

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the English Pharmacy Board - Open business

Minutes of the meeting held at 8th October 2020 at 9.30am virtually by ZOOM.

Present

Claire Anderson (Chair)
Sibby Buckle
Sandra Gidley
Thorrhun Govind
Tracey Thornley

Martin Astbury (Vice Chair)
David Carter
Brendon Jiang
Mahendra Patel
Andre Yeung
Tracey Thornley

Guests

Sue Kilby
Regan McCahill
Sean Scarbo

Industrial Pharmacists' Forum
BPSA, President (from 9.45am --11.30am)
BPSA (from 12 noon)

In Attendance

Paul Bennett
Robbie Turner
Ravi Sharma
Gail Fleming
Luigi (Gino) Martini
Heidi Wright
John Lunny
Amandeep Doll
Hanna Jenvey
Joseph Oakley
Corrinne Burns
Yvonne Dennington

Chief Executive
Director for Pharmacy and Member Experience
Director for England
Director of Education and Professional Development
Chief Scientist
Practice and Policy Lead for England
Public Affairs manager
Inclusion and Diversity Co-ordinator
Events Manager and Early Careers Programme Lead
Head of Assessment and Credentialling
Pharmaceutical Journal, RPS correspondent
Business Manager, England

Apologies

Hemant Patel
Ash Soni
Duncan Petty

20/67 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves and to use the chat facility or show the hand symbol if they wished to speak or contribute.

20/68 Apologies

Apologies were received from Hemant Patel, Ash Soni and Duncan Petty.

The Hospital Expert Advisory Group also gave apologies.

20/69 Declaration of Interests

The English Pharmacy Board noted the updated paper 20.10/EPB.03. Board members were reminded to send in any amendments to their declarations to YD and were also asked to state, in the interests of best practice, any declared interest at the start of the discussion to which it relates. Amendments from a number of board members were received in advance of the meeting and the interests have been updated accordingly and replaced on the website.

20/70 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020 circulated as paper 20.10/EPB.04 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

20/71 Matters arising not specifically included on the Open Business Agenda

20/51 – Collection of demographic data – This issue was discussed at the National Board Chairs' Forum and a paper will be taken to the November Assembly of the explored options and associated risks and costs of demographic data collection.

20/06 – RPS conference content group – still paused.

19/121 – member webinars ahead of EPB meetings – still paused.

20/72 COVID Response team (CRT) activity and next steps

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 20.10.EPB.06

The CRT has gone from strength to strength as a team and is now concentrating on the “2nd wave” of the pandemic with lots more work to be carried out on the advocacy front. It is to be noted that the government meetings that took place during the 1st wave are to be reinstated within the next couple of weeks.

There was some discussion on the next steps for the CRT which include:-

- There should be a continued focus on BAME risk assessments in order that the good work that has already been achieved is not lost.
- Weekly reports are useful but should only be produced if there is news or actions to report on – reports are not required in the weeks where there is little or no activity
- The wider remit of the group will include activities on Brexit

- HW has been invited onto a policy group on flu vaccinations and will feed back any intelligence. In addition to this the Science and Research team constantly horizon scan on current activity relating to vaccines. It was highlighted that we should be aware of learnings from other countries, such as Canada. FIP is doing work on this too which the RPS should be aware of. Pharmacists' role in vaccinations and their related patient care role should be highlighted.
- IPMO – integrating pharmacy with medicines optimisations is another area of work that should not be lost. The work done by the RPS Regional Liaison Pharmacists in 2019 should be revived as this is pertinent to this workstream. This work should be considered as part of the EPB business planning for 2021.
- Highlighting the pausing of public health services, ie health living pharmacies, prevention, etc and how these should be revived.
- Need to continue to push for increase the use of electronic repeat prescription across pharmacies and general practice.
Action 1 – AY to send current figures on ERP to HW
- Visuals during the Prime Minister's address to the Conservative Party Conference mentioned a pharmacist – this should be highlighted to members
- Homecare pharmacists – this is a significant area to be monitored, more complex patients are being moved into homecare, especially during this COVID period, with an increasing drug budget allocation – RS reported that there is an Aseptic Review taking place. RPS need to be cognisant of the Drug Review in the Public Sector Aug 2020 consultation. RS to follow up with HEAG.
Action 2 – SK to send contact details of the lead person on Homecare to RS
Action 3 – RS to follow up with HEAG on the Drug Review in the Public Sector Aug 2020 consultation

It was noted that other topics to be followed by CRT will include Brexit, FMD, Workforce, digital and medicines supply.

