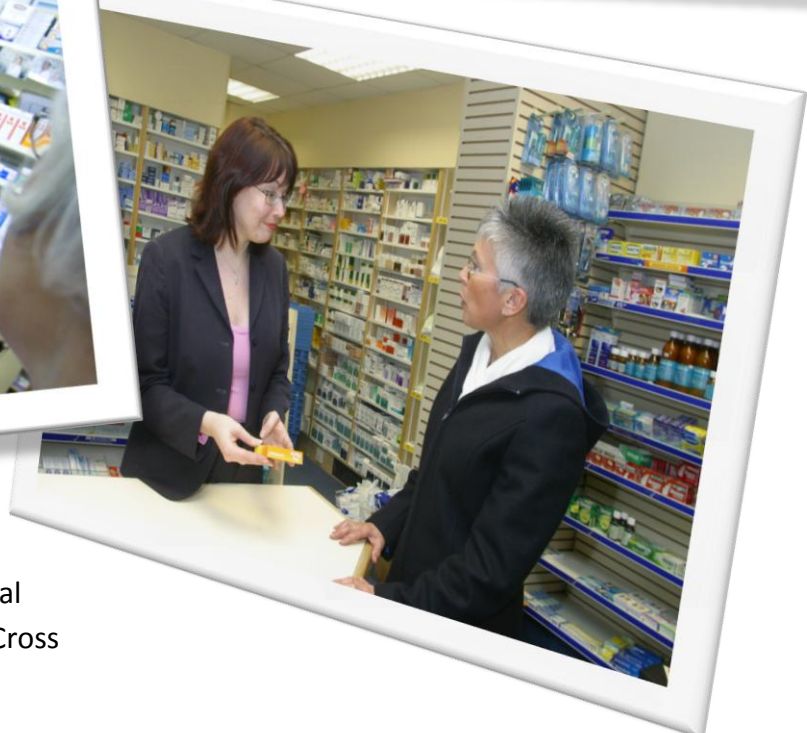


February 2011

Cross Party Group on Pharmacy in the National Assembly for Wales: **Getting the Best from NHS Resources: Priorities for Pharmacy in Wales**



Report prepared by the Welsh Directorate of the Royal
Pharmaceutical Society on behalf of the chair of the Cross
Party Group on Pharmacy

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
CROSS - PARTY GROUP ON PHARMACY

Meeting at 6.15pm on Tuesday 15th February 2011, Media Briefing Room, The Senedd,
Cardiff Bay

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introduction**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Getting the best from NHS Resources: Priorities for pharmacy in Wales**
 - a. Manifesto presentation by CPW
 - b. Manifesto presentation by RPS
 - c. Common pharmacy messages
- 4. Any Other Business**
- 5. Dates of Future Meetings**
- 6. Close of Meeting**

Cross Party Group on Pharmacy

Getting the Best from NHS Resources: Priorities for Pharmacy in Wales

1. Welcome and introductions

Jonathan Morgan AM, Chair of the Group, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Cross Party Group on Pharmacy for 2011. Introductions were made and the Chair explained that the meeting would hear from the representatives of Community Pharmacy Wales and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on their manifestos and how they would like to engage with the NHS to make the best use of the professional expertise of pharmacists and pharmacy services.

2. Attendance and apologies for absence

See appendix A.

3. Getting the best from NHS Resources: Priorities for pharmacy in Wales

The Chair invited Russell Goodway to present to the meeting on the key issues within their manifesto.

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW): Russell Goodway, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy Wales outlined their manifesto and explained that:

- The pharmacy contract is an England and Wales contact with at present no specific Welsh focus, but that in future this may not necessarily be the case as the health agendas are now different in the two countries.
- Pharmacy has a key role in supporting the Governmental agenda of prevention and the 707 community pharmacies are essentially high street health centers that can support this role.
- The CPW manifesto gives 6 key reasons why the next Welsh Assembly Government needs to support community pharmacy:
 - A Lifelong Relationship
 - Medicine Experts, Trusted Professionals
 - The Health Centre on Every High Street
 - A Readily Available National Health Asset

