

Community Pharmacy Dorset Committee Meeting Minutes Online



Thursday 9th July 2026

Attendees

Mike Hewitson (MH), Steve Costello (SC), Roger Mitchell (RgM), Richard Brown (RB), Keith Ndlovu (KN), Ellen Wood (EW), Juliana Bridle (JBr), Fiona Arnold (FA) attended to give her update at 9:30am.

Apologies

Gaby Nagy (GN)

Meeting started at 9:00am

The July committee meeting of Community Pharmacy Dorset covered updates on the new NHS contract, ICB structure changes, and operational activities. Mike provided an update on the CPE roadshow where contractors discussed concerns about the IP element and implementation timelines, noting that the projected October rollout appears optimistic. Fiona announced significant organizational changes. The committee discussed concerns about rising generic drug prices impacting contractor cash flow, with Mike agreeing to provide a briefing on the financial implications for senior management. Mandy presented updates on pharmacy visits and pathway engagement, reporting improved self-referral numbers and threshold payments, with approximately 70 contractors now hitting either lower or higher threshold payments. Richard provided an update on PCN meetings and independent prescribing initiatives, highlighting the success of the Teach and Treat program securing £70,000 in funding for IP training.

CPE Roadshow Update Meeting

The committee meeting began with technical difficulties as several members experienced login issues. The group reviewed and approved minutes from the previous meeting, with Richard noting the need to remove specific financial figures from future meeting minutes to prevent potential scams. Mike provided an update on the CPE roadshow, reporting that while there was general concern about the IP element of the contract, the projected October rollout timeline appeared optimistic, and discussions were ongoing about which conditions would be covered by prescribing-only pathways.

PCN Events and Applications Update

The meeting covered updates on PCN meetings, collaborative events, and committee dates for 2026-2027. The next PCN lead face-to-face event is scheduled for November 5th, pending venue confirmation, and the next collaborative event is set for January 21, 2027. The group discussed the PCN mapping document, deciding not to make it publicly available due to data protection concerns, but agreed to share it with PCN leads through a private channel. The meeting also reviewed market entry applications, noting 12 new applications since January 15, 2026, primarily due to business closures and changes of ownership.

ICB Pharmacy Leadership Updates

The meeting focused on updates regarding the new ICB structure and community pharmacy leadership changes. The committee discussed the positive impact of the new contract increases, though participants noted they still fall short of meeting needs. Fiona also mentioned that additional funding for community pharmacy CPCN leads work has been secured with a more flexible neighbourhood health lens approach, though there was discussion about tracking the invoice status for this funding.

Community Pharmacy Initiatives Update

Fiona updated the committee on several initiatives including a new Community Pharmacy Independent Prescribing Neighbourhood Programme, and efforts to increase access to Inclisiran through community pharmacies. She highlighted a national trend of shifting high-cost drugs from secondary to primary care, noting that PCSK9s are being moved in this direction, which will impact community pharmacies. Mike raised concerns about significant price increases in generics since January/February affecting contractors' cash flow and agreed to provide Fiona with information about the financial impact to add to the hub risk register.

Performance Updates

Mandy provided an update on pharmacy visits and pathway engagement, reporting that self-referral numbers have improved to consistently exceed 4,000 and occasionally reach 5,000, while GP referrals remain variable. The discussion highlighted that approximately 70 contractors are currently hitting threshold payments, with Mandy's visits helping to increase this number by about 30% year-on-year, resulting in an additional £12,000 monthly revenue for contractors.

Workforce Development Program Updates

Richard provided updates on workforce development initiatives, including progress with PCM meetings, IP training programs, and community pharmacy placements. He reported securing £70,000 in funding for the Teach and Treat program to train new IPs, with 35 pharmacists currently interested in IP training and 5 having confirmed applications for September or January. Richard also highlighted positive trends from the Community

Pharmacy Workforce Survey, including increased pharmacist and pharmacy technician numbers, and submitted a bid for £40,000 to fund 20 DPPs, awaiting final decision next month.

