

Last week was quite a week on a number of levels. However, our favourite part was [Julia Powell](#) joining our small team on Monday. We were all able to share about life at the LPCs and importantly start to think about how we emerge from Covid and continue our journey as a flagship federation of LPCs.

Surrey LPC had its meeting on Tuesday (23rd) and the energy and passion in the virtual session was just as inspiring as the LPC meetings in East Sussex and West Sussex earlier in the month too. All dates and agendas for LPC meetings are on our website and minutes are published [here](#) too, when they are approved (scroll down to highlight your LPC to reveal LPC minutes and agendas).

Those of you who are following news from the [Wright] Review Steering Group (RSG) will know already about the group's consultation event for contractors on 9 March. Details are at the end of this bulletin for those who missed the notice in one of PSNCs daily bulletins, and you can find out more on the pharmacy review website.

<https://pharmacy-review.org/>

Keep well and stay safe and do keep sending us you feedback and questions so that we can continue to support, promote and develop community pharmacy across Sussex and Surrey.

Julia, Sandra, Hinal and Micky
Staff team

Contact us at lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk

Local news

Pharmacy Quality Scheme: Community pharmacy contractors have only HOURS left to claim a payment for the Pharmacy Quality Scheme 2020/21 Part 2 Scheme as the window for claiming this payment closes today - **1 March 2021 at 23:59**. NHSBSA data on Friday 26 February showed that around 90 Contractors across Surrey and Sussex had still to claim. We urge anyone who has not claimed to do so without further delay.

Locally Commissioned Services (LCS): It is the time of the year where renewals of Public health agreement happens. This time all pharmacies in Surrey, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex are due renewals from April 2021. You should already have received your renewals from the contracts team at Public Health. It is important if you wish to continue providing the LCS or want to join to provide the services to please reply back to the Public health teams directly.

Note: West Sussex pharmacies signed a three year contract and applied via a portal last year.

LPC news

Second C-19 vaccination site application window closes

We've been campaigning hard alongside PSNC, LPCs and all other pharmacy bodies for more pharmacies to be designated as vaccination site, so [this letter](#) from NHS England inviting pharmacies to express an interest in becoming a covid-19 vaccination was very welcome to see. The deadline for applications passed yesterday (**Sunday 28 February**). With the designation programme working at pace those selected to take their applications forward should be notified before 12 March. Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex is representing the LPCs throughout the designation process which could see around 25 new pharmacies in Surrey and Sussex taking part in the C-19 vaccination programme.

- Also last week [JCVI issues interim advice on Phase 2 of COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout](#)

CPSS facilitates roll-out of asymptomatic testing in pharmacies

Local authorities across Sussex are working together to offer Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) through participating community pharmacies and dedicated testing sites. The tests are for people who cannot work from home and who do not have access to a symptom-free test through other routes.

In Sussex, Brighton & Hove City Council, West Sussex County Council and East Sussex County Council have joined together with both East and West Sussex LPCs to coordinate over 150 pharmacies to take part. Pharmacies already contracted to provide services to the councils have been invited to return an EOI to deliver up to four tests every hour. Pending Government approval - which is expected imminently- the three top tier councils will start their community testing programme by offering testing to their staff and colleagues from Sussex Police and East and West Fire Services for a few days. Inviting council staff first is part of a pilot to help trial the booking system and fine tune the way the testing process is managed before rolling it out to the heart of local communities.

Lateral flow testing in Surrey pharmacies started with three sites live earlier this month, and more following at regular intervals.

- NOTE: information about Sussex is provided here for internal use only. Please do not share outside of the community pharmacy sector until an official announcement is made by the partners. All questions or requests for information should be mailed to lpc@communitypharmacyss.co.uk

Staff and members welcome new CEO

Last week (22 February) marked Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex official CEO transition as Julia Powell became our federation's second chief executive officer in its history. Julia Powell is an accomplished pharmacy leader and LPC veteran with more than two decades of leadership experience – including many years at Lloyds and Boots, where she began her career. Julia will share her thoughts on leading the LPCs very soon.