- Economic Dynamism
- A Cost Effective Partner ie from 1st Oct 2010 to 31st March 2011 it is anticipated that £11 million will be returned to the NHS in Wales through the purchasing power of community pharmacy
- The CPW manifesto gives £95 Million reasons to support community pharmacy :
 - Medicines Management could save £10M,
 - Minor ailment scheme could save £30M,
 - Medicines Reconciliation could save £5M,
 - Reducing waste could save £50M (=£95M)
- The scandal of medicines that are prescribed but never taken is one that can be tackled through medicine management initiatives that are delivered through community pharmacy.
- If community pharmacy is supported to deliver prevention, self care services etc through the NHS then there is a shift in workload from the surgery to the pharmacy. NHS care should be about seeing the right professional at the right time with direct to pharmacy referrals from other health professionals. Currently National Enhanced Services have not been developed to support these roles and there needs to be shift in thinking and planning to make this happen in the future.
- 2010 has seen a poor uptake of the flu vaccination programme especially in the under 65 at risk group i.e. the working population. This at risk group people should be supported to obtain vaccination at a time a place convenient to their working lives and community pharmacy is ideal for this service.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society: Nuala Brennan, Chair of the Welsh Pharmacy Board of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, highlighted:

- That provision of pharmacy services goes beyond community pharmacy and that NHS Wales should be using the whole of pharmacy services more intelligently and interactively.

- The new Health Board structures are set up to allow professions to work across the interfaces and support patients throughout their care journey; pharmacy has always been a cross sector profession.
- Pharmacy provides a front line clinical service both on the high street and on the ward, and it should be protected in times of economic difficulties. It is worrying that there appears to be a trend of pharmacy posts not being filled and unacceptable time delays to fill vacant posts. These tactics may save money today but come at the cost of patient safety.
- Time spent talking to and counseling patients is a very important part of a pharmacist's role. The more workforce pressure imposed by the NHS on pharmacists the more this is eroded. Pharmacy services in all sectors need to be redesigned to shift the focus from the supply function to supporting the patient.
- Pharmacists are ideally placed to take on the public health role of vaccination but need the support of the NHS planners to do so.
- To provide the best care for patients the NHS needs to consider patient registration with a pharmacist. This would enable a pharmacist to take ownership of pharmaceutical care provision for patients with chronic conditions, the monitoring requirement for their drugs, their repeat medication and shared patient information with the GP colleagues.

In summary

Medicine waste is costing the NHS in the region of £50 million per year; one of the major causes of this is that up to 50% of patients don't take their medicines as intended. This not only leads to waste, but harm to the patient, with up to 5% of acute admission to hospital due to problems with medicines. To put this in context this is comparable to the number of admissions due to cancer, the difference being, many of the admissions due to medicines are avoidable.

Studies in hospital have shown that errors in 5% of medication orders lead to serious errors and in 2% of cases these are potentially fatal. Reassuringly, the studies also show that these potential errors are prevented from reaching the patient through the intervention of pharmacists. There are no comparable figures for the busier community pharmacy sector but it is not difficult to imagine they would be considerable higher.

Therefore is this really the time to disinvest in pharmacists, pharmacists' time and the services they provide?

Now is the time to invest in pharmacy and pharmacy services , politicians, and the NHS need to be planning and investing in pharmacists time and expertise in a coordinated effort across the whole of the NHS to improve medicines safety.

Jonathan Morgan thanked the representatives for their contributions and insight and suggested that pharmacy now needs to focus the messages he had heard tonight and target the candidates for the forthcoming Welsh Assembly Election. Inviting a candidate to visit a Pharmacy is an excellent way for the politicians to engage with their constituents and see at first hand the value pharmacy offers in their community.

Following discussion it was **agreed** that:

- Pharmacy organisations would work together in lobbying prospective candidates and any newly elected politicians and government on pharmacy issues
- At the next pharmacy group pharmacy organisations will examine how improvements in pharmaceutical care can help to deliver the new Governments agenda.

4. Any other business

No other business was raised.

5. Next Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting and suggested the next meeting should be held mid June post the Assembly elections in May: date to be confirmed

Attendance at the Cross Party Group on Pharmacy (15 February 2011)

Jonathan Morgan AM (Chair)

Nick Ramsey AM

Paul Davies AM

Andrew R.T. Davies AM

Nick Ramsey AM

Veronica German AM

Cathryn Richards, Her Majesty's Prison Service, Swansea

Paul Gimson, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Nuala Brennan, Welsh Pharmacy Board

Mair Davies, Welsh Pharmacy Board

Richard Evans, Welsh Pharmacy Board

Russell Goodway, Community Pharmacy Wales

Jocelyn Parkes, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Leigh Jeffes, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Steve Simmonds, National Pharmacy Association

Paul Harris, Boots

Marie James, Community Pharmacy Wales

Apologies received:

Brian Gibbons AM

Val Lloyd AM

David Melding AM

Wendy Davies, Welsh Pharmacy Board,

Marc Donovan, Boots

Fiona Woods – Cardiff and Vale University LHB

Peter Jones Company Chemist Association

Enquiries

For further information or enquiries about the issues raised at the Cross Party Group on Pharmacy, please contact the Secretariat at:

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