

Local news, views and support for community pharmacy teams

Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex
Every two weeks | Issue 35 | 13 July 2020

Dear colleague,

It's been another busy few weeks for community pharmacy:

- All three LPC's across Surrey and Sussex have met. Read [how we make LPC meetings possible during the pandemic](#).
- Wellbeing is also uppermost in all our minds, especially as the traditional holiday period starts, and many organisations are issuing useful and timely guidance on wellbeing for frontline staff and their families. The [NHS Every Mind Matters website](#) contains a range of useful information on wide ranging mental health issues:
- Normal work continues to run in tandem with preparations for the future - winter pressures and flu planning; continued work on the roll-out of TCAM across the patch, and continuing to provide insight to PSNC for their on-going negotiations on the national contract.
- Many training providers are starting back up again and CPPE has launched and offers a comprehensive [range of tools and resources for community pharmacy](#) to use, whilst GPhC has announced an [update about revalidation in September](#)

You can read our latest updates on our [website](#) and follow us on

Twitter: [@CPSS LPCs](#). Your on-site colleagues can also register to receive our bulletins and local round-ups [here](#)

Local news

➤ From your LPC meetings earlier this month

1. Welcome to new CCA representatives on each committee

- Dalveer Johal, joins Surrey LPC as CCA appointed member from Lloyds pharmacy
- Samantha Grieve, joins West Sussex as CCA appointed member from Boots
- Welcome back to James Grieves in East Sussex, CCA appointed member from Boots who had some time away from the committee

2. Changes to levy payments between now and the end of March 2021

Each LPC treasurer reported balanced books and very healthy reserves to their members. All three proposed, and members agreed, to reduce the contractor levy for this financial year through either a payment holiday or a percentage reduction, which will still leave the LPCs in excellent and robust financial positions. The detail is still being finalised, but don't be too surprised if you see a gap in your statements (Surrey), or reduction in your monthly payments (East and West Sussex). We will write to confirm the details.

3. Read [how we make LPC meetings possible during the pandemic](#).

4. Once the minutes are agreed they will be put on our website [here](#).

Scroll down and click on an LPC heading for LPC constitutions and LPC members, meeting dates, minutes of meetings, annual reports & accounts and more.

➤ Protecting income from locally commissioned services

Earlier this year Hinal Patel, service development and support pharmacist, negotiated income protection for local services *stood-down* during the pandemic, or because of changed guidance from the NHS. She received guarantees from local commissioners of £0.3m across Sussex and Surrey along with a relaxed monitoring and training for Q1 (1 April to 31 July)

Hinal is now working to secure minimum income guarantees, from the same commissioners, to protect locally commissioned income for Q2 (July to September 2020), which should help pharmacists and their teams prioritise their services and free up time and space for everyone to continue adjusting to 'new normal' ways of working. Two out of our three local commissioning areas have confirmed arrangements.

See below for links to area specific information:

- [Surrey](#) | [East Sussex](#).
- West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have yet to confirm their arrangements. When available it will be published [here under the relevant local authority](#).

➤ **EPS 4**

We are hearing that Worthing Medical group, one of the largest medical groups in West Sussex, is going live on 14 July. Make sure you know how to process P4 tokens and if you are unsure discuss with the local team. This is one of many going live in the current climate. We will tell you about the ones we hear about.

Views

➤ **Questions about the review submitted to Prof David Wright about his review**

THE first stage of feedback about the review was for LPCs to submit questions in advance of a member's webinar on 8 July. Here are [the questions submitted](#) on behalf of the LPs in Surrey and Sussex, for your information.

- Look out for more on this from PSNC soon

Support

➤ **Help with deliveries of medicines from 1 August**

NHS Volunteer Responders is still open and will continue to operate over the coming months. While restrictions may be easing, and the government has announced shielding is being paused from 1 August, the scheme will continue to help people who are at greater risk from coronavirus or who may be cautious about the virus and want to avoid crowded spaces. The following resources can also be found on in our website A-Z at V for volunteers:

- Go to [NHS Volunteer Responders](#)
- Download and read: [NHS Volunteer Responders: Practical guide and tips for primary care and community health professionals](#)
- **Please remind patients to only contact a [Local Authority Hub](#) to request help if they are self-isolating and have no other means of support such as friends, family or neighbours to collect prescriptions for them**

➤ **Let's spread the word not the virus**

"We can prevent local lockdowns if we keep keeping safe" that's the message to amplify as we all work together to try to avoid local Covid hot-spots.

- Research from Surrey County Council shows only 42% of the population know they can be tested if they display symptoms of coronavirus. Anyone experiencing symptoms, no matter where they are, is encouraged to call 119 to book a test, allowing the T&T process to start-up and help to contain any local outbreaks
- Ruth Wilkinson, director of public health in Surrey, filmed with ITN last month to help [explain how a localised lockdown would work](#).

➤ **Antibody Testing for workforce**

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) is in the process of rolling out a COVID-19 antibody testing programme. Antibody testing will be open to NHS staff, including community pharmacy teams, with each NHS region managing its own arrangements. We are working with the NHS across Surrey & Sussex to help plan community pharmacy's access. Further information is expected to be available before the end of July. [Read NHSE&I's letter about the antibody testing programme](#)

It is, however, important to note that the [NHS Test and Trace guidance for healthcare workers](#) states that a positive antibody test result does not exempt someone from the requirement to self-isolate for 14 days if they are a contact of a

confirmed case. Antibody testing can only inform about previous exposure and it is currently unknown whether this leads to protection against future COVID-19 infections.

➤ **New on our website**

- [S-](#) safeguarding local contacts for children and adults
- Link to NHS volunteers responders from the [front page](#) (feature slide 1)
- [List of questions](#) to Professor Wright about his review of LPCs/PSNC has been added to the page called [Our responses to consultations](#)

Support | Develop | Promote | Deliver

- **Issue 36 is due in two weeks in the week beginning 27July.** What would you like to see in your next newsletter? Tell us at [https://www.surreypharmacy.org.uk/feedback](#)
- **Issue 2 of our *** NEW ***regular round-up with links to partners regular newsletters, press releases and assets will be distributed tomorrow (14 July)**
- **View [news archive](#)**

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Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, The White House, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8BB