



Gateshead & South Tyneside  
Local Pharmaceutical Committee

*Passionate* about pharmacy

# Annual Report



April      March  
2009 - 2010

## **VISION STATEMENT**

By 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**

As a committee the LPC adheres to the Nolan principles of governance. A copy of which is included in the appendix

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# Chairmans Report

Welcome to my report for 2010

As in previous years, the past year has been a challenging year for community pharmacy! Miserably, the recession has affected cash-flow and many of the hotly anticipated new roles have not materialised yet. This has been compounded by the unsettling effects of a large number of contract applications. As I said in preceding years, The LPC is working hard, and constantly strives to develop, new roles for Community Pharmacists and to roll them out as enhanced services in the locality for the benefit of patients.

Community Pharmacy is a business, and businesses need income to survive and prosper. The traditional remuneration model was based on dispensing volume and this is changing gradually to a model based on service delivery and quality. As such it is vitally important for pharmacies to embrace any new services on offer – and to do it well. Currently the only “advanced service” is MUR – please ensure that you aim to complete your full allocation of 400 per year...

The LPC is currently negotiating many new “enhanced services” with the PCT – sadly at the time of writing, due to technicalities, I am unable (once again) to report the launch of the new “all singing – all dancing” minor ailment scheme...but it is due soon! We are confident that contractors will embrace the scheme when it launches and the PCT will feel benefits in their pockets! Evidence clearly shows that a minor ailment consultation with a pharmacist is cheaper than elsewhere; and a lot cheaper than a casualty appointment. The lack of minor ailment consultation at the GP leads to a quicker appointment for members of the public with more serious problems. A win-win all around. One service that did begin in the autumn, however, was the cardio-vascular risk assessment, know as the NHS Health Checks, enhanced service. Currently this service is offered in a dozen or so pharmacy outlets and more are coming on stream shortly...This is a great opportunity for pharmacy to showcase a clinical service – please get engaged! Other new services which we are negotiating include: vaccination, care-homes, Chlamydia service and contraception services.

Please remember your obligations under the community pharmacy contractual framework. The PCT are, quite rightly, monitoring the contract with ever-increasing energy! Every year contractors must carry out 2 audits – one is a multidisciplinary audit (initiated by the PCT) and one is a practice audit based in each pharmacy. In addition there is the annual questionnaire to carry out; and a self assessment contract monitoring form to fill in (followed by a visit in some cases).

As usual in my report, I would like to pay tribute to all the LPC members past and present who have represented contractors over the past year and attended numerous meetings to raise the profile of community pharmacy and develop services in our neighbourhood. In particular – I would like to thank our PSNC representative, Mark Burdon, and our Officers: Louise Lydon, Sami Hanna and Jonathan Green for their support. I would also like to thank the “Chairs of the sub groups and working groups” and the LPC leads for undertaking this work over the past year. I would also like to thank Kathryn Featherstone, our support officer, for all her help and indeed I would like to thank all the other members of the LPC who have also worked tirelessly on your behalf over the last year. We continue to be committed to representing contractors at all levels; all members work very hard (often long into the night) and strictly adhere to Nolan principles of good governance and transparency.

If any contractor would like to come along to observe a committee meeting, please contact our secretary to arrange the visit – you will be most welcome.



David Carter  
Chairman



# Secretary Report



## Secretary - Louise Lydon

Throughout 2009-10, alongside the rest of the LPC committee, I have worked hard to ensure that our LPC is an important leadership body, which is representative and supportive to our contractors.

**Table 1. Attendance of LPC members at LPC meetings**

Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Mr David Carter (Chairman)	10	9
Mrs Louise Lydon (Secretary)	10	10
Mr Sami Hanna (Vice chairman)	10	9
Mr Jon Green (Treasurer)	10	10
Mr Mark Burdon	10	3
Mrs Tracy Groves	10	9
Mrs Denise Laidlaw	10	8
Mrs Lisa Simpson	10	10
Mrs Joanne Neil	10	7
Mrs Lisa Lockley* *	6	1
Ms Leyla Hannbeck* *	6	3
Mr Peter Slowey* *	1	0
Mr Alex Graham* *	3	2
Mrs Kathryn Featherstone *	10	10

\* Support Officer – attends LPC meetings as a non-member.

