

Minutes of the meeting of Community Pharmacy Durham and Sunderland (CPD&S) held on 19 March 2026 at Ramside Hall Hotel and Spa, Durham

**In attendance:**

Emma Morris  
 Andrea Dickinson  
 Mukarrom Hussain  
 Paul Arnett  
 Joy Cooper  
 Derek Roberts (joined at 10.45)  
 Ian Mensforth  
 Rob Pitt  
 Geraint Morris (joined at 11.30)  
 Lee Middleton  
 Adam Morris  
 Greg Burke  
 Sami Hanna

**Empharma sponsored the subsistence and room hire associated with this meeting.**

LPC/019/2026	Apologies for absence: Raminder Sihota, Jamie Rotherham and Ann Gunning.
LPC/020/2026	<b>Introduction:</b> Emma introduced the meeting and reminded members of the Nolan Principles and if appropriate, to declare any interests. Adam was welcomed to his first meeting.
LPC/021/2026	John Thornton delivered a promotional presentation on behalf of Empharma.
LPC/022/2026	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2026</b> The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. <b>Action: Greg to upload to the CPDandS website.</b>
LPC/023/2026	<b>Review of action log</b> The meeting reviewed the action log, updating as appropriate. There was a discussion about the number of inappropriate referrals from NHS 111, in particular in Bishop Auckland. <b>Action: Joy to discuss with Geraint and agree the most appropriate format for reporting the issue.</b>
LPC/024/2026	<b>CPDandS officer posts 2026/27</b> Emma was endorsed as chair, Paul as vice chair and Lee as treasurer. <b>Action: Greg to include a news article on the CPDandS website.</b>
LPC/025/2026	<b>CPE report – Sami Hanna</b> Sami delivered a strategic overview in relation to the ongoing CPCF negotiations. The details are recorded separately.
LPC/026/2026	<b>Sunderland City Council (SCC) Public Health pharmacist – Andy Reay</b> Introductions were made. Andy informed the meeting that he is contracted to provide a service one day per week for SCC. He talked about the work he has completed in relation to PGDs and his interest in Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs). Geraint asked Andy to try to educate council colleagues on the extensive services provided by community pharmacy. Rob made the point that community pharmacy can really

	<p>support councils with their public health agendas on the proviso that the services are appropriately funded.</p> <p>Andrea mentioned that CGL has raised the possibility of introducing a naloxone service however Andrea understands that providers would only be paid if an injector was used. There is a clear financial risk to pharmacies with this suggestion.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the proposed LARC service; this has now moved on to the possibility of DEPO.</p> <p>It was agreed that Greg would liaise with Andrea and Andy to organise a visit to Andrea's pharmacy. <b>Action: Greg</b></p> <p>The meeting thanked Andy for his attendance.</p>
LPC/027/2026	<p><b>RSG/TAPR effectiveness Review survey</b></p> <p>The meeting completed the survey and submitted to CPE via MS forms.</p>
LPC/028/2026	<p><b>Neighbourhoods review/updates</b></p> <p>Geraint provided a brief account of ongoing work around neighbourhoods. There has been little substantive progress though he cautioned that LPCs need to maintain a watching brief and ensure that community pharmacy obtains a "seat at the table". <b>Action: Geraint</b></p>
LPC/029/2026	<p><b>NENC ICB Medicines Optimisation</b></p> <p><b><i>Medicines strategy 2024-2030 and Prescribing Outcomes scheme 2026-27.</i></b></p> <p>Members had received copies with the meeting papers and the latter has been circulated to all community pharmacies within the NENC ICB.</p> <p>Geraint mentioned that more things are being reviewed by the ICB, LPCs need to remain vigilant.</p> <p>He also mentioned that NENC ICB has a Head of Pharmacy whilst other ICBs do not.</p> <p>Sami briefed members on Shivam Maini's (ICB Medicines Optimisation team) attendance at the meeting of Gateshead and South Tyneside LPC on 12 March. Shiv had indicated at that meeting that he has aspirations to produce an incentive scheme for community pharmacies and that he would be approaching pharmacies for ideas for inclusion in such a scheme.</p>
LPC/030/2026	<p><b>Governance subgroup</b></p> <p>Andrea took the meeting through the checklist highlighting what the LPC needs to do to comply with the CPE self-assessment document.</p> <p>Andrea confirmed that all members/officers have submitted their completed skills matrix returns.</p> <p><b>Action: Subgroups to RAG rate their workplans. Greg to upload to the CPDandS website.</b></p> <p>Greg reminded everyone of the requirement to complete the Declaration of Interest and Members' Confidentiality forms; links were included on the agenda.</p> <p><b>Action: All</b></p>
LPC/031/2026	<p><b>Nomad box medication dispensing in Sunderland</b></p> <p>Greg had circulated to members a copy of an email he had received from Pradeep Chockalingam, Falls Prevention co-ordinator at Sunderland City Council. Pradeep was seeking clarification regarding current arrangements for nomad box dispensing in Sunderland. Members discussed the content of the email and arrangements in Sunderland. Greg informed members of the comments received from Raminder via email. Members agreed that the Disability Discrimination Act assessments are a significant factor and that it is a business decision as to</p>

