

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Primary Care Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group (PCPEAG)

July 2021 to September 2022 Activity Report

Background

The PCPEAG was convened in the summer of 2021 and held its first meeting on 26th July 2021. It has met roughly quarterly on Tuesday evenings since with a total of 5 meetings to date. From an initial membership of 18, there have been 3 pharmacists leave (2 joining the RPS board, and 1 taking on a role in another sector) and 2 pharmacy technicians join. The current 17 members include representation from across the three nations from those working in primary care or community services. The terms of reference can be viewed alongside current members [here](#).

On inception of the group, members were asked what their top priorities for the first 6 to 12 months would be. There was clear consensus around the need to raise the profile of primary care roles. The group were also keen to support sharing best practice using the group.

The work of the group to date has been mapped below against the key deliverables as laid out in the terms of reference.

Outcomes and Deliverables

The outcomes and deliverables from the current terms of reference are show below with the work of the group to date

Draw on evidence to deliver system wide leadership, supporting the RPS national boards on matters affecting Primary Care Pharmacy teams

- Defining/ influencing the place of pharmacy in ICS in NHS England - regular RPS meetings with leads
- Feeding back concerns around RPS advisory board decision making
- Commenting on the RPS board workplan
- Discussing utilisation of RPS advanced/ consultant frameworks in primary care and ways to support engagement with this
- Discussing RPS national board 10 year visions and contributing to the current creation of Vision for professional pharmacy practice in England
- Discussing role of primary care in pharmacogenomics and how to get involved
- Defining primary care priorities in relation to RPS independent prescribing
- Contributing to RPS policy on sustainability

Provide expertise to help create coherent professional responses to emergent Primary Care Pharmacy issues across England, Scotland and Wales

- Defining priority issues for RPS support during COVID-19

- Contributing to RPS response on pharmacists issuing fit notes
- Discussing '[Integrating additional roles into PCNs \(Kings Fund\)](#)' to identify learning
- Contributing to RPS response to the Fuller Stocktake on development of ICS
- Contributing to RPS statement around protected learning time

Work with other RPS groups (e.g., advisory groups, country teams and comms) to align activity and support the delivery of RPS mission and vision

- Promoting our roles via 7 blogs to date from members shared via [RPS website and social media](#)
- Delivering [career webinars](#)
- Developing a PCN pharmacy lead network

Support the ongoing work of RPS in Primary Care and the provision of learning opportunities for primary care pharmacy teams.

- Supporting RPS conference design
- Contributing to Content Advisory Board to inform programme of live events

Communicate the work of the expert advisory group to internal and external stakeholders

- Sharing of minutes and actions on the RPS website (since March 2022 meeting).
- Ensuring meetings are open to observers (since June 2022 meeting).

Lead and encourage membership of RPS across the Primary Care Pharmacy workforce

- Ongoing via members communication channels such as twitter

Lead, support the development and encourage discussion of a future 'RPS primary care pharmacy network'

- PCPEAG utilised wider connections to support peer discussion on professional/ restorative supervision in March 2022
- Awaiting launch of RPS connect for wider connections

Summary and Next Steps

The group have contributed significantly to RPS guidance and responses to system and policy changes over the past year.

The group will continue to respond as and when in an advisory role to RPS around key matters.

I would like to thank all the group members for their contributions to date. On behalf of the group I would also like to thank past members Euan Maule, Brendon Jiang and Holly Stokes for their contributions during their tenure.

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