Team Update and Scheduling Discussion

The group had already received an update from Juliana, and the discussion transitioned to Jeanette's update. The conversation included brief exchanges between Mike, Roger, and Richard about timing and scheduling, but no specific decisions or action items were mentioned.

Pharmacy Services Progress Updates

Janette provided updates on two key pharmacy services: the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Hypertension Case Finding Service. For the contraception service, she reported positive growth in both EHC and ongoing supply, with particular success in Blandford pharmacies achieving a 60% reduction in oral contraceptive prescribing. The hypertension service continues to identify high cardiovascular risk patients through pharmacy readings, with Janette noting the significant number of high readings being detected month by month. She also announced that all PCN collaborative quarterly meetings will now include meeting summaries for attendees, and discussed ongoing support for PCN leads who are managing both pharmacy and leadership responsibilities.

Pharmacy Services Growth and Updates

Janette reported that pharmacy services showed strong growth in March with over 3,000 checks performed, including increased blood pressure monitoring and ABPM services, with the ABPM percentage more than doubling over the past two years. She updated on an enhanced supervised consumption service in Wimborne, where funding has been approved but one pharmacy has withdrawn, leaving only one participant. Roger inquired about PharmaOutcomes usage, with Janette estimating at least 10% of contractors may not be using it, though trends remain accurate despite data gaps. Richard explained he is working with Sejdin to establish a more robust data sharing system. Roger then presented the financial update, reporting the total cash reserves, and announced that first quarter results would be discussed at the next meeting due to incomplete finalization.

2026 Financial Accounts Approval Meeting

The committee reviewed and approved the 2026 financial accounts. Mike noted that the LPC has delivered significant value to contractors over nearly four years without increasing the contractor levy. The group agreed to gather annual statements from the chair, chief officer, and treasurer by the end of August, with the accounts to be sent to contractors before Richard's August 13th holiday. There was discussion about potentially combining the AGM with a special general meeting to vote on proposed constitutional changes from Community Pharmacy England.

Committee Constitution and Market Entry

The committee discussed two main items: the model constitution and a market entry application. For the constitution, Richard proposed handling minor tweaks via email rather than a meeting, with a simple majority required from committee members. Regarding the market entry application, the committee reviewed a proposal for Lawton Pharmacy to relocate from 358 Wimborne Road to 371 Wimborne Road, with no significant concerns raised about the move. Richard will draft a letter supporting the application and copy Juliana when sending it to PCSC.

ICB Liaison Group Proposal

The committee discussed the need for better alignment between the three ICBs (Somerset, Avon, and Dorset). Mike proposed creating a liaison group between the three LPCs to coordinate strategic priorities and communications. The group agreed this was a good idea with minimal budget impact, and Mike committed to approaching the other two LPCs to explore forming such a liaison group, with the goal of starting discussions about ways of working rather than immediate structural changes.

Community Pharmacy Vaccination Service Implementation

The meeting focused on the implementation of a new independent prescribing vaccination service, which will be delivered exclusively by community pharmacies rather than general practice. Mike explained that this strategic decision was made by the new Secretary of State for Health and represents a significant opportunity to demonstrate community pharmacy's capability in vaccination services. The group discussed the need for additional operational support, with Richard suggesting that a dedicated person with IP qualifications would be required, potentially working across Avon and Wilts for approximately 3 days per week. The discussion also covered concerns about the Pharmacy Access Scheme (PAS), with Roger highlighting that two Dorset pharmacies receive significant funding through this scheme. The group acknowledged that while the scheme may have issues, it serves a valuable purpose for government and will be maintained as a watching brief. Finally, the meeting addressed nomination issues, where Roger reported seeing legitimate and illegitimate transfers of patient nominations, though specific action items were limited for the LPC to address this concern.

Meeting concluded at 12.00pm

Next meeting will take place at the Brewery Tap, Blandford on Thursday 24th September.