\*\*There were a number of changes in membership of the committee over the year; Mrs. Lisa Lockley and Mr. Peter Slowey both resigned and Ms Leyla Hannbeck took up a new appointment at the NPA and therefore was not eligible to retain her seat as an independent contractor representative. Mr. Alex Graham joined the committee as a CCA representative later in the year to fill a vacancy and ensure the committee represented the CCA:Independent ratios accurately.

The LPC also welcomed the following observers and Guest to various meetings through the year.

Observers	Guest Speakes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catherine Armstrong (Locum and Practice Pharmacist)</li> <li>Tony Schofield (Contractor)</li> <li>Ash Aggarwal (Contractor)</li> <li>Leena Kohli (Pharmacist)</li> <li>Robbie Burns (Sunderland LPC member)</li> <li>Gillian Cucchi (Sunderland LPC member)</li> <li>Numerous Pre-registration pharmacists and undergraduates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Dave Julien (First Contact Clinical and GP)</li> <li>Debbie Forsyth (FCC)</li> <li>Tracy Johnstone (PCT, Pharmacy Commissioning)</li> <li>Janet Hattel (QE Lead Pharmacist)</li> <li>Margaret Whellans (Elderly Persons Services, Gateshead Council)</li> <li>Adam Crampaise (Pharmacist, COPD-lead)</li> </ul>

At the Annual General Meeting in October the committee retained the current 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 – Mr Jon Green

In order to streamline monthly LPC meetings and ensure the committee is active and engaged on a variety of items, the committee has adapted to be more dynamic, forming numerous sub-groups (Table 2) with members who have a keen interest or expert knowledge/experience in the area.

Each subgroup manage themselves, via their assigned chair, and meet, as required, conducting much of the work that the committee performs out with the regular monthly LPC meeting. It is the responsibility of the subgroup chair to report in to the full committee with recommendations. The benefit of this new LPC structure has meant that the LPC work output has increased vastly. (Reports from individual subcommittees are shown on later pages).

**Table 2. Membership of groups**

LPC Sub Group	LPC Representatives
Communications	Sami Hanna (chair) Denise Laidlaw Emma Morris Jon Green
Finance	Jon Green (chair) David Carter Denise Laidlaw Emma Morris
Strategy Implementation Group (SIG)	Kathryn Featherstone (chair) Lisa Simpson Denise Laidlaw Allen Tweedie (co-opted)
Resource Management	Louise Lydon (chair) Sami Hanna Emma Morris
Joint LPC MUR group	Kathryn Featherstone (chair) Sami Hanna Jon Green + 2 members from S LPC + 2 members from PCT
Joint LPC Events group	Louise Lydon (chair) Tracy Groves Joanne Neil Catherine Armstrong (co-opted) Kathryn Featherstone + 2 members from Sunderland LPC

The LPC would like to outwardly thank the late Dr Allen Tweedie for his contribution to the SIG working sub-group in 2009-10, where Allen was co-opted onto this group due to his expertise, after he had left the LPC, as a member, the year prior.

The committee has worked hard to provide community pharmacy representation on a number of strategic working groups during the year (Table 3), as well as offering a LPC lead to each of the PBC groups, to be available to attend meetings / offer a community pharmacy perspective to the group (Table 4).

**Table 3. LPC representation on strategic groups.**

LPC Leads attending External Meetings	LPC Representatives
Joint LPC & PCT Officers meeting	David Carter Louise Lydon Sami Hanna (deputy)
Local Representatives Committee	Louise Lydon Sami Hanna
Regional LPC	David Carter Louise Lydon Sami Hanna (deputy)
FHS group (confidential)	David Carter
South Tyneside Prescribing sub-committee	Mark Burdon Louise Lydon(deputy)
Gateshead Prescribing sub-committee	Tracy Groves Denise Laidlaw (deputy)
Electronic prescription services	David Carter
Audit	Lisa Simpson
PNA	David Carter (ST) Sami Hanna (GH) Louise Lydon (deputy)
Emergency Planning	Jon Green
CVD / NHS Health checks	Louise Lydon Kathryn Featherstone
Smoking Services	Louise Lydon
COPD	Kathryn Featherstone