The NHS Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees in England have resumed their work with a National Meeting date arranged to reset the priorities for the committees. Information on the meetings will be shared at a future date.

It was highlighted that pharmacy is not involved in the recently convened Cancer Recovery Task Force, although pharmacy has a role to play in cancer recovery. In the contractual framework there is mention of pharmacy being involved in cancer management.

Further work on remote supervision will probably take place in the future when Government is in a position to deal with the legislation required.

The Chair thanked the Board for the useful discussion.

20/73 Inclusion and Diversity

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 20.10.EPB.07.

AD gave a short recap of the work that has been going on within the I&D workstream. Some of the key themes that are emerging for the RPS are:-

- RPS needs to take more of an advocacy role and hold other organisations to account to think more broadly about inclusion and diversity
- Address the lack of inclusion and diversity in leadership roles. Currently working on a metric to measure this.
- Leaders can do more on authentic leadership – reflecting on their own biases.
- Looking at how we can do more to empower individuals to raise discrimination in a safe way.
- Looking at ways to collect more EDI data.
- Does the RPS need to look at its own membership model to be more inclusive? – eg including technicians.

Action 1: TT offered to put AD in touch with the Boots working group on I&D.

This issue of students and the awarding gap was raised. Currently there are discussions going on between GPhC and the Pharmacy Schools' Council on this issue.

Discussion continued on the terminology used for this workstream with the suggestion that the emphasis should focus on “inclusivity”.

There are plans to review the supporting paperwork for the board elections to ensure the language reflects inclusion and diversity. There will be a focus for the 2021 elections on encouraging all members from all groups to put themselves forward as candidates. The BPSA said they will be interested in the mechanisms we use for RPS elections to replicate in their own elections to encourage a more diverse board.

Undergoing training in recognising bias was raised as something that should be widespread.

Action 2: TT offered to investigate whether the materials that are used in her organisation can be shared.

The next meeting of the ABCD group will take place on 27th October, followed by one in December and 2 monthly thereafter.

The Chair thanked AD for the fantastic work she is doing on I&D.

20/74 Early Careers Pharmacists Programme

HJ gave the board an update saying that the programme had been due to conclude at the end of September but due to the work on the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) the work had come to an abrupt pause. A report on the findings of the programme will be produced in the next few weeks giving board members the opportunity to feed back.

Initiatives that have come from the programme include improved website search, a re-organising of RPS guidance enabling search engines to find guidance more easily, archiving old guidance that is no longer relevant. There is to be a new monthly webinar series led by the education team on the life cycle of medicines. There is also a new careers support hub page.

Testimonials will be displayed on the web page and board members were asked for their help in obtaining these from members.

The programme will now transfer into business as usual.

Action: RS to send link to HJ of the FIP YPG new careers resources.

20/75 Science and Research update

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 20.10.EPB.09.

LGM gave a short update saying that his team process around 100 pieces of data weekly, which helps inform the work of the various directorates of the Professional Leadership Body. This information is greatly valued by all and it is a function of the Science and Research team that will continue. The team also assist with the construction of surveys and the data analysis.

The Industrial Pharmacists' Forum has now been disbanded and a new Industrial Pharmacists' Advisory Group has been formed and will report into the Science and Research Committee. Recruitment of a chair and members is currently underway and is generating a lot of interest.

Science and Research committee – Christine Bond's tenure as Chair will expire at the end of the year. The process for the recruitment of a new chair is underway and the advert will be published in the near future.

A vaccine toolkit has been produced by the team with the help of the PJ. The last slide of the 10 slide pdf gives the temperatures at which various vaccines will need to be stored.

