

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

## COMMUNITY PHARMACY SUFFOLK

(SUFFOLK LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMMITTEE)



SUFFOLK **LPC** LOCAL  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
COMMITTEE

**Community Pharmacy Suffolk**

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# CHAIR'S REPORT

In the past year community pharmacy teams across Suffolk have continued to support patients in the post pandemic recovery through Covid-19 booster vaccination, flu vaccinations and access to medicines at times of acute supply chain shortages, coupled with unprecedented demand. The backlog of elective care has now grown to 7.3 million patients against a backdrop of increasing workforce challenges and community pharmacy consistently remains open to the public, willing and able to provide care to patients in their community who seek it.

Thank you to you all, our pharmacists and pharmacy teams in Suffolk, for your resilience, dedication, and care for your patients. My sincere thanks to my Suffolk LPC officer team Tania, Myra and Kristina who continue to grow our collaboration with NHS partners. In April this year, ICSs assumed accountability for commissioning of pharmacy. We recognised this as a significant opportunity to harness the relationships and influence built with our ICS partners to deliver improvements in commissioning of pharmacy services that will improve accessibility and outcomes for patients, realise value for money for the system and ensure community pharmacy is fairly remunerated so that it can remain sustainable and open to public as a recognised partner in primary care. I can assure you that we are focused to turn this vision into a reality.

We are all aware of the significant challenges that the sector is facing, core funding, future funding, viability of existing services, workforce shortages, supply chain challenges and the list continues to grow. In the recent months we have seen some light at the end of a very distant tunnel in terms of the publication of the NHS Workforce Plan which included pharmacy, the government announcement of £645million (subject to negotiation) to support the future of community pharmacy services (common conditions services) and relieve pressure on primary care and the growing recognition of pharmacy as a potential solution to support the NHS Primary Care Recovery Plan. All of these came through a concerted effort by all across the profession and we need to remain united in this goal to promote the profession and increase public awareness and support for community pharmacy. As your LPC committee we continue to work relentlessly to realise solutions locally on your collective behalf and your individual efforts matter, to ensure we remain credible partners in the delivery of care across Suffolk community pharmacies.

The year ahead will again be one of significant change as we voted to merge Suffolk and Norfolk LPC by April 2024 and we will have a new committee to continue the positive momentum built through years of

federated working. As a committee we are now taking clear actions to deliver this change.

Finally, thank you to all my outstanding committee members for your individual and collective commitment. We continue to remain steadfast and optimistic through your support.

With my sincere thanks and best wishes,  
**Alister Huong**  
 Suffolk LPC Chair

**Committee Members and Attendance (to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023)**

<b>Alister Huong (Chair)</b>	<b>CCA</b>	<b>(6/6)</b>	<b>Michael Lord</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(5/6)</b>
<b>Martin Howe</b>	<b>CCA</b>	<b>(4/6)</b>	<b>Nick Smith (Vice Chair/Treasurer)</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(5/6)</b>
<b>Lee Doherty (resigned Nov 22)</b>	<b>CCA</b>	<b>(3/6)</b>	<b>Anil Sharma</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(4/6)</b>
<b>Catherine Armstrong</b>	<b>CCA</b>	<b>(3/6)</b>	<b>Victoria Hitchings</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(4/6)</b>
<b>Greg McCarthy</b>	<b>CCA</b>	<b>(5/6)</b>	<b>Parv Lali</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(6/6)</b>
			<b>Mohamed Alom</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(6/6)</b>
			<b>Jawn Jiang</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(6/6)</b>
			<b>Mel Peet</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>(5/6)</b>

# CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

This year Suffolk LPC has stepped up the representation of our contractors at every level. LPC Officers have petitioned nationally, regionally, and locally to ensure that the challenges that community pharmacies are facing are well understood. We have attended parliamentary events, written to MPs and organised pharmacy visits in support of PSNC messaging (now Community Pharmacy England- CPE). We have worked with other regional LPCs to support the transition of the pharmacy contracting function from the regional NHSE team to Integrated Care Boards and to maintain a level of consistency in the approach to the commissioning of pharmacy services. We have worked with key partners within the SNEE and Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Systems (ICS) to embed community pharmacy representation within the new ICS governance structures and to make the case for full integration of the sector into ICB Primary Care plans.

We have achieved a good level of success in these areas which will all deliver better outcomes for contractors. We have had great support from a number of local MPs and Councillors who are using their influence to support local and national conversations about the importance of community pharmacy within a changing NHS. We have worked across the region on NHSE integration initiatives including the Tier 1 Contraceptive Pilot which informed the national service. We were integral to the development of the East of England Partnership Strategy for Community Pharmacy which was then adopted by both our ICBs as the template for the local integration of community pharmacy services over the next five years.