**Table 4. LPC designated PBC leads.**

PBC Group	LPC Representative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alliance</li> </ul>	Louise Lydon David Carter (deputy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C7</li> </ul>	Mark Burdon Joanne Neil (deputy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GatNet</li> </ul>	Tracy Groves Lisa Simpson (deputy)

As LPC secretary it is part of my role to administrate / organise representation at all meetings relevant to community pharmacy. In addition, I ensure the LPC leads are aware of the relevant meetings and agenda items, thus being in a well informed position to influence and lobby locally to promote community pharmacy and maximising the service development opportunities for our contractors.

A traditional part of the LPC's role is in negotiation of new services, which is ever more important with the shift from dispensing to more clinical roles for community pharmacy.

Within my role, I have been working closely with our Support Officer, Kathryn Featherstone, in order to demonstrate good outcomes from community pharmacy, to commissioners, to help pave the way for more services to be commissioned.

The development and implementation of NHS Health check's, through community pharmacy, has to be the most favourable outcome this year, in my opinion. The LPC worked closely with PCT throughout the whole process, from negotiating on many aspects of the Service Level Agreement, to training and recruitment of pharmacies. 13 early implementer pharmacies across the South of Tyne (10 in Gateshead and South Tyneside) have run with this service since the 9th November 2009, completing a staggering 885 NHS Health check's by the end of March 2010. On the 3rd and 11th of February 2010, two evening sessions were held by the PCT in order to recruit pharmacies for the second phase. At both sessions, LPC representation was present in the form of Sami Hanna and me, offering advice to potential applicants and demonstrating a live health check. By the end of March a further 24 pharmacies were selected to participate in the second wave of service roll out.

Throughout the year pharmacy has gained much media coverage regarding NHS Health checks, including Radio interviews, local newspaper articles and an appearance on Tyne Tees news. The LPC has been integral in securing this publicity for our profession, demonstrating our accessibility and clinical skills to our local patient populations.

At the turn of the year, in order to assist the PCT to achieve its stop smoking targets for 4 week quitters, the LPC was consulted with, to introduce a Stop Smoking Incentive Scheme, which allowed pharmacies that signed up and committed to increased activity to greatly increase their remuneration, per successful quitter. As hoped, the outcome was that the PCT exceeded their anticipated targets and pharmacy was recognised as integral to this achievement.

The new dynamic LPC structure, with its working sub groups, has supported the LPC executive team throughout the year, allowing much work to be conducted, often behind the scenes, providing contractors with;

- Assistance to fulfil their contractual obligations, via an LPC-lead Practice audit, which was taken up widely by contractors.
- Facilitation to develop and complete a business continuity plan (and receive a £200 sum, per contract, negotiated by the LPC) via attending one of the 3 training events organised by the LPC events group.
- MUR training, in the form of 2 evening sessions, to assist pharmacists from recruitment to conducting an MUR.
- An opportunity to be consulted with on a range of issues from the new LPC constitution to generic substitution and PNA issues.
- LPC executive members attending a regular monthly meeting with the PCT Primary Care team to discuss community pharmacy services and issues.
- LPC executive members attending a regular quarterly Regional LPC, including one with Jonathon Mason, allowing sharing of best practice and collaboration with the wider pharmacy community.
- LPC executive members attending regular PSNC training events and updates to ensure the committee is well informed on all levels.
- Media coverage and wide reaching publicity.

Looking forward, there are more challenging times for pharmacy, with much uncertainty and an increasing workload. However, the LPC can give assurance that it will be working closely with the PCT on COPD services, Minor Ailments and Sexual Health/Harm Reduction services amongst others, to enhance community pharmacy services and ultimately income.

Please remember that I'm always happy to advise and assist with all your pharmacy-related issues, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

# Treasurers Report



## **Treasurer - Jonathan Green**

This is my third Annual Report as Treasurer for Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC.

