

We have been working closely with the RPS Events team to develop the programme for the Annual Conference 2024. The theme of the conference is 'Working across boundaries: Embracing new opportunities and empowering excellence'. The EPD team are leading the workforce stream and will be supporting the delivery of two sessions: 'Transformative models: Creating an empowered workforce' and 'The great prescribing debate: A new approach to clinical supervision'. See Events update for further information.

National Pharmacy Board meeting – (November 2024)

Title of item	Science and Research update to National Pharmacy Boards, November 2024
Author of paper	Professor Parastou Donyai
Position in organisation	Chief Scientist
Telephone	020 7572 2275
E-mail	Parastou.Donyai@rpharms.com
Headline summary of paper	Summary of Science & Research Team activities
Purpose of item	This paper is mainly for noting but the work of the SRT on the facilitated self-selection of P medicines will be presented at the meeting
Risk implications	The work of the SRT on the facilitated self-selection of P medicines has wider implications for the profession
Resource implications	NA

National Pharmacy Board meeting – (November 2024)

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH UPDATE TO NATIONAL PHARMACY BOARDS

1. Background

The purpose of the Science and Research programme is to:

- Improve research capacity and capability within pharmacy,
- Increase the public profile of pharmaceutical science and research, including clinical and social pharmacy practice research,
- Support innovation and building the evidence-base in collaboration with the Science and Research Committee,
- Support internal policy, tools and services through research/evidence-based decision making.

This paper outlines Science and Research activities undertaken from Sept 2024 to present.

2. Summary of activity

2.1. Staff recruitment

- Staff changes were communicated in the September update to the Board and the following shows a summary of the current/forthcoming status of the team: Yen Truong's (Senior Research and Development Manager) extended Sabbatical at CQC will end in March 2025 and she is expected to return to the RPS April 2025 0.6 FTE; the contract of Science & Research Officer, Leah Burton, (0.6 FTE) which was fixed-term ends in December 2024 as will the fixed-term contract of Deputy Chief Scientist, Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope (0.2 FTE). The contract of Science & Research Manager, Lauren Ross (1.0 FTE) remains unchanged.
- Chief Scientist, Prof. Parastou Donyai now works 0.6 FTE.

2.2. Science Recognition Awards

- **Harrison and Hanbury Awards** – further information in the new [RPS awards webpage](#).
 - Harrison 2024: Professor Ryan Donnelly [was selected as the winner](#) of the Harrison 2024 prize and will receive his award and deliver the Harrison memorial presentation at the 2024 RPS Annual Conference on 8 November.
 - Hanbury 2025: The Nominations for the Hanbury award 2025 opened in September 2024, with submissions closing on 29th November 2024. A review panel is being convened with the help of SRC while the submission call is open.
- **Outstanding Pharmacy Early-Career Research Awards' (OPERA)** – [Dr Sion Scott](#) will receive his award and deliver the OPERA24 presentation at the 2024 RPS Annual Conference on 8 November. The nominations for the OPERA 2025 award will be open following the RPS Annual Conference, in November 2024.

2.3. Research Support Services

The team provides planned and *ad hoc* support to other RPS teams and workstreams, along with external research support.

- **Call for Evidence: self-selection of Pharmacy medicines** – a call for evidence document was created and the call itself launched to the profession and other stakeholders to provide evidence relating to this topic by 6 September 2024. SRT has undertaken a narrative analysis of the submitted evidence and the suggested research priority areas. Simultaneously, a literature review is being conducted to support the analysis – see more information below.
- **Workforce wellbeing** – The 2024 RPS Workforce Wellbeing Survey was launched on 18 October 2024, and is to close at 5pm on Tuesday, 12 November. The update to the 2024 survey was conducted collaboratively with APTUK, Pharmacist Support, and the GPhC. The collated information is to be reviewed, analysed, and reported on by SRT, with publication expected in February 2025.
- **RPS Annual conference: Research Abstract and Innovation Practice submissions 2024** – SRT assumed full responsibility for the management of abstracts, handed over from the Education team this year. In total 76 research abstracts and 86 innovative practice example submissions were selected for presentation at the 2024 RPS Annual Conference. The research abstracts will be published in IJPP on 08 November with the underpinning work involving liaison with RPS Events Team, IJPP, and the Event app developers.
- **Literature reviews and other manuscripts/papers:** updates on papers initiated by SRT during 2024:
 - **IJPP foreword to supplement** – the Chief Scientist penned the foreword for the IJPP supplement that will introduce the RPS 2024 conference research abstracts
 - **Medicine Shortages** – The scoping review on the causes of medicine shortages to support the England Policy team is being reviewed for publication after submission to the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice (IJPP)*
 - **Self-Selection of Pharmacy Medicines** – SRT initiated a rapid systematic review on the risk/benefit of self-selection of Pharmacy medicines by members of the public, the protocol of which is now published on [Prospero](#) with work on the analysis ongoing.
 - **Health Inequalities** – SRT are preparing to review the utility of interventions to address language barriers and health inequalities as relevant to pharmacy. A Prospero document is being finalised on conducting a review of existing published reviews.
 - **National and global application of science by UK pharmacy professionals in COVID-19.** A case series initially presented at the 2022 Celebration of Science was returned from the Pharmaceutical Journal and will now be submitted to JPHSR.
- **Research support and mock interviews** – Organised and delivered support to individual enquirers as these arose. Additionally:
 - A live Research Funding Q&A [webinar](#) was held on 03 October 2024 led by Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope, and chaired by the RPS Chief Scientist, featuring a panel of pharmacy professionals who had previously received RPS SRT support, and a senior NIHR representative (Prof. Ruth Endecott). The event received highly positive feedback from attendees and panellists.

