

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



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MISSION AND VISION

Gateshead and South Tyneside Local Pharmaceutical Committee represents all pharmacy contractors regardless of company (including multiples and independents). Our committee is made up from a representative sample to reflect the mix of pharmacies in the area.

Vision Statement

From 2013 Gateshead and South Tyneside Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) will be a structured and efficient organisation with mutually beneficial alliances, capable members, specialist advisers and a record of achievement for all stakeholders, enabling the people of Gateshead and South Tyneside to receive the highest possible quality of pharmaceutical care from community pharmacy

Mission Statement

Over the next five years the Gateshead and South Tyneside Local Pharmaceutical Committee will increase its capability and capacity as an effective representative committee for community pharmacy and improve the range and quality of services commissioned from community pharmacy contractors by the NHS.

Nolan Principles of Governance

The 'Nolan Principles' code of practice has been written with regard to the seven principles of public life identified by the Nolan Committee in their First Report on Standards in Public Life in May 1995 and subsequently endorsed by the government. Gateshead and South Tyneside LPC, actively promote, and members adhere to, the principles set out below.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest.

They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisation that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for awards or benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Leadership

Members should promote and support the above principles by leadership and by example.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to my report for another year, and what a year it's been... When we began the year in April we were in the thick of the Covid19 pandemic. Everything changed.

Pharmacies were the only part of the NHS with their doors left open as all other parts of the NHS went behind closed doors. In fact, as we all went into lockdown for the first time, there were only pharmacies and other essential places like supermarkets left open. GPs had reverted to closed doors and telehealth; dentists were closed and only prescribing advice, antibiotics and painkillers over the phone, but pharmacies were open...albeit with crowd control, social separation measures and PPE (when we could get it).

The covid 19 pandemic put enormous strain on the community pharmacy network; a network already reeling from savage cuts to the national contract a few years previously. The cuts had resulted in the trimming of any fat within community pharmacies, refinancing of loans to stay afloat and reductions in stock to improve cash flow. In some cases reductions in staff were also apparent as pharmacies grappled with spiralling costs and reduced revenue. As a consequence, community pharmacies were more fragile than previous - and stretched very thinly. Community pharmacies had to play their part as patients needed their medication.

So, over a few weeks in March as the lockdown began, pharmacies experienced an Greater than 30% increase in prescription volumes along with further staff reductions due to Covid-19 absences from work and a quantum leap in deliveries.

Headlines such as this were common as pharmacy battled on with massive patient demand: *COVID-19: 'Crushing' demand for medicines pushes pharmacies to the brink | Chemist+Druggist*

Pharmacies adapted, as they always do, by buying in relief staff, extra drivers and sometimes more vans to deal with the work load...working very long days often from 6 in the morning to 9 at night or later. To add insult to injury, they were even forced to open on bank holidays when a rest break would have been most welcome. Pharmacy staff were frightened, and quite rightly so, as PPE was unavailable for long periods and they felt very vulnerable. As a consequence, many pharmacies instigated a one in one out queuing system, purchased shields & screens and did what they could to make staff feel less at risk. One pharmacy locally spent £1000 per month on PPE for its staff

Predictably, the massive increase in prescribing and subsequent dispensing took its toll and shortages began to develop and drug prices skyrocketed. With the national mechanism to deal with spiralling drug costs proving insufficiently nimble, many items were dispensed at a loss. Suddenly pharmacies were terrified about being able to pay wholesaler bills and wondered if they would exist much longer. A loan of 300M was given to help the nation's pharmacies to enable these

bills to be paid, but this has to be repaid in due course...

In April - mobile phones as second line were donated by Tesco to Gateshead pharmacies to help with patient care by fast tracking calls to the surgeries.

An achievement for the LPC was the negotiation and launch of the on-call service in South Tyneside and the re-boot of palliative care services in Gateshead and South Tyneside. We also rebooted GP2PHARMACY using tele-service...and hats off to Sami who had to build 6 new modules on Pharmoutcomes for these services and contract variations in a timely manner, whilst battling himself against the pandemic.