The financial year 2009-2010 was a difficult year both for the LPC and Contractors. Category M reductions not only reduced the remuneration for our contractors, but also for the LPC, as the Statutory Levy that funds the LPC is a percentage of Contractors income. This resulted in the LPC having to make drastic changes in the way we operate, thus enabling work too be carried out more cost effectively.

The PSNC recommends that an LPC keeps six months cash holding. I will maintain a close eye on cash reserves to ensure that this is the case.

With the new working procedures adopted by the LPC and the fact that we are reviewing the expenses policy, I am confident that I will not need to increase the Levy.

The expenses policy is under review to ensure we comply with governance issues and to make best use of contractors money.

The following page shows a copy of this years end of Year accounts.



# Communications



## **Communications Officer - Sami Hanna**

The third year in my role as communications officer has embedded the communications strategy which we have employed over the last few years. The committee has been very active and involved in many areas which are discussed at further length in this annual report.

The communications team led by myself have been reporting on and promoting the interests of our contractors.

At the beginning of the year the communications team streamlined its meeting schedule in an attempt to reduce costs for the LPC. A number of meetings were conducted using internet communications. Whilst this largely proved to be an effective technique we are continuing to hold some face to face meetings to ensure we run our communications as effectively as possible. The team has now become well developed and we have had much success with a number of local press releases and the production of regular LPC News.

The swine flu outbreak proved to be a challenge for the Health services, however our distribution list proved to be an invaluable tool for the sharing of information. We also complemented this information sharing ourselves, by producing extra publications to support contractors at this hectic and challenging time.

Since the purchasing of the LPC printer we have also been involved in publishing various documents benefitting ourselves as well as Sunderland LPC and NHS South of Tyne.

We have also recently seen the launch of our new LPC website which we hope to develop further over the coming year as an exciting tool in sharing information with contractors.

# www.gandstlpc.net

The LPC is pleased to announce the launch of our new website. We hope this proves to be an accessible and useful resource which we will continue to update with the latest developments and information about the world of pharmacy.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Gateshead & South Tyneside Local Pharmaceutical Committee  
*Passionately about pharmacy*

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Vote Results

LPC News - Edition 20

Vol 20 - August 2010

## LPC News

### JOINT LPC MEETING

A joint meeting was held between Sunderland LPC and Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC. Several things were discussed including the Outp Agenda, New funding models for contractors, Flu Vaccine services and the development of other services. Significantly, a joint working paper was laid down about how the two LPCs plan to work more closely together. Historically we have worked well together but this working paper has given us an opportunity to lay down a framework for ongoing work. Specifically, we will be becoming more integrated in our LPC News communications. From the next edition of LPC News we will be producing a joint news letter covering the whole of South of Tyne area. Much of the News letter is relevant to contractors across the area but any information specific to a particular LPC will be clearly labelled. The same team who bring the current newsletter to you will still be involved in the New Joint Newsletter so we hope that we will still be able to keep you up to date with interesting news in a format you like. We do appreciate any feedback you have regarding the LPC News and whether articles are useful and informative. Please contact your communications officer with any feedback.

#### Minor Ailments

We are happy to report that the Minor Ailments scheme is being rolled out across the South of Tyne area. The national self care campaign group has written to Andrew Lansley highlighting the findings of its self care white paper which was published in March. <http://www.aeflucarecampaign.org/> They reported that the minor ailments scheme could save the NHS £2 billion pounds as currently a fifth of GP workload was taken up by minor ailments. It was based on research by the Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB), which represents OTC medicines manufacturers and is a member of the Self Care Campaign. We hope that our local minor ailments scheme will be a success whilst anticipating its development into a national service.

#### New Years Day - Opening Hours

Since the beginning of the year, the LPC has been working with contractors and the PCT to find a solution to the Pharmacy opening hours and service provision over the New Year period. We agreed to a solution which involved a number of contractors agreeing to stay open on New Years Day keeping pharmacy services accessible across the area whilst enabling others to apply to shut. Our Chairman, David Carter has expressed his gratitude to those contractors who have volunteered their services and helped us to achieve an amicable solution. We understand the PCT will be writing out to contractors shortly.