2.4. Resources for the development of research capacity and capability in pharmacy

- **Establishment of links for MPharm projects:** The RPS Chief Scientist has established links with a small number of schools of pharmacy to pilot the joint supervision of research projects in 2024/25 with a view to establish a more formal arrangement inclusive of other schools in 2025/26.

2.5 Events & Conferences

SRT attendance at relevant Pharmacy Research events

- **Pharmacy Research UK** showcase on 17 October: RPS Chief Scientist was invited to speak at the [PRUK Celebration of Pharmacy Research Event](#) to highlight the SRT support available to members and to inspire pharmacy research.
- **Southwest Pharmacy Research Network [showcase](#)** on 10 October – speakers Dr Mandy Wan and Dr Ofran Almossawi delivered a workshop on behalf of the RPS on 'how to integrate research into your pharmacy career' and this was supplemented by slides on how RPS can support pharmacists to do research (delivered by SRT).

RPS Annual Conference, 8 November 2024

- A full Science & Research stream has now been finalised, developed by SRT with the help of SRC to include a morning session entitled "Innovative technology shaping the future: Safety and integrity" to be co-chaired by RPS Deputy Chief Scientist and SRC Chair (Prof. Amira Guirguis), with three invited presentations focussed on mRNA technology, pharmacogenetics and the illegal trade in medicines; and an afternoon session entitled "Inspiring research & evaluation: Building capability and capacity" to be chaired by RPS Chief Scientist Prof. Parastou Donyai, with the Harrison 2024 and OPERA 2024 winners presenting (as mentioned above) and five short research oral abstract presentations.
- RPS Chief Scientist will award the Harrison medal, OPERA trophy, Poster prizes and the BPSA Research poster award.

2.6. Other Science Activities

- **Development of a joint RPS-APS event in April 2025** – The RPS Chief Scientist has established links with the new APS Chair, Prof Ryan Donnelly and developed a draft programme for a joint event in April 2025 on 3D printing of medicines together with Dr Atheer Awad
- **Joy Wingfield memorial lecture** – The RPS Chief Scientist was invited to make a presentation on research ethics at the 2024 lecture on 4th November where the keynote presenter is Steve Simbler speaking on the topic of pharmacy and sports medicine.
- **Shortlisting of IJPP ECR** – The RPS Chief Scientist was invited to help the IJPP editor, Professor Christine Bond, to shortlist for early career representatives in October 2024
- **Leytonstone Work experience**
 - Two GCSE-year students shadowed SRT staff on 17 October, working on tasks such as abstract reviews, and developing a research question.
- **Biosimilars in the MEP** –the RPS Chief Scientist liaised with internal colleagues and SRC to provide feedback on possible changes to the MEP section on biosimilars in relation to relevance of the text, current practice, and potential signposting (October 2024)

- **EIPG:** The RPS Chief Scientist attended the EIPG working group on sustainability discussing a document being written on the contribution of industrial pharmacists to environmental sustainability, which will be taken forward to IPAG
- **Chief Scientist Research Opinion** – *Monthly* blog continues, providing commentary on issues affecting the profession from a science and research perspective while reflecting on selected articles from RPS journals. The most recent post is titled “Why are some research papers cited more than others?” This can be found [here](#).
- **Sepsis education** – RPS Science & Research Manager contributed to the delivery of a Sepsis educational webinar and presented as patient case to support the identification and treatment of sepsis patients with non-traditional/difficult to spot symptoms (October 2024).
- **Consultations** – contributed to the RPS consultation response to the GPhC consultation related to the proposed changes to the guidance on providing pharmacy services at a distance, including the internet (GPhC) (09 October 2024)

2.7. Science and Research Committee and Expert Advisory Groups

Science and Research Committee - next meeting to be held in-person on Thursday 7 November 2024 at the RPS London Offices.

Antimicrobial Expert Advisory Group – new EAG members are being recruited including a new Chair and meetings will resume in late 2024/early 2025.

Industrial Pharmacy Advisory Group – new EAG members are being recruited including a new Chair and meetings will resume in late 2024/early 2025.