

Liz Hallett – Address for the position of Chair of RPS Welsh Pharmacy Board

I am honoured to put myself forward for the position of Chair of the Welsh Pharmacy Board. Over the past four years as a board member, I have actively contributed to shaping policy, responding to key enquiries, and representing the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) at the Senedd to highlight the vital role of pharmacy in delivering high-quality, patient-centred care. These experiences have deepened my understanding of governance, strategic leadership, and the importance of collaboration across all sectors of our profession.

This is an exciting and pivotal moment for the RPS. In March 2025, members took part in a historic vote on proposed changes to our Royal Charter, including the intention to register as a charity and transition to become the Royal College of Pharmacy. This evolution represents a bold step forward for our profession, creating greater recognition for pharmacy and the scope of its impact. As Chair, I will ensure that this transformation is embraced and that our commitments as a Royal College are delivered with integrity and ambition.

Our Commitments as the Royal College of Pharmacy

We have pledged to:

- Create greater recognition for pharmacy by capitalising on the influence royal colleges enjoy, maximising our voice with policymakers, and ensuring pharmacy is understood and valued.
- Collaboratively shape the future of pharmacy through authoritative advocacy, evidence-based standards, and opportunities for members to influence policy and strategy.
- Advance pharmacists to provide excellence in patient care, supporting credentialing, leadership development, and pathways for advanced practice.
- Support workforce transformation, championing inclusion, wellbeing, and professional development.
- Put patients at the forefront of our work, ensuring safety, optimising outcomes, and making decisions that prioritise long-term patient care.

These commitments align perfectly with my vision for the future of pharmacy in Wales and across the UK.

My Professional Experience and Perspective

My career spans a diverse portfolio, encompassing community pharmacy, GP practice, Primary Care, prison healthcare, care homes, and education. This breadth of experience has given me a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing pharmacy. I have seen first-hand the pressures on workforce, medicines

optimisation, and service delivery, and I am committed to ensuring that the voice of pharmacists is heard at every level of decision-making.

Community Pharmacy Leadership and Advocacy

My strong foundation in community pharmacy has shaped my passion for patient care and accessibility. I have supported the Community Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group (CPEAG), working to ensure that community pharmacy remains a cornerstone of healthcare delivery. As services evolve, we must champion investment in community pharmacy, enabling it to deliver clinical services that reduce pressure on other parts of the system and improve patient outcomes.

Primary Care and GP Practice Experience

Working within GP practices has highlighted the critical role pharmacists play in multidisciplinary teams. We are integral to medicines optimisation, chronic disease management, and reducing health inequalities. However, this sector faces challenges around integration, funding, and recognition. As Chair, I will advocate for sustainable models that embed pharmacists fully within primary care, ensuring our expertise is utilised to its fullest potential.

Portfolio Practice and System-Wide Perspective

My current role as a portfolio pharmacist allows me to work across primary care, prison services, care homes, and education. This has given me insight into the complexities of delivering care in diverse settings and the importance of continuity and safety in medicines use. Education and professional development are central to this, and I will work to strengthen opportunities for learning and progression across all sectors.

National Leadership Roles

I have contributed to national discussions through my involvement with AWPAG and the All Wales Prison Pharmacist Group, ensuring that policy and practice reflect the realities of frontline care. These roles have reinforced my commitment to collaborative leadership and evidence-based decision-making.

Driving Sustainability and Innovation

Pharmacy must play its part in addressing environmental challenges. I am proud to have helped lead the launch of the *Only Order What You Need* campaign within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, which is now being adopted across Wales. This initiative reduces medicines waste and promotes responsible prescribing, supporting both patient safety and environmental sustainability. As Chair, I will continue to champion green pharmacy practices and embed sustainability into our professional agenda.

Vision for the Future

The RPS vision, as set out in *Pharmacy: Delivering a Healthier Wales*, resonates strongly with my own aspirations for the profession. We must continue to drive forward the

transformation of pharmacy services, ensuring they are patient-focused, innovative, and sustainable. My vision as Chair is to:

- Champion the role of pharmacists as clinical leaders across all sectors, ensuring our contribution is recognised and valued.
- Promote workforce development and wellbeing, addressing recruitment and retention challenges and supporting career progression.
- Strengthen collaboration between community, primary care, hospital, and specialist services to deliver seamless patient care.
- Advocate for digital innovation and emerging science, including pharmacogenomics—a field I have a special interest in—which will enable personalised medicine and improve outcomes.
- Ensure robust governance and transparency within the National Board, fostering trust and accountability.

Objectives as Chair

If elected, my priorities will include:

1. Influencing policy and decision-making at national level to secure investment in pharmacy services and education.
2. Enhancing member engagement, creating opportunities for pharmacists to shape the work of the RPS and feel supported in their professional journey.
3. Driving equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring our profession reflects and serves the communities we care for.
4. Building strong external relationships with Ministers, healthcare leaders, and other professional bodies to position pharmacy as a key solution to health system challenges.

Why Me?

I bring proven experience in governance, advocacy, and strategic leadership. My four years on the National Board have equipped me with the skills to chair meetings effectively, ensure good governance, and promote constructive relationships between the Board, the President, staff, and members. I have represented the profession at a high level, including the Senedd, and I am committed to continuing this work with integrity and passion.

Pharmacy in Wales is at a pivotal moment. We have an opportunity to shape services that meet the needs of patients today and in the future. As Chair, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the pharmacy workforce are empowered, supported, and recognised as essential to the health and wellbeing of our nation.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as Chair and to lead our profession with vision, collaboration, and commitment.