Would you like to receive the LPC NEWS by Email?  
if you would like to receive the LPC News by email contact: Sam - [lpc.news@nmt.nhs.uk](mailto:lpc.news@nmt.nhs.uk)

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# Support Officer Report



## **Support Officer - Kathryn Featherstone**

This year has seen a number of success stories for community pharmacies. The most exciting news has been the great success of the NHS Healthcheck service that was launched in ten community pharmacies across Gateshead and South Tyneside in November 2009. Over 400 Healthchecks have been performed across NHS South of Tyne & Wear by the end of January 2010 and the PCT has already selected a further twenty four pharmacies to participate in the second wave of rolling out the service.

There has been an increasing amount of interest in this pharmacy service from the media, with newspaper articles, radio interviews and television news items.

Swine flu took up a lot of time and effort this year but community pharmacy rose to the challenges, with a number of pharmacies being designated Anti-Viral Supply points. We negotiated with the PCT and agreed a payment of £200 per pharmacy to develop a Business Continuity Plan; we also put on training events for contractors around business continuity.

Towards the end of the year community pharmacy was included in the Stop Smoking Incentive Scheme, to help the PCT reach its high level target for 4-week quitters. For those pharmacies that signed up to extended targets it was possible to greatly increase the amount paid and thus the profitability of the service.

I was hoping to have good news on a PCT-wide Minor Ailment service but whilst the LPC have again put in a lot of work, it is still under final review; an extended service is expected soon in the new financial year.

Regular behind the scenes work has gone on with the PCT around contract monitoring and audit to make it as easy as possible for contractors to complete and to make visits meaningful and useful to both the PCT and the contractor. This year contractors were able to have pre-filled self-assessment forms, making it easier to complete and return the contract self-assessment forms, although it was disappointing that fewer contractors' forms were received by the end of March 2010. I have also represented contractors at the PCT Pharmacy Audit group, where

we agreed the annual PCT led pharmacy audit for 2009-10 and developed the audit tools; the number of returned audits increased compared to 2008-09, with only a couple of pharmacies failing to complete the PCT-led audit.

Other activities that I have undertaken, on behalf of the LPC and pharmacy contractors, during the year include:

- Responding to two Department of Health consultations on Generic Substitution and on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments
- Responding to the World Class Commissioning review by the Health Select Committee
- Developing a LPC Governance policy and electronic working policy
- Working with the PCT on issues relating to the Swine Flu pandemic
- Negotiating funding for Medicine Use Review training
- Developing a Pharmacy Handbook for staff and locums
- Working with the LPC on its Self Assessment
- Developing and implementing the LPC Survey

There are a number of challenges that we will see in the coming year, not least the vastly increased workload around Information Governance and Quality Accounts and trying to develop new services in an austere financial climate but the LPC will work to help contractors manage these challenges as best they can.

# Subgroups

## Audit Subgroup



The purpose of this group was to conduct an audit to assess the impact of stock shortages on Community Pharmacies. The audit template used was based on that developed by Devon LPC

### Key Achievements

- The audit was conducted in the last 2 weeks of August 2009. 20 Pharmacies responded and the results are as follows.
- Over the two week period an estimated 39 hours were lost to dealing with stock shortages and their consequences. The full report was sent to the PCT, PSNC and Dr. Keith Ridge Chief Pharmaceutical Officer.

Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Lisa Simpson (Chair)	2	1
Mark Burdon	2	1
Jon Green	2	1

## Strategy Implementation

Aim: Oversee the implementation of the Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC Strategy



### Key Achievements

- Produced quarterly reviews of activity towards strategy.
- Developed new milestones for 2009-2010 action plan.
- Developed reporting system for the Communications Strategy and action plan.
- Development of recovery plans when slippage occurs.

Member
Kathryn Featherstone (Chair)
Denise Laidlaw
Allen Tweedie

This year the Strategy Implementation Group has not met regularly but instead has held discussions on key matters by email and telephone.