The LPC managed to argue, quite rightly, for some local support to help contractors deal with the reduction in numbers of members of the public calling into pharmacies for minor ailment support and other clinical services which relied on face to face consultations. Other services such as the Gateshead BP service was put on hold and subsequently ended.

As a consequence, following negotiation, the LPC agreed with commissioners - and February activity levels were paid by PSNE and others throughout April, May and June for the minor ailment service and other services securing funding for contractors at pre-covid levels. Gateshead Council, humankind in South Tyneside agreed to pay methadone fees at last Feb levels AND it was agreed with the CCGs that PSNE could pay MAS at Feb levels.

Many contractors welcomed this intervention - as payments were maintained at February levels throughout the initial stages of lock-down and into June and ultimately longer till October -

when patients and the public were warned to stay at home to protect the NHS.

It was very busy for everyone in the LPC, and as face to face meetings were banned, we moved into Zoom mode. For myself, as chair, I found myself getting very involved in a virtual way with almost all the local agencies, and that was ok because I'm no longer on the front line like everyone else so it made sense for me to be available. The main problem though is that normal hours of work went out the window and I gradually felt like I became covid central...I seemed to be on speed dial for everyone. Behind the scenes we did lots of firefighting preventing the movement to 3 month prescriptions, which would have caused more stock shortages and decimated contractors, securing MDS for contractors etc.

We set up a regional group called the "cobra" group of executive members from each of the regional LPCs and we began having cobra meeting twice a week and an update meeting with NHSE weekly.

The LPC was well aware that contractors were being bombarded with information from everyone - it was almost overkill with information and advice. Many of our LPC members were also thrust on to the front line to help keep community pharmacy open and functioning throughout.. Consequently, the LPC took the strategic decision to suspend traditional Comms via this LPC newsfeed; and instead the executive team sent smaller relevant communications to PCN leads for onward distribution using WhatsApp. This was done to speed up the communications process - as it takes quite a long time to write this sort of message and format it for onward

marketing to contractors via email, Twitter and Facebook - as well as post it onto the G&ST website.

The LPC would like to thank PCN leads for their efforts during this difficult time in ensuring that our messages were distributed in a timely manner.

Using the forums I've tried to send stuff out when I thought it was relevant...Sometimes to the PCN group and that's been really helpful to get info quickly to contractors and back...as it's been almost impossible to use the traditional newsfeed because Sami like you all has been so busy.

In August, we began rebooting the Comms feed. The messages you see now are, and will be, predominantly "local messages" of support and information for contractors - as we are assuming that you also get the national newsfeed from our national bodies: PSNC, RPS, NPA, CCA, GPhC etc.

The website has been refreshed and you will see all the messages both current and historical posted there for your convenience and reference. The LPC hopes that you find our messages both relevant and useful.

Please let us know if you have any comments on our news feed and we'll try and modify it if required and where appropriate."

We also agreed to move sexual health service in South Tyneside to PSNE and secured the commissioning of hepatitis C service from a few pharmacies within ST

Throughout the Summer, there was a sense that Lockdown easing and the NHS resetting. ..Behind the scenes the David Right review initiated by PSNC in order to review activities provided by PSNC and LPCs continued. This will

ultimately result in a contractor vote to agree a new landscape for representation.

In July, we had another success, as we began work on a regional Flu service via PSNE...2 parts, individual pharmacies and bespoke clinics. This resulted in an innovative region wide PSNE flu service...we got the go-ahead at end of October with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils, then they wanted us to start ASAP - without a formal contract which was a bit irregular. We agreed for speed and began recruiting pharmacies with Gateshead and South Tyneside and North of Tyne using contract variation documentation. We needed the contract provided by the council with PSNE sorted quickly. Pinnacle offered to help us build the module and embedded "preconsult" which helps to keep the transaction Covid friendly. But there was a catch (a £35 fee which we had to pass on to contractors using pre-consult for this private service). Pharmacies elsewhere in the Region that don't have contracts with PSNE were recruited via a contracting mechanism that was different to the contract variation used elsewhere. This meant that Cumbria, Durham and Darlington and Sunderland pharmacies could be contracted.