Locally we have established excellent collaborative working practices within our ICSs, securing a place on the Integrated Care Partnership in SNEE and on the Primary Care Commissioning groups in both ICSs. We have established a very positive working relationship with the newly appointed Community Pharmacy Clinical Leads, who are making good progress in driving integration and supporting new service development. We have done this in close partnership with Norfolk LPC who have continued to lead on behalf of contractors in the Norfolk and Waveney ICS footprint.

We have continued to work closely with Community Pharmacy England as they go into further funding negotiations and prepare for discussions around a national strategy for community pharmacy which will form the basis of the next contractual agreement. We have done this while working through the local RSG recommendation implications and proposing a formal merger with Norfolk LPC, which was accepted by contractors. This will strengthen local representation in the years to come within current financial restraints. This is how we have supported you over the last year.

## LPC Priorities April 2022-September 2022

### April

- The LPC continued to work with system partners to ensure that practices engaged with GP-CPCS to create a robust income stream for contractors and to support capacity in primary care.
- Delivery started in the NHSE Tier 1 Contraceptive Pilot prior to the launch of the national service.

### May

- The LPC supported the roll out of a SystmOne pilot to 15 pharmacies across SNEE ICS to test this as a route to digital integration. The roll out has proved to be problematic which has highlighted the digital challenges that pharmacies face.
- Contractors were supported with sign up to the locally commissioned services.

### June

- LPC officers stepped up engagement with the emerging ICS to ensure we established good representation within the new structure from July
- Discussions began within the ICS about how to support IP training for existing pharmacists and which services could be commissioned for existing IPs.

### July

- Work began on the development of a Regional Community Pharmacy Strategy, to be agreed by ICS leads and to be adopted by ICBs. This set the priorities for the next few years and introduced a level of consistency across the region.
- Local discussions began across the region around the local implementation of RSG recommendations.

### August

- Following on from discussions at the July LPC meeting, Suffolk LPC was asked to join the ICP membership on behalf of community pharmacy across the SNEE footprint.
- The LPC supported the recruitment of a Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead in SNEE to support service integration and development.

### September

- The covid booster campaign launched with community pharmacies remaining integral to service delivery across both ICS footprints.
- Work began to establish referral pathways for the Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Service from hospital trusts to support the pharmacies that had signed up to deliver the service.



## LPC Priorities October 2022-March 2023

### October

- Supported the development of the SNEE ICP Strategy, Pharmacy Workforce Strategy and the ICB Joint forward Plan for SNEE to ensure appropriate inclusion of community pharmacy.
- Continued joint working and discussions with regional LPCs about local representation including options for merger/realignment.

### November

- Pushed for further integration of community pharmacy within the ICS in the run up to full delegation of the community pharmacy contract to the ICB. Senior leads for this work were identified.
- Completed the evaluation of the SNEE Community Pharmacy Leads pilot to build on progress to date.

### December

- Worked with both ICSs on the impact of Strep A and the antibiotic shortages. This raised the profile of pharmacy's essential role within primary care.
- Made the case to the ICS and the region for funding for pharmacies to recognise the unprecedented pressures.

### January

- Worked with the Suffolk Public Health Team which led to an increase in fees for a number of locally commissioned services.
- Worked with the hospital trusts to increase DMS referrals and with GP practices to agree local referral pathways for the Hypertension Service

### February

- Supported the ICS with a submission to NHSE for an Independent Prescriber pathfinder project.
- Continued to highlight Workforce issues and push for action on the SNEE Pharmacy Workforce Strategy objectives to improve recruitment and retention.

### March

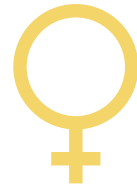
- Contractors voted to accept the new LPC constitution and Norfolk and Suffolk LPCs began discussions about formal merger.
- Began discussions around a locally commissioned and funded service for the supply of Covid Oral Antiviral Treatments, now launched.

# ADDING VALUE FOR CONTRACTORS



15 pharmacies in Suffolk were funded to engage with a SysmOne Pilot to improve IT connectivity and data collection. Integrating IT systems with GP practices and other providers and streamlining service delivery and claiming remains a priority.

The fees associated with the locally commissioned Sexual Health Services and Health Checks were all increased despite the challenging financial landscape. Contractors were supported with sign up and delivery of these services.



