

Welcome to the April 2021 CPWY Committee Blog!

If many of us had been told on the 23rd March 2020 that over one year on we would be still find ourselves within a national lockdown I'm sure we would have dismissed those claims. But we are finally on the brink of exiting a third (and hopefully final) lockdown after an unthinkable year, one which will undoubtedly change how we live for the foreseeable future.

It has been an incredibly challenging year for all of our pharmacy contractors, whether this is through an unprecedented increase in workload or a dramatic downturn in business. We have all been required to rapidly adapt and re-align our businesses to the ever-changing landscape we face and in particular the dramatic shift in patient needs we have experienced over the past twelve months.

One thing that has never been so apparent though is the importance the role of pharmacy clearly plays within our communities and healthcare network, with many patients now viewing us as their primary point of contact for both advice and service in response to how access to other services has changed. A point that will not only resonate with many contractors across West Yorkshire, but definitely with the patients, that we have continued to support through continued access through such challenging times. I truly believe that this speaks volumes for our profession, demonstrating and highlighting the continued role, care and dedication we offer to our patients, often silently over the previous years but not unnoticed by the loyal patients we have supported. The additional workload that this change has created is recognised by PSNC who is working hard to qualify the increase and [negotiate](#) on your behalf. Reading Simon Dukes, [PSNC CEOs, blogs](#) is a quick way of keeping up to date with PSNC and the work they are undertaking. CPWY is taking conversations forward within West Yorkshire to ensure that the response from community pharmacy, and the additional workload is being recognised. Indeed, we discussed this with the West Yorkshire CCGs at our [March committee meeting](#).

One thing that has never been clearer is the importance and need to work more collaboratively within our localities, opening two-way dialogue enabling us to provide the very best care for our patients. GP CPCS provides a great opportunity to begin this work and it is integral that we work with the other pharmacies in our PCNs to begin engaging and discussing with general practices how we can all locally achieve a successful rollout of the nationally commissioned service. One key point to remember when discussing GP CPCS with general practice – GP CPCS is about improving access for their patients. Take some time to familiarise yourself with the [new CPCS toolkit and updated service specification](#) available via [PSNC.org.uk](#).

In a year that has seen community pharmacy successfully support patients with an unprecedented number of flu vaccinations, we also saw many contractors supporting the national vaccination programme. Pharmacies were also asked to provide an additional Advanced Service, Pharmacy Connect, through the recently commissioned scheme that will see pharmacies providing lateral flow test kits to asymptomatic patients to support the NHS with a continued focus on test and trace. Again, the roll out of these services continue to echo and demonstrate the importance community pharmacies play within a primary care network in providing accessible treatments, service and advice to the general public across the England. Full service details are [available here](#).

Finally, I could not write this without extending a heartfelt **thank you** to you all! Your continued and unrelenting care for our communities is truly humbling. Keep safe and take care.

Thom Sargison

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](#).

*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