

CPWY CONNECT...

WITH YOUR COMMITTEE



Welcome to the January 2021 CPWY Committee Blog!

2020 was a really challenging year for most pharmacy teams and I recognise that for many the challenges began at the announcement of the cuts to funding in 2016. These challenges are having personal impacts as well as impacts on pharmacy businesses. I know pharmacists who sadly felt the need to retrain into other professions; a pharmacist so overcome with stress she applied to work as a dispenser; several independent pharmacy colleagues became insolvent during the worst of the cuts to funding in 2019.

The CPWY team and committee recognise that these last few years have been tremendously stressful for contractors, their teams and families. I would urge as many of you as possible to attend this upcoming [CPWY Your Mind Matters Event](#). *I attended last year and found it very beneficial. We need to look after our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those who we work with.*

[Your Mind Matters Event - Tuesday 19th January 2021](#)

If you are feeling **overstretched, overwhelmed, demotivated, stressed and near burnout...** Join us for a virtual evening designed to help you and your team beat stress, lift your spirits and boost your wellbeing.

The event is free and open to all West Yorkshire pharmacy teams and is taking place on Tuesday 19th January 2021, 7.30pm - 9pm. Our aim is that your team will leave the event feeling:

- *Energised*
- *More resilient*
- *Happier in the workplace*
- *Inspired and motivated*
- *More confident*

If you wish to join us, you must register onto the event. You can book onto the event clicking the button below or clicking [here](#).

[Book Here!](#)

Despite all the challenges, community pharmacies have performed admirably across West Yorkshire and there has been recognition of this from the [Health Secretary](#) and [Prime Minister](#). Whilst applause and recognition are welcome there are dire warnings from [MPs too](#).

If you, like me, feel passionately about the situation for community pharmacy, I suggest that you contact your local MP to discuss our situation with them. When I approached our local MP, he was supportive and raised the issue in the media. It will take all of us as contractors to be proactive and raise these issues with our elected representatives – given the current climate they will not want to see further closures on our high streets and in our communities. PSNC has guidance and resources to help with [engaging with your MP](#). The [team at CPWY](#) can also help you with resources and information to include if necessary.

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[PSNC is in difficult negotiations](#) regarding financial support including waiving of the ‘advance payments’ that were made at the beginning of the pandemic. PSNC has now confirmed some important [dispensations](#) regarding contractual and PQS requirements which I urge all contractors to make themselves aware of. While this is a welcome step, PSNC is clear that community pharmacy needs significantly more. If you have not done so already, I recommend that you read the [PSNC CEO December Blog](#). It is helpful to be kept up-to-date on what PSNC is asking for.

There have been many frustrations during this pandemic, one by one these are being resolved: PPE, displaced patients, the impact of GPs providing significantly more care remotely, huge increase in workload via phone and over the counter. If you are being negatively impacted by the new ways of working of GP practices, CPWY would very much like to hear from you. We would also like to hear when you have had positive outcomes from working with your GP practice. Please send details to covid-19@cpwy.org.

You will be either delighted or apoplectic that Brexit has happened – whilst we all know that supply of medicines has been far from perfect (we had to make 5 lengthy calls for a single Sanofi product on New Year’s Eve), the situation may deteriorate during the transition period, it is important to report to PSNC any stock issues. Further, Brexit will mean that [FMD](#) no longer applies to pharmacies. The PSNC webpage on [EU Exit](#) is here.

Please report any supply issues and medicines shortages to PSNC using the [online forms](#).

- [Report product over Drug Tariff price](#)
- [Supply Issues](#)
- [Shortages](#)
- [Report Quota Issues](#)

Finally, whilst the next few months will continue to be challenging, it is clear that pharmacy has shown how important it is to the functioning of Primary Care. [The APPG report](#) makes clear that NHS leadership need to re-evaluate the importance of pharmacy – this gives me hope.

“(Pharmacy) Be like the cliff against which the waves continually break; but it stands firm and tames the fury of the water around it.” — Marcus Aurelius

It’s a corny quote but it really does remind me of the position pharmacy holds in Primary Care.

Happy New Year.

Adeel Sarwar

[Committee member](#) of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

CPWY Tribute and Thanks to West Yorkshire Community Pharmacy Teams

Community pharmacies in West Yorkshire have been working tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure patients and the public can continue to access their medicines. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire has created this tribute and thank you for all community pharmacy teams. You are all amazing! Thank you. The tribute can be found [here](#) and on twitter [here](#).

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Sign up to the PSNC mailing list to ensure you receive the weekly newsletters, alerts and updates [here](#). Sign up to our mailing list [here](#). Join [CPWY Connect](#) on the social media site Telegram and connect with pharmacy teams across West Yorkshire. Join by [clicking here](#).

Details of the CPWY Connect Zoom Events are on our website in the [training section here](#).

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire's Role: We recognise and understand how much you and your teams are having to cope with right now. Please remember, you are not alone at this time. We're here to support you, providing advice and information on COVID-19, as well as pushing to make sure your work is properly recognised and fully supported throughout this pandemic. You are our eyes and ears - please let us know of any problems and we will do our best to help.

For COVID-19 related issues email: covid-19@cpwy.org / For non-COVID-19 issues email: info@cpwy.org