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

A new Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) supplementary statement been published by West Sussex County Council's on behalf of the local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB - see [West Sussex PNA](#)). A supplementary statement for East Sussex is also expected to be published on ESCC.gov.uk soon. PNAs were due to be renewed and published by Local Authority Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) in April 2021 but were suspended for a year due the national pandemic, meaning that renewed PNAs are not needed to be published until April 2022. These two supplementary statements are to respond to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during the postponement.

In the media spotlight

Media interest in community pharmacy remains high – here are some local highlights.

- Hastings Pharmacists Shammi and Sapna Radia spoke to BBC South East Today about their family involvement in the vaccination programme – their daughter worked as part of the team that developed the vaccine which they are now helping to administer
- Midhurst Pharmacist Raj Rohilla, has appeared on several national broadcast channels and local newspapers alongside local resident and site volunteer Hugh Bonneville, the actor known internationally for a number of high profile roles including Lord Grantham in TV's Downton Abbey
- East Sussex Hardik Desai has spoken to local and national TV channels, BBC radio and featured in The Times newspaper, a statement by the Secretary of State for health, Hansard and in a Prime Ministerial press conference for his amazing work in bringing the whole community of Ticehurst in East Sussex together to provide a vaccination site in the heart of his rural community
- LPC members Sarah Davis (East Sussex) and Hemal Chudasama (Surrey) have spoken on BBC and Heart radio about the important role Community Pharmacy has at the heart of communities
- LPC Chairs Craig McEwan (East Sussex) and Mark Donaghy (West Sussex) have been quoted multiple times in online pieces in the Eastbourne Herald, Worthing Herald, Chichester Observer, Bognor Regis Observer and as part of a front-page lead article in the Bexhill and Battle Observer (East Sussex) calling for more pharmacy-led centres

If you are contacted by the media you, of course, have full authority to comment, but be sure to consult your organisational policy first! However, you might prefer to refer them on to the LPC or contact us to help you decide on a course of action and agree a statement. Contact communications and engagement

lead sandralamont@communitypharmacyss.co.uk or call 07483 430420

Local covid updates

C-19 infection rates vary across Sussex and Surrey

Woking is the one area of Surrey where the coronavirus infection rate is continuing to rise. It's the only area in the county which has a rate above the national average, despite being one of two council areas in Surrey where surge testing was conducted after the discovery of South African variant of coronavirus. On Friday Government released figures for the week ending February 22 showed rates in the Surrey borough are going up week-on-week compared to other areas including Runnymede, the other area in Surrey where surge testing was carried out.

Worthing in West Sussex has seen a rise along with Rother in East Sussex. However, Brighton and Hove, which has seen a steady decrease in cases since the third national lockdown was introduced in January, is now reported to be within the bottom 10 per cent of all 315 local authority areas in the UK.

You are invited

Looking to the future

The community pharmacy Review Steering Group (RSG), which is taking forward work following the independent review into contractor representation and support, has announced two upcoming engagement events:

- **Community pharmacy contractors** are invited to an online 'Your Representation, Your Say' engagement event on Tuesday 9 March, 7.30pm – 8.30pm. You can register for this online event at <https://pharmacy-review.org/your-representation-your-say-engagement-event/>
- **LPC Chairs and Chief Officers:** The RSG will run a session at the PSNC-hosted meeting of LPCs on Wednesday 17th March.

African and Afro Caribbean conversation

Join Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum's COVID VACCINE CONVERSATION for Surrey's African and Afro Caribbean communities [Link to poster](#)

Wellbeing

Financial advice and support

Free and independent financial support, produced in association with the [Money Advice Service](#), is [available here](#) for health and social care staff who provide NHS services, including those not directly employed by the NHS.

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