

Chair's Report April 2022-March 2023

It's been another incredibly tough year for community pharmacy contractors. We recognise and acknowledge the daily pressures you have faced (and indeed continue to face) due to inadequate price concessions, difficulties in sourcing stock, managing the rising costs in obtaining medicines; on top of the increasing challenges in staffing your pharmacies, and all whilst continuing to deliver high quality NHS services and care to patients.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members who have represented Derbyshire contractors over the year, in particular our Treasurer, Darryl Dethick, who ensures we continue to keep our accounts in good order and provide contractors with value for money; our Support Officer Katherine Newman, and our CPCS Engagement Officer, Chris Kerry who has worked tirelessly to develop relationships and improve GP and contractor engagement with the CPCS service. I would also like to thank Dr Tania Cork, our out-going Chief Officer, for all that she has done to support me, the committee and contractors over the year 22-23.

There is however one committee member who deserves a special mention who, after many, many years of service and support, has stepped back from LPC duties this year, Peter Cattee. Peter has been a knowledgeable, supportive and much respected member of our committee and we will certainly miss him. I would like to thank Peter for his commitment and for all the contributions he has made. We are extremely grateful for all he has done for both our committee and contractors across Derby-Derbyshire and we wish him well in his continued work with CPE (PSNC).

Our new committee has now formed and from 1st July it comprises of 12 members (previously 15). I am pleased to welcome Nick Hunter as our new Chief Officer and strategic lead. Many of you may know Nick from his work with Nottingham LPC and we hope that in working together more efficiently we can deliver excellent value for our contractors. We have also secured funding to support the engagement of Amanda Alamanos, who will be supporting contractors and pharmacy teams with the implementation and delivery of existing and new services over the next 12 months. Between them, they will be ensuring that we are strongly represented.

Finally, going forwards into 2023-2024, I would like to welcome all new committee members and reassure contractors that we will continue to work hard and provide you with as much support as possible. We intend to build on the good relations that we have with local key stakeholders and do our utmost to ensure that community pharmacy is properly recognised and respected within local primary healthcare. We will continually and pro-actively be seeking out new funding opportunities and will do what we can to ensure contractors are fairly remunerated for the services they provide.

Andrea Smith

Chair, Community Pharmacy Derbyshire.