# SubGroups

## Communications



The Communications group exists to ensure effective communications between the LPC and Contractors. We also strive to promote pharmacy's profile and the services we offer in a positive way across wider

remit.

### Key Achievements

- Regular production and distribution of the LPC News.
- Effective representation of Pharmacy across the area.
- The promotion of Pharmacy services in the interests of contractors and our patients,
- Publishing of documents to raise awareness of current pharmaceutical issues for contractors.

Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Sami Hanna	5	5
Emma Morris	5	5
Jon Green	5	5
Denise Laidlaw	5	5

## Emergency Planning

The year 2009-2010 was a challenging year, as Swine Flu broke out across the country.

Gateshead & South Tyne LPC fortunately already had planned ahead for such an eventuality.



We worked together and with the PCT for the benefit of our Contractors.

We devoted an entire LPC meeting to Pandemic Flu and as a result of this, and with the help of SOTW PCT held meetings in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland to enable Contractors to devise a Business Continuity Plan which facilitated a payment from the PCT.

As luck would have it, the outbreak was not as bad as we feared but in the aftermath we evaluated the overall response and learnt a number of important lessons so that if the situation ever occurs again we will be better prepared.

# SubGroups

## Events

Aims of the group:

- To raise the profile of Community Pharmacy in South of Tyne and Wear by working proactively.
- Communicating / informing the media of all activities, via close working with the LPC communications group.
- Organising / facilitating events to support community pharmacists in NHS South of Tyne & Wear.



Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance
Louise Lydon (chair)	4	4
Tracy Groves	4	4
Joanne Neil	4	3
Catherine Armstrong (co-opted)	4	3
Kathryn Featherstone	4	4
+ 2 members from Sunderland LPC	4	1

Following the success of the year before and the publicity gained from 'lung cancer awareness', the events group met early this year to plan our activity.

After much discussion, it was decided that Bowel Cancer was a topic that was greatly under publicised, and following a meeting with the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) leads, a topic that Community Pharmacies were well placed to increase awareness.

We began by updating the knowledge of pharmacists and pharmacy staff on Bowel Cancer, by organising 3 training events, with specialist nurses and a consultant delivering the training. This was well received by all that attended, providing invaluable CPD.

### Bowel Cancer – Fund Raising

This year the LPC has been supporting Bowel Cancer. Earlier in the year which were well received by patients has been great and thanks to the PCT for helping us!

The training helped us to support Bowel Cancer Awareness. We are now hoping to help the raise awareness further by charity walk and fun day has been arranged for Sunday 11th starting at 10.30am. We are hoping the day will be a success and will make me think more and offer more in depth as preparations for tomorrow now.

Dispenser Corina Flaherty added: "I found the course read the statistics of bowel cancer was quite a shock and I will patients to return their test kits."

Recently a... some and... pack please... if you can't... shop would... some more... eating. All the staff... display of... donation in... bowel cancer...

### Confide

The LPCs... confidential... external... Pharmacists... being done... (requirements)

### CRB Check

Are you... (CRB check)... (The check)... for more... contact the...

### Notification of changes to Directors / Superintendent pharmacist (Paragraph 34(3A) and (3B))

and had... (text continues)

### "Exterminating" Bowel Cancer

Local Pharmacies... (text continues)

### PHARMACY BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS

Business continuity... (text continues)

### BIDDING DAY 2009

The bid... (text continues)

### JAPANESE ENCIPHERALITS

The Japanese... (text continues)

### LPC NEWS

#### Bowel Cancer Campaign

Standard LPC and Gateshead & South Tyneside LPC have once again joined forces. This time to encourage support for Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in April 2009. They will be working with the Healthy Community Collaborative in each PCT to support the Beating Bowel Cancer campaign that will be held in each community pharmacy in the next month or so. (Note to pharmacists: When the campaign leaflets and posters for Beating Bowel Cancer and the Bowel Cancer Screening programme arrive, please ensure they are safely until the April campaign begins). We are planning a training event for community pharmacy staff and some joint work with the Standard & District branch of the RPSGP to provide clinical updates and training for pharmacists. Keep an eye out for more information soon.