Other entities were also interested in PSNE providing a service.
In early Dec 2020 the long-awaited Covid 19 vaccine was announced, albeit with

19 vaccine was announced, albeit with the Pfizer product coming first with all the -70°C restrictions etc. Pharmacies were invited to tender for clinics, but the catch is that they must do 945 vaccines every 5 days...Pfizer vaccine is very fragile and once reconstituted is only stable for a few days.

AstraZeneca vaccine, which is much more stable and is a game changer will

come along later. AstraZeneca will be much easier to deliver on scale for pharmacies it was hoped.

Following an expression of interest, 67 pharmacies applied. We quickly realised that it would be very difficult to mobilise a pharmacy clinic as the Pfizer product is very unstable and delicate. Consequently most stood down a few days later in favour of deployment of the AstraZeneca product in due course.

Mid December, following a request to help with the PCN clinics in South Tyneside, we issued a call to action and were overwhelmed with almost 40 responses. The LPC had agreed rates of pay and arranged for the PCN covid clinics to pick up the requests and deploy pharmacists, prescribing pharmacists and support staff.

During December we also arranged for pharmacists and support staff who are vulnerable to be vaccinated in South Tyneside. On Sunday 20/12/20 there was a very early call and exec members mobilised to try and begin the process to get any South Tyneside pharmacists and staff vaccinated, as there was spare vaccine available due to the change in regulations allowing 6 or 7 doses to be used instead of the 5 stated doses within the small vials within the Pfizer pack (pizza box). The product has an expiry date of 4-5 days once out of the freezer and it needs to be used up. Many were able to attend. A community pharmacist TS was running the clinic that afternoon. On the 6th of January we received the go ahead to have Gateshead contractors vaccinated by QE. Then on Jan 7th some Gateshead PCNs said they would vaccinate staff also as part of the imperative to have front line staff vaccinated.

Later in January, South Tyneside wanted pharmacists to vaccinate people who are shielding and housebound. We agreed a way forward using PSNE and a local coordinator as technically this wasn't a contractor service as pharmacist and their buddies would be working out of the PCN hub on an outreach basis. Following an expression of interest more than 20 pharmacists from a variety of backgrounds and roles volunteered and underwent training. The service began on 23rd Jan and ultimately vaccinated all 2500 housebound residents in ST twice.

At the time of writing, we are hopeful of pharmacies operating as covid vaccination centres in their own right.

It's been a hard year for community pharmacists, perhaps the hardest on record...but we adapted and managed during the coronavirus pandemic, and I'd like to pay tribute to pharmacy teams in our area - you're all true heroes - superstars!

Finally...thinking about life after covid pandemic. I'm really worried that we'll emerge from this pandemic with significant permanent changes. More deliveries because the public have been encouraged to have a delivery and less clinical services like methadone substitution. The LPC has this on its radar for future negotiations in due course.

David Carter, BSc, MSc, FRPharmS

Chairman, Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC

SECRETARY'S REPORT

My role as secretary during 2020/21:

Being available and being able to support contractors with a whole host of query's, concerns and anxieties has been my priority during the very challenging COVID year. I have been mindful of the mental health implications of such a difficult time and have always tried to check in with contractors and make sure they know I am available to help wherever I can.

The role of Community Pharmacy and the Pharmacist has never been more important, with massive public appreciation, trust and reliance. At all CCG and Public health meetings (held virtually) I have been very vocal about this and forever flying the flag for Pharmacy, as have all of the Exec members.

Out with my role as LPC secretary, a particular highlight, and something that will stay with me forever, is the massive achievement of the 22 pharmacist strong "Pharmy Army' which delivered over 5,000 vaccines on weekends from January to June. This offered a surge capacity to vaccinate some of the most vulnerable patients in South Tyneside, including the house-bounds, house-tied carers and those with Learning Disabilities.