	<p>whether pharmacies do or do not provide NOMAD dispensing. Geraint reminded the meeting that it is not a commissioned service. Members agreed that we need Pradeep to provide additional information before CPDandS can provide a definitive response. <b>Action: Greg to request additional detail from Pradeep.</b></p>
LPC/032/2026	<p><b>Communications subgroup</b></p> <p>At its most recent meeting the communications subgroup agreed to recommend to the committee that the format of the 25/26 Annual Report should mirror that of the reports in 23/24 and 24/25; the committee agreed with this recommendation. <b>Action: Greg to draft the Annual Report.</b></p> <p>Greg informed the meeting that responses to the engagement event and hosting MP visits surveys had been minimal.</p> <p>The meeting completed and submitted the CPE communications survey via MS forms.</p> <p>There was a detailed discussion about media training. Rob is a strong advocate for this and improving LPC marketing/comms in general; suggesting that this could be a regional initiative. Greg was tasked with sourcing and contacting media agencies which may be able to develop a media strategy and support the LPC(s) with its/their comms and marketing. <b>Action: Greg</b></p> <p>There was a discussion about members access to the LPC Members section of the CPE website; some members had their login details, others did not. <b>Action: Greg to send a list of LPC members and their email addresses to CPE and request that all members are provided with/reminded of their login details.</b></p> <p>Greg briefed members on his discussions with Durham County Council (DCC) and Sunderland City Council (SCC) with regards to liaising on communications around community pharmacy. DCC has been receptive, SCC less so.</p> <p>Greg is exploring a community pharmacy marketing partnership with Sunderland University; initial discussions have been positive.</p>
LPC/033/2026	<p><b>Services subgroup</b></p> <p><b>ABPM update</b></p> <p>Greg and Paul reported that a couple of ABPMs have been returned owing to lack of use; these have now been reassigned. The Subgroup is keeping an eye on returns provided by pharmacies which have the LPC funded ABPMs.</p> <p>Ian delivered a presentation on the Pharmacy services/income application he is developing; there was consensus that it is a great piece of work and, when completed, will be very useful to pharmacies. Ian was encouraged to claim for the time he spends on development. <b>Action: Ian to complete his work. Greg and Ian to liaise with regards to loading the finished article on the CPDandS website.</b></p> <p>There was a discussion about the offer from Dr Susan Ralph and Pam Murgatroyd of hosting Pharmacy Contraceptive service masterclasses across the ICB. North of Tyne and Cumbria LPCs are supportive, the sessions would be sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. Members were supportive of the idea however suggested that rather than hosting all the sessions on Sundays, some of them are held during the week as some technicians/pharmacists may prefer that. <b>Action: Greg to feed this back.</b></p>

	<p>Members had received copies of the documentation relating to the DCC flu staff vaccination service and noted the content.</p> <p>Members also discussed the proposed Durham chlamydia test and treat service (members had received copies of the documentation as provided by Claire Jones). Members had comments in relation to the fee structure e.g. reimbursement prices for items provided should be linked to the Drug Tariff prices. <b>Action: Greg to provide feedback to Claire Jones.</b></p> <p><b>Action for Ann: Adam to be included in the membership of the services subgroup.</b></p>
LPC/034/2026	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>Forum of LPC chairs on 11 March</b> Emma had provided feedback earlier in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Executive team meeting on 9 March</b> Greg, Paul, Lee and Geraint briefed members on the discussions at that meeting. Many of the topics had been included in the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p><b>Regional LPC ((RLPC) meeting</b> A recent virtual meeting of the RLPC had hosted a discussion between members and David Gibson and Jonathan Foster from NHS England. It was in response to the RLPC letter regarding problems with the Foundation Pharmacist programme. Sami reported that he had discussed the issues experienced in the North East with CPE colleagues, they reported that they had encountered similar problems.</p> <p><b>PSNE Ltd</b> Greg updated members with regards to PSNE Ltd assuming the management responsibility for Sunderland NRT, stop smoking and sexual health services with effect from 1 March. Paul and Greg also confirmed that PSNE Ltd had once again agreed to withhold payment of management fees to LPCs to ensure there are sufficient funds to pay contractors.</p> <p>Members noted the content of Greg's written report.</p> <p>Geraint delivered a verbal report.</p>
LPC/035/2026	<p><b>Any other business</b> The meeting discussed the content of an email received from a contractor regarding lack of engagement with PCS from its local surgery and also prescription intervals. <b>Action: Greg to draft a reply, check the content with a cohort of members and then send to the pharmacy.</b></p> <p>With regards to a venue for CPDandS meetings Greg was tasked with sourcing alternatives to the Ramside. Members had issues with the level of catering, the cost and, significantly, poor wi-fi reception. <b>Action: Greg</b></p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 @ Ramside Hall Hotel. Start time: 09.30</b></p>