#### Cancer patients eligible for free prescriptions

People being treated for cancer will be eligible for free prescriptions from 1st April and can apply for this provision. This new scheme, announced by Prime Minister in September last year, abolishes NHS prescription charges for everyone undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer investigations. Up to 150,000 patients already diagnosed with cancer are expected to benefit, and may save £100 each year in prescription charges. All cancer patients are entitled to apply for a 5-year exemption certificate, (FP20) which will entitle them to all their NHS prescriptions free of charge, not just those relating to cancer. The certificate can be renewed as many times as necessary and will not have to be renewed if the patient's condition changes. Application forms (FP20) can be collected from GP surgeries and primary centres and must be countersigned by the patient's GP, hospital doctor or service doctor. Applications received by 24th March will be processed in time to be used for 1st April. Patients who do not receive for their certificate in time may have any prescription charges they have paid since the 1st April rebated. Patients previously treated for cancer who are now appear to be clear of the condition and have no further treatment planned, will not be entitled to free prescriptions under the new criteria. Surgeons to protect against the risk of skin cancer also do not qualify as an exemption. The NHS prescription service (formerly the FP20) have sent guidance to doctors about revised FP20 forms.

#### Letter from CPPE

Pharmacists (registered as practicing) and Registered Pharmacy Technicians should have received the latest information about CPPE's knowledge and local events. These can be booked on line, through the CPPE website <http://www.cppe.manchester.ac.uk/>. The local event that will be held in each of the 10 areas in Greater Manchester is in the knowledge that the LPC is going with the PCT around vascular risk screening in community pharmacy. The Vascular Risk Forum Event for Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland areas will run on 30th June. (Supper being available from 7pm and the session starting at 7.30pm). Please are invited to be as early booking is advised. If you are not successful in getting a place please will add your name to the waiting list as, if there is a large waiting list, I may be able to run the event again. (Note: those on the waiting list normally having priority for places on the additional event). Sadly I will not be able to accept attendance of anybody unless they are booked on the sessions in advance through CPPE. The workshop that will be running on 14th May is longer effective disorder. I anticipate that the speaker will be somebody from the mental health trust. There are still, at the time of writing, 2 places available on the antihypertensive forum point that will run North of Tyne on 4th March and some places available on the additional forum point events being run in Tyneside on 20th March (antihypertensive) and 2nd April (diabetes) if you missed out on the recent local events. If you have any queries relating to CPPE I can be contacted by e-mail [caheline.mccolland@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:caheline.mccolland@cppe.ac.uk) or via the CPPE website.

Cah McColand  
CPPE Tutor

Community Pharmacies then participated in the beat bowel cancer campaign "Don't hide your symptoms behind closed doors" during bowel cancer month in April, displaying materials and imparting the knowledge/facts acquired from the training to our patients.

On a sunny August Sunday, we held a full day event in Saltwell Park, Gateshead, consisting of a sponsored "Bum walk" and picnic to raise money for the Beating Bowel Cancer charity. After the walk and picnic there were many fun activities to partake in, including; face painting, giant garden games, sports-day races and water games. The children and adults alike thoroughly enjoyed the day!

This event was well attended by many pharmacists, staff, friends and family members, generating much positive publicity for community pharmacy, from both the media coverage as well as from public members at Saltwell Park.



Special Guest Dalek attended the Bum Walk to help promote the message "Exterminate Bowel Cancer"!



Further promotional and fundraising activities occurred throughout the year, including several pharmacies partaking in a 'Name the Bear competition', which was very successful and helped to boost the total raised over the year to £4150.

The year culminated with a Joint LPC Charity Dinner in December, at the Gateshead Hilton, where a cheque for the £4150 was presented jointly by the Mayors of Sunderland and Gateshead to the Beating Bowel Cancer Campaign representative Carol Dando.



Other activities undertaken by the events group 2009-10 include:

- Organising 3 evening sessions (one in each PCT area) and facilitating contractors to develop Business Continuity Plans and clustering arrangements, primarily in response to the pandemic flu situation.
- Liaising with the communications sub-group.
- Working closely with First Contact Clinical to arrange / advertise Brief Interventions in Alcohol training to community pharmacists and staff.