This is testament to the commitment of pharmacists within our network and I would like to say a big Thank you to each and every pharmacist (and buddy) who helped achieve this work!

Committee Changes:

During the course of the year the committee has changed considerably, with both CCA and independent elected members leaving. At the start of 2020, all seats were filled to maintain a 13 member committee.

However, part way through the year when both an independent and a CCA seat became vacant, the committee voted to not replace either seat, thus maintaining the same CCA: independent ratio, but reducing the overall committee size to 11. The rationale for this being all meetings were conducted virtually making it more difficult to train and integrate new members. The committee was mindful of the Wright Review too, as well as the opportunity to make cost savings with a smaller committee moving forward.

The committee also held an election for the vacant position of LPC treasurer. 3 members stepped forward, the successful member being, Mrs Emma Morris who was appointed as treasurer.

September's Annual General Meeting reaffirmed the executive officers in their roles:

- LPC Chairman Mr David Carter
- LPC Secretary Mrs Louise Lydon
- LPC Vice Chairman and Communications Officer - Mr Sami Hanna
- LPC Treasurer Mrs Emma Morris

Mr Greg Burke, Regional LPC Secretary, continued to support the committee in the capacity of minute taker. Greg's fulfilment of this role ensures that all committee members can fully take part and contribute to proceedings whilst notes are simultaneously recorded.

The current members of Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC and their meeting attendance is summarised in the table below

LPC member	Membership	Possible attendances	Actual attendances
Mr David Carter (Chairman)	Independent elected	6	6
Mr Louise Lydon (Secretary)	Independent elected	6	6
Mr Sami Hanna (Vice chair)	Independent elected	6	6
Mrs Emma Morris (Treasurer)	CCA appointed	6	6
Mr Mark Burdon*	Independent elected	6	5
Mrs Julie Topping	Independent elected	6	6
Mrs Lisa Simpson	Independent elected	4	4
Mrs Aina Osunkunle	Independent elected	6	6
Mrs Jennifer Graham	CCA appointed	2	2
Mr Richard Anderson	CCA appointed	6	6
Mrs Catherine Charlton	CCA appointed	6	6
Mr Alex Graham	CCA appointed	4	2
Mr Gordon Johnson	CCA appointed	6	6
Mrs Claire Devlin	CCA appointed	3	2

Louise Lyndon

Secretary Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC

Pharmacy OPEN

Throughout the **Pandemic**





Pharmacy













TREASURER'S REPORT

As our pharmacies continued their hard work on the front line, at the end of March 2020 the previous Treasurer resigned and I was appointed the role in late May.

As our day to day lives shifted in adjustment to a 'new normal', changes to business were reflected in our accounts. With meetings switching to an online platform, our committee overheads and venue costs fell dramatically as we embraced virtual working. Local service revenue was also impacted and PQS part 2 required completion.

Hoping to support LPC treasurers, PSNC produced a new finance guidance package and held meetings with all treasurers. All LPCs are now encouraged to have a finance-sub group to agree yearly budgets.

Below are a summary of the receipts and payments accounts and a statement of the LPC's assets and liabilities.

Statement	ot	assets	and	liabilities

31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20
£	£
18,465	-
78,280	37,380
96,746	37,380
1,374	-
391	
1,765	-
94,981	37,380
	18,465 78,280 96,746 1,374 391 1,765

Notes to the accounts:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and show amounts received into and paid from the bank account during the year.

- 1. During the year £18,465 was invoiced to PSNE Ltd in respect of management fees. This was outstanding at the year end and is shown as a current asset at 31 March 2021. In previous years this receipt has beein included as an uncleared item in the income line resulting in the amount received for 2021 being £nil.
- 2. A detailed split of officer honoraria has been included for year ended 31 March 2021. These amounts together with the LPC attendance fee are paid via payroll.
- 3. The Pharmoutcomes cost for year ended 31 March 2021 includes a payment of £8,935 for 2020 licence as well as the 2021 licence fee.