The Chair thanked LGM and his team for the work they have been doing. She also thanked Sue Kilby for the work she had done on behalf of the Industrial Pharmacists' Forum. SK will be a member of the newly formed Industrial Pharmacists' Advisory Group.

20/76 Education Update

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 20.10.EPB.10.

GF gave a short update on items not contained in the paper.

- CPCS – 1st training session had gone well on the evening of 5th October – 5 cohorts of 24 pharmacists had undertaken the session – feedback so far has been good. Board members were asked to promote and support the programme. There is a trial offer for the first 4 weeks of receiving a free Medicines Complete on

completion of the 2 sessions – this offer will be evaluated with Pharmaceutical Press to assess the impact.

- Education and Standards Committee – Peter Kopleman’s tenure draws to a close at the end of the year – the advert for a new chair will be published on Monday, 12th October.
- Credentialling – a new member of staff has been recruited on a fixed term contract to lead this – starting at the beginning of November.
- Consultant Level Posts – Since the launch of the approval of posts we have received 17 applications – this is a good development – a number of the posts have been in primary care. This is a great increase on the 100 existing posts.
- Consultant pharmacists credentialling – this is on track for end of October. Working closely with the mentorship team, as one of the tenets of the proposed model is to have a mentor. Pharmacists to be encouraged to get on the programme so they are “consultant ready” for when posts become available.
- HEE Interim Foundation programme – current interim programme in train – RPS provided the curriculum along with the e-portfolio platform and a dedicated support desk.

There was some discussion on the uptake of the e-portfolio. Currently about half of the co-hort are using the platform. There will be an evaluation undertaken of usage to assess how it is being used. It was suggested that we have an opportunity to offer more support to this group between now and Q1 2021 when they will sit their exam.

The Chair thanked GF and her team for the good work that has been undertaken.

20/77 RPS “New Normal”

The English Pharmacy Board noted papers 20.10.EPB.11 (i), (ii) and (iii).

HW gave a short update saying that there have been some policy wins on the policy asks. Paper (ii) sets these out. The team are continuing to progress the policy asks within the document. Discussion continued around the opportunities to work with FIP as they are doing similar work internationally, and it could be beneficial to use their networks and global evidence to support the aims of the RPS.

The RPS Independent Prescribing short life working group has met twice. The team are now at the stage to develop a report and project plan with accompanying briefing papers. An early win to take forward is the development of a peer support group. Work is commencing in this area. There was some discussion on how to bring the legacy workforce up to speed, not leaving them behind, whilst it was recognised that not all pharmacists will want to be prescribers. The issue of DMPs was also raised regarding capacity, funding, matching and time allocation, this is currently the subject of live conversations.

The mental health and wellbeing survey will be closing on 12th October. It is hoped to achieve 1000 respondents which will aid the comparative analysis with last years’ survey. The Science and Research team will be conducting the analysis and will share a draft report as soon as possible.

RS summed up by asking if the direction of travel for work in the “new normal” is pitched at the right level and welcomed any comment on this. Board members supported the direction of travel highlighting the need for the RPS to continue to listen and respond to pharmacists and their teams. The RPS needs to continue to lobby Government for the recognition of pharmacists and to get them included as part of the NHS, including full access to the occupational health scheme on offer to NHS workers. Anyone who delivers an NHS contract should be supported.

20/78 Key Messages

The key messages for the pharmaceutical journal are:-

- RPS is committed to the wellbeing of pharmacists and pharmacy teams.
- We are committed to our Governance Boards better reflecting the composition of our members
- RPS is committed to responding to the needs of members and the profession throughout winter and the covid19 pandemic

20/79 Any other business

There was no other business to report.

20/80 Close of meeting

The Chair thanked the visitors for attending and asked them to leave the ZOOM call to allow confidential business to continue. The meeting closed at 12.25pm

20/81 Dates of next meetings

The next English Pharmacy Board meetings will be held on:

- 3 February 2021
- 22 June 2021 (induction and working day)
- 23 June 2021
- 23 September 2021