# Other Groups

## Medicines Management



The LPC are invited to have a seat on the Medicines Management Committee for Gateshead and South Tyneside. This committee meets up monthly

and has representation from the PCT , hospital pharmacy, consultants and GPs.

Discussions include formulary decisions and discussions about treatment pathways, and NICE guidance. Information is given about new drugs, and also drugs due to come off patent.

LPC presence has contributed to important decisions in the past such as putting over the case not to use Branded Generics, and the cost implications both for the PCT and Community pharmacists.

## Regional LPC

Every 3 Months we meet with our colleagues from other LPC across the region. This gives us an opportunity to discuss mutual issues and work closely and effectively. The meetings are chaired by Mark Burdon (Regional PSNC Rep) and is an opportunity to hear from National leads who come and address the region through this meeting. Through this forum we have worked with the other LPC' to put submit regional responses and arrange event on to assist contractors. One such event was a financial update from the PSNC.

## Officers Meetings



The 2 local LPCs meeting monthly with the PCT. At this meeting top level pharmacy issues are discussed and agreed; with the finer detail being discussed at other specific meetings.

This year we finalised the NHS health check service and agreed to instigate "quality meetings" for pharmacists and their staff. Throughout the year a considerable amount of time has been spent re-visiting existing services and agreeing criteria to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

# Other Groups

## Quality Accounts



The Chairman took part in a national pilot of a government scheme known as "quality accounts." These accounts may soon be part of the obligatory requirements of the national contractual framework. In essence,

the accounts show the public how the pharmacy provided high quality care over the past year; and how it hopes to improve in the coming year. The pilot is being evaluated over the Summer and the results will be published after that. David Carter intends to feed back his personal take on how to do quality accounts at the forthcoming quality meetings.

## Local Representatives Committee (LRC)

Every 3 months we meet with colleagues from other health care representative bodies. E.g. Opticians (LOC) Dentists (LDC), Nurses and doctors (LMC). An executive member of NHS South of Tyne also attends. We have forged good relationships and have found we have been able to effectively discuss Pharmacy Issues. e.g. Impact of Branded generics. The meeting is chaired by the LMC.

## EPS



One of the most important areas of ongoing work that the LPC engages with - is that of the development of ETP (electronic transmission of prescriptions); which is now called EPS (electronic prescription service).

EPS Release 1: virtually all pharmacies are scanning prescriptions in preparation for release 2.

EPS Release 2: Pilot in Sunderland is progressing slowly. Paired pharmacy and GP practices are exchanging prescriptions... Golden token, followed by dummy data, then real data. Due to a glitch in a GP system elsewhere, however, involving quantity errors, the system has been put on hold everywhere since April.

Work is progressing on a primary care smart card sponsorship procedure to ensure all staff have access to a smartcard.

The Sunderland sites have confirmed that a £1000 fee is automatically paid to each pharmacy after the successful transmission of "the golden token" using Release 2

# Committee Members



David Carter - Chairman  
Independent



Louise Lydon - Secretary  
Independent



Jonathan Green - Treasurer  
CCA : Lloyds



Sami Hanna - Comms Officer  
Independent



Denise Laidlaw  
CCA : Asda



Richard Anderson  
CCA : Co-Op



Tracy Groves  
Independent



Lisa Simpson  
Independent



Joanne Neil  
Independent



Alex Graham  
CCA : Lloyds



Emma Morris  
CCA : Boots



Jennifer Graham  
CCA : Boots



Mark Burdon - PSNC Rep  
Independent

## Committee Consultants



Catherine Armstrong



Kathryn Featherstone

# Enquiries

If you have any enquiries regarding this report please get in touch with Sami, our Communications officer on:

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

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## **NOLAN PRINCIPLES**

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 promotes and strives to adhere to the principles set out below.

The Seven Nolan Principles:

### **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 organisations 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.

### **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.

### **Leadership**

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.



[www.gandstlpc.net](http://www.gandstlpc.net)