Emma Morris BSc.PharmHons

Gateshead and South Tyneside Local Pharmaceutical Committee Receipts and Payments Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

for the year ended 31 March 2021					
	Year ended 31 March		Year ended 31 March		
		2021		202	
		£	£	£	£
	note				
Receipts					
LPC statutory levy			179,292		179,292
PSNE Ltd	1		-		40,057
Training & project funding					
Health Education England		-		24,000	
Other				11,595	
			58		35,595
Sundry receipts					
Gateshead MBC		3,000		3,000	
South Tyneside Council		3,362		3,362	
Sale of assets		-		250	
Bank interest		2		66	
			6,364		6,678
Total receipts		8. -	185,656	20	261,622
•					
Payments					
Officer honoraria	2	6,360		81,880	
Contractor support work	2	33,410		-	
Service development work	2	10,740		<u>-</u>	
LPC attendance fee		8,800		21,860	
Locum fees		31,797		<i>57,953</i>	
Employer national insurance		33		2,742	
Secretarial costs		1,300		2,943	
Training courses and equipment		-		28,334	
PSNC levy		30,583		30,078	
Pharmoutcomes licence	3	17,746		8,747	
Meeting expenses		133		22,889	
Travelling		-		1,493	
PMI insurance		-		400	
Accountancy		1,140		774	
Legal and professional		1,260		-	
Postage and telephone		17		27	
Computer costs		1,084		386	
Sundry expenses		143		<i>78</i>	
Bank and credit card charges		209		610	
Total payments			144,756		261,194
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		8_	40,900	Y	428
Funds as at 1 April 2020			37,380		36,952
Funds as at 31 March 2021		=	78,280	_	37,380
Barcalys Bank plc current account		8 =	78,280	_	37,380

The above accounts were independently examined by 3S Accountancy Services, Charted Accountants, 5-8 Priestgate, Darlington, DL1 1NL

MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

RICHARD ANDERSON

Gateshead Sexual Health Service set up a partnership forum which brings together a range of statutory & voluntary providers who, directly or indirectly, deliver sexual health advice, support or interventions across the Gateshead area.

The aim of the forum is to share information & provide a networking opportunity as well as share ideas/good practice, whilst at the same time improve/introduce signposting pathways.

The LPC was invited & accepted the opportunity to be included in this forum. Bi-annual partnership meetings were planned but understandably, due to COVID-19 have been postponed.

A virtual EHC presentation, available via the LPC website, currently allows all pharmacists the opportunity to fulfill the required F2F aspect of accreditation needed every 2 years by the commissioners.

The self-declaration portal on Pharmoutcomes, linked to the CPPE website, is now used by both commissioners to verify accreditation status for all Gateshead & South Tyneside contractors & the annual GPhC registration now negates the need for any DBS checks.

Dual screening test kits are distributed to those pharmacies providing EHC, along with condoms if required, to increase the numbers diagnosed & treated for chlamydia & gonorrhoea. Pre COVID, the age criteria was capped at age 24 but this has been removed and opened up the age criteria to all over the age of 16 to support service delivery and the collaborative response to COVID.

MARK BURDON

Over the last year, I have taken on the role of pharmacy advisor to the board of South Tyneside Health Collaboration (STHC), the GP federation in South Tyneside.

This has been helpful in building local relationships with GP practices, but also as a means of testing new ideas. We have recruited two apprentice pharmacy technicians who will work across both community pharmacy and general practice and help develop new ways of working.

The intention is that improved processes can be rolled out more widely, not just in South Tyneside. A focus of this work is on increasing the uptake of electronic repeat dispensing and enhancing processes to make it function better for all.

CATHERINE CHARLTON

As a new member of the LPC, and CCA representative, I have spent the last year getting involved 'virtually' as much as I can.

I attended the national new members webinar which helped me gain a deeper understanding of my role, so I can best represent contractors.

I have joined the LPC's Comms team and have written articles to support

contractors on relevant topics such as PQS and Ask ANI.

