

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Community Pharmacy North East Central (CPNEC) held on 11 January 2024 at 19.00 @ Bowburn Hall, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5NH.

**In attendance:**

Emma Morris  
 Paul Arnett  
 Kathryn Brown  
 Rob Pitt  
 Jamie Rotherham  
 Lee Middleton  
 Ian Mensforth  
 Claire Thoms  
 Derek Roberts  
 Ann Gunning  
 Geraint Morris  
 Greg Burke  
 Rob Severn, CCA  
 James Wood, Director of member and LPC support, Community Pharmacy England (CPE)  
 Sami Hanna, CPE Northern Representative

This evening event combined the AGM with an information/training event. James Wood and Sami Hanna (CPE) delivered a presentation and participated in a Q & A. Dr Cindy Kelly (GP) delivered a clinical skills training session which included a practical element. Attendees were able to practise using otoscopes, provided at the meeting by CPNEC. Over 100 people attended.

LPC/001/24	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Raminder Sihota
LPC/002/24	<p><b>Presentations of the financial statements of Community Pharmacy County Durham (CPCD) and Sunderland LPC (SLPC).</b></p> <p>With agreement from CPE, CPNEC had decided to defer its AGM to allow time for work to be concluded in relation to the bank accounts of CPCD and SLPC. CPNEC contractors had been provided with copies of the financial statements, and a voting slip, in accordance with the terms of the constitution. Some contractors had voted on the content of the accounts ahead of the AGM; all had approved the content. At the meeting, Sunderland representatives who had authority to vote on behalf of their contractor, were asked to vote; all voted to approve the content. This process was replicated for CPCD pharmacies with the same outcome.</p> <p>The AGM noted the results and formally approved the content of both financial statements. <b>Action: Greg to post the statements on the CPNEC website and send copies to CPE.</b></p>

LPC/003/24	<p><b>Clinical Skills session – delivered by Dr Cindy Kelly.</b> This comprised a presentation, Q &amp; A and practical session involving the use of an otoscope.</p>
LPC/004/24	<p><b>Community Pharmacy England (CPE) – James Wood, Director of Member and LPC support and Sami Hanna, CPE North East Representative</b> James delivered a presentation, the content included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current climate</li> <li>▪ Negotiations for 2024/25</li> <li>▪ Recovery Plan Deal</li> <li>▪ What’s been agreed</li> <li>▪ How we got there and some context</li> <li>▪ Implementation and practical information</li> <li>▪ Changes at CPE and for LPCs</li> <li>▪ Question and discussion</li> </ul> <p>It was a wide-ranging presentation acknowledging the serious challenges faced by the profession. James outlined the work being done by CPE to help the profession meet the challenges; it’s impossible to underestimate the pressure felt by contractors. Margin changes were covered in some detail. Background to the Recovery Plan deal was provided. There was an acknowledgement that the £645m will not solve all the problems in the sector and there is a huge amount of work to be done. CPE will call for an increase in core funding in the next round of negotiations, work is ongoing behind the scenes already to influence that, such as work with MPs and others. As part of its asks for 2024-25, CPE, in addition to the funding, will be asking for an improvement to the price concession system and an easing of the workload. James covered the Pharmacy First service, including the 7 clinical pathways and how the payment system will work. The hypertension case finding and Pharmacy Contraception service were also covered. James and Sami signposted those present to the suite of resources already available for the services on the CPE website; more will be rolled out as they are developed. The presentation concluded with a section describing the Governance changes at CPE and LPCs.</p> <p>During the Q &amp; A that followed delegates posed a number of questions, some of which were challenging and verbalised the real concerns being felt by many contractors across the area.</p>