Community pharmacies continued to be a pillar of Covid Vaccination delivery as the mass vaccination centres were stood down. Delivery was supported with system comms. and social media posts..

A SNEE Pharmacy Workforce Plan was developed and adopted by the ICS to create the foundation to support a "grow your own" approach to staff training. Significant work has been done to ensure pharmacies are aware of available training and funding.



The Tier 1 (continuation) Pharmacy Integration Fund Contraceptive Pilot was launched in a number of pharmacies in Suffolk, some who went on to join the Tier 2 (initiation) pilot after the nationally commissioned Tier 1 service was launched.

External engagement with MPs and other stakeholders to highlight the funding crisis and the resulting pharmacy closures was a key workstream.

The LPC has featured on several occasions in local press to widen our media reach.



The LPC worked with our ICS leads to secure significant funding for each pharmacy to support primary care integration. This will be paid to pharmacies shortly alongside the launch of a locally funded PCN Pharmacy Lead initiative.



## INFORMAL FEDERATION

Suffolk LPC has continued to work in close federation with Norfolk LPC and as part of the local response to the RSG recommendations, a vote was put to contractors in May 2023 to formally merge Suffolk and Norfolk LPC from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024. Both LPC committees will work together closely throughout the current financial year to complete all actions necessary for the successful merger of the two committees whilst also maintaining the highest levels of local representation and contractor support.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

The priority this year will be, as always, to strive to deliver the best representation for Suffolk contractors both locally and regionally. Key workstreams will include:

- Managing the merger of Suffolk LPC with Norfolk LPC to form a new LPC organisation from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024.
- To continue to work with ICS Community Pharmacy Leads on the commissioning of local services and the integration of nationally commissioned services.
- To work alongside Community Pharmacy England (CPE) to support the implementation of the new nationally commissioned services to get the additional funding into community pharmacies as quickly as possible to help stabilise the network.
- To work with CPE and local stakeholders to highlight the current contractual challenges and to maximise footfall while also streamlining the delivery of community pharmacy services where possible.
- To create a focus on the current workforce challenges and to develop innovative local solutions to support contractors.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Background

This year has seen us move back to a more 'work as usual' year, with more face-to-face LPC meetings and more person to person contact rather than the online format used in the previous few years. This has increased our expenditure in all aspects of meetings costs, back to a pre-covid level. These costs have been managed to offer best value for contractor while maximising the attendance of LPC members representation. Other costs were broadly similar too previous years as we continue to manage our expenses to make sure we are as cost efficient as possible.

## Income

The income this year is not comparable with last year as the Levy Holiday in 2021/2022 returned funds back to contactors. The income for 2022/2023 was stronger than expected with a total income of £172,061 from the LPC levy and a further £1,634 in sponsorship and interest. This is a grand total of £173,695.

## Expenditure

Costs continue to be reviewed and managed to make sure expenditure offers the best value to every contractor paying the LPC levy. This year the PSNC levy was £39,665 but is due to rise sharply next year after the Wright Review process has been accepted. Members costs for attending meetings and locum costs increased as we moved back to face-to-face meetings as well as the associated increase in locum costs needing to be paid. There was a slight increase in IT costs to replace old equipment and maintain usability.

The LPC expenditure for 2022-2023 excluding the PSNC levy was £140,178. Total expenditure was £179,843 which is £6,148 more than income.

## Overview

At the end of the financial year 2023-2023 the LPC closing balance stood at £79,907 in reserve. This is in line with the recommended PSNC reserve holdings.

The committee is aware that our expenditure exceeds our income in the current format. The rise in the Community Pharmacy England (PSNC) levy for 2023/2024 will have a significant impact on the Suffolk LPC reserves.

This has been identified as a risk for the subsequent years and action has been taken in line with Wright Review recommendations to address this change in funding requirements to give Suffolk Contractors a sustainable model of representation.

Full accounts can be found on the Suffolk LPC website and have been audited and prepared by Larking Gowen Accountants.

## **Audited Accounts**

[Suffolk Local Pharmaceutical Committee - Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023](#)



## **Suffolk LPC Officers**

Tania Farrow, Chief Officer - [tania@suffolklpc.org.uk](mailto:tania@suffolklpc.org.uk)

(Tuesday to Friday)

Myra Battle, Service Support Officer - [myra@suffolklpc.org.uk](mailto:myra@suffolklpc.org.uk)

(Monday to Thursday)

Kristina Boulton, Communications Officer- [kristina@suffolklpc.org.uk](mailto:kristina@suffolklpc.org.uk)

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