

Community Pharmacy North East London Committee Meeting 17/07/2025

Full day 10:00am – 4:00pm

Hyatt Regency Stratford

Present: Shilpa Shah (SS), Bhavna Tailor (BT), Jaspreet Dhaliwal (JD), Faruque Gani (FG), Ravi Vaitha (RV), Nickil Patel (NP), Parvesh Patel (PvP), Jyoti Bakshi (JB), Ross Fraser (RF), Mina Patel (MP), Kerry Webb (KW)

Guest: Amish Patel (AP) – Chair KCW LPC

Joined Later: Gulveer Sura (GS), 11:30am

Apologies: Stuart Brown (SB), Dalveer Singh Johal (DJ), Prakash Patel (PkP), Shazli Hafeez (SH)

Welcome, Introductions & Declarations of Interest

- SS welcomed committee members and confirmed apologies.
- Introductions were made for guest Amish Patel (AP).
- There were no new DOI's

Minutes and Next Steps from previous meeting

- SS sought approval for May meeting minutes – all members unanimously agreed.
- SS updated the committee that DJ confirmed DPP no longer requires 3 years of independent prescribing experience.
- A GPhC inspector was unavailable for this meeting; their attendance has been rescheduled to the November meeting.
- Reminders to be sent by SS for the in-person CPE event on 24th July 2025.
- JD confirmed only 3 pharmacies are outstanding for PEM submission.
- Contractors to be reminded to notify PSMs of any surgeries unable to receive electronic notifications from PO so they can attend surgery to rectify.
- Dan (IT support CPE) is scheduled to attend a future meeting to discuss digital issues.
- SS and DJ have engaged the seven LA commissioners regarding local sexual health services. Discussion around current use of C-Card service and possible modifications, such as bulk issue or linking with EHC/STI kits.
- CP NEL is looking at how the Local EHC Service funding will likely be redistributed to other areas, e.g., PreEP etc

CEO & COO Update

- SS opened the floor for questions on the CEO and COO update – none were raised.

GPs Sending Referrals in Batches to Pharmacies – Committee Feedback

- Concerns raised that pharmacies are struggling with the admin of bulk GP referrals for Hypertension/ABPM. Committee discussed the need to improve patient engagement when they have been referred to a pharmacy for various services.

NEL ICB/Service Updates

- NEL ICB confirmed PO is funded for one more year for Oral Contraception and Hypertension/ABPM but not PF (as this is now free nationally).
- SS confirmed Language Line cannot be centrally invoiced by ICB. JD and SA will support pharmacies with individual registration. SS encouraged use of the service despite concerns about paperwork. PvP noted that, since the service is funded, it should be used.
- Many pharmacies not monitoring emails due to multiple inboxes. SS proposed a dedicated WhatsApp group for contractors and Area Managers, separate from the existing pharmacists/locums/contractors WhatsApp group.
- CPE has agreed to LPC monthly invoicing for the levy instead of biannual starting in Sep.
- Rebecca Dew will update travel expense policy upon her return.
- JB suggested adding “Neighbourhood Plans” to future agendas.
- Emily (ICB) unable to attend the meeting today. Paul Guilley (CMO) supports Community Pharmacy and intends to visit pharmacies quarterly.
- PPG meeting this month discussed future PCN/Neighbourhood structures – potential reduction from 49 PCN’s to 36 Neighbourhoods. Jignesh is the lead PCN manager. Six PCN leads are piloting an eRD project.
- SS plans visits with Allette Addison (DHSC Head of POD). Separate meeting with Nina and Charlotte (ICB colleagues) arranged to include Community Pharmacy input in neighborhood plans.

Provider Company Closure

- The C&H provider company is being wound down. JB asked if CPE had been consulted – SS confirmed James Wood had and closure was advised.

CPAF

- 122 pharmacies are yet to complete CPAF. CCAs will chase their relevant branches. SS noted that CPNEL has achieved 100% compliance in previous years. Multiple ownership changes and ODS code changes are contributing to delays.

Pregnancy Status Corrections

- 65 pharmacies in NEL recorded incorrect pregnancy statuses. PSMs will provide support to rectify these errors.

LPC Contractor Conference Sponsorship

- One sponsor has not paid their £400 fee. SS advised the sponsor is facing financial hardship. Committee unanimously agreed not to pursue the payment but will not engage the sponsor in future events.

DMS and eLPR Update

- NEL is leading with DMS in London. SS has requested access to Trust-level data.
- Committee confirmed DMS is an essential service and should be delivered as part of core responsibilities.
- eLPR can be used for DMS only when a digital discharge note is received. Paper versions brought in by patients are not eligible. JD and SA will support pharmacies with these services.
- RxWeb users currently do not have access to eLPR
- Six pharmacies have yet to register for the contraception service but are unlikely to do so.
- AP shared KCW's success in engaging Trusts directly by having PSMs support hospital pharmacy teams in making DMS referrals.

Anticoagulation Service Contract

- PVP raised concerns about a contract renewal shared by ICB without LPC consultation. The contract remains unchanged for 10 years, and lacks clarity on changes which had been which had previously been agreed verbally during COVID.

QR Code GP Appointments in Pharmacies

- A GP's son in Newham developed a QR code system redirecting patients to a limited list of surgeries – which also potentially changes their registration. SS scheduled a meeting to address this and will advise that such systems should not be promoted in pharmacies as we do not have admin support to help patients navigate such systems.

Political Engagement

- SS working to arrange pharmacy visits from Steven Kinnock MP.
- SS met with Sadiq Khan and discussed Newham's asthma AQ service. Follow-up meeting planned.

PharmAlarm and CPPE Funding

- PharmAlarm funding extended by ICB for one more year.
- Funding secured for PSM's
- Funding for 2 CPPE training days

CPE Update (*delivered by SS in PkP's absence; slides to follow*)

- Shilpa shared the CPE presentation slides with the committee and they had a discussion.

Treasurer Update

- No queries raised by the committee

AOB

- No other business was raised.

Meeting closed at 15:30.

Note: A private staffing discussion took place after lunch (12:50–13:30). Staff and guest rejoined the meeting afterward.