As PCN lead for Gateshead East I have done my best to facilitate other pharmacies with PQS claims and the set up of GP-CPCS. I am particularly enjoying getting to know other contractors through this role and seeing the strength of collaborative working across the sector.

As a Gateshead contractor I have also been vocal in sharing my concerns about reimbursement for and changes in drug user services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Through my role I have been able to share these concerns with other stakeholders and look forward to continuing to work with them, ensuring the vital care community pharmacy plays in these patients' lives is valued.

It has been a privilege joining the LPC and I look forward to continue to grow in the role. Particular highlights so far have been joining South Tyneside's 'Pharmy Army,' vaccinating the housebound, and getting to know the rest of the LPC; though I'm very much looking forward to meeting everyone in person

GORDON JOHNSON

It has been another tough year this year with everything that has been going on. However, I am immensely proud of the way that pharmacy teams across Gateshead & South Tyneside have worked to ensure that patients have been looked after during exceedingly difficult circumstances.

I have been working hard over the year to support my LPC colleagues and contractors within the Gateshead Central South Primary Care Network. I ensured early on during the pandemic that pharmacies within the PCN had a communication channel so that we could support each other and ensured that business continuity plans were in place for if they were needed.

I have also been attending the Medicines
Use and Guideline Group with
Newcastle/Gateshead CCG via MS
Teams and a Medicines Governance
Group with the QE hospital also via MS
Teams during the pandemic.

I became the Governance lead of the LPC during the year and have been working to ensure that the committee's policies and procedures are up to date and that all business is conducted following the Nolan Principles.

I hope that we will have a better year ahead and that we can continue to work together to ensure that patients receive the best pharmaceutical care.

AINA OSUNKUNLE

I would like to start by taking this opportunity to acknowledge, commend, appreciate and thank all the members of Gateshead and South Tyneside LPC, especially the current executive members, for the great work they continue to do keeping our LPC engaged with commissioners including the CCG, NHS and local Councils ensuring that our LPC continues to be active, proactive and functional.

Notably the successful engagement and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations to the housebound and from various centres by our contractors and pharmacists placed Gateshead and South Tyneside LPC amongst the frontline LPCs during this very difficult and unprecedented times.

Personally, as a contractor and LPC member I have received encouragement and empowerment during and from the LPC meetings which I attended enabling our practice to weather some of the very difficult storms every pharmacy has had to go through over the past year plus.

At one meeting, I brought the fact that some payments due to contractors had not been paid, adding to the financial burden we were bearing, to the LPC's attention. This was collaborated by another LPC member. The executive took this on board immediately, the issue was successfully resolved and the payments were promptly made to the relevant contractors.

It continues to be a privilege for me to be a member of this LPC.

JULIE TOPPING

After another very challenging year due to the ongoing pandemic, I am extremely proud of how pharmacy in general has "stepped up". We have managed to continue supplying Think Pharmacy First, GP2P, EHC and Smoking Cessation services as well as our very busy dispensing role.

As LPC support officer to South Tyneside South Primary Care Network I helped to set up a local WhatsApp group to aid communication between members. One positive outcome has been to see how close relationships have been forged and the app has had many uses-from sourcing unusual items quickly and directing patients to the appropriate pharmacy, sharing knowledge of which stocktakers have supplies of hard to get items and circulating information on late wholesale deliveries.

I have also been part of a team of pharmacists who have provided COVID vaccinations to housebound patients in Gateshead and South Tyneside - The Pharmarmy, which has been a most rewarding experience.

ENQUIRES

If you have any enquiries regarding this report please get in touch with:

Sami, our Communications officer on:

Sami Hanna

Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC
C/o Lobley Hill Pharmacy
72 Malvern Gardens
Gateshead
NE11 9LJ

Email: sami.hanna@gandstlpc.net Tel No: 0191 4200213 07930 342035

If you want to get in touch with the LPC on any other matter please contact our Secretary, Louise on:

Louise Lydon

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