

The Role of the PCN Community Pharmacy Lead (PCN CP Lead)

The purpose of this document is to promote a common understanding of the purpose, responsibilities and limitations of the PCN Community Pharmacy Lead (PCN CP Lead) role.

Those undertaking the role of the PCN CP Lead do so on a voluntary basis and that the amount of time they are able to allocate undertaking the role and supporting the PCN work, will vary from individual to individual.

For clarity, the PCN CP Lead role is not a salaried position and receives no national funding, beyond the limits of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme which amounted to around £1400 in 2021/22 paid to support the undertaking of set tasks linked to the national Flu Vaccination Service.

There is no defined role for the PCN CP Lead. However, where possible the Leads are encouraged to:

- *Provide a single channel of engagement with the PCN, building collaborative working relationships with relevant PCN members.*
- *Provide a voice for community pharmacy within the designated PCN area. This may include attending PCN meetings.*

Note on Representation

Whilst the PCN CP Lead role may be available to provide a single point of contact for the PCN to and from community pharmacy contractors within the PCN, PCN CP Leads are not the representative for community pharmacy.

Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) are the representative body for community pharmacy contractors within an area. Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire (CPWY) is the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and as such is the representative of all community pharmacy contractors within West Yorkshire. Although CPWY is supporting the role of PCN CP Leads, the Leads themselves are not a formal part of CPWY and do not have the authority to represent community pharmacy.

Role Restrictions

- The PCN CP Lead does not represent community pharmacy contractors (but has a role in engagement within the PCN).
- The PCN CP Lead cannot make decisions on behalf of contractors. Any request or proposals made to community pharmacy contractors must be discussed with and approved by all contractors. CPWY may be able to assist with this if required.
- The PCN CP Lead is currently provided with a backfill allowance to attend the full PCN (or Community Partnership) meetings.
- If the PCN wishes to engage the PCN CP Lead to undertake tasks on its behalf, the PCN will need agree the terms of their engagement with the PCN CP Lead and may need to provide 'backfill' funding to allow locum pharmacist cover for the pharmacy, to allow that NHS services can continue to be provided during the PCN CP Leads absence from the pharmacy premises.
- PCN CP Leads are not authorised to agree new work, service structures or fees on behalf of pharmacy contractors. If a PCN CP Lead is presented with the suggestion of a new service or pharmacy undertaking a new task (i.e. not within the current pharmacy contractual framework) as part of discussions with their PCN, the PCN CP Lead needs to ensure they share this information with CPWY in the first instance, who will review the opportunity for viability and suitability. Viable service opportunities will then be discussed by CPWY with pharmacy contractors in the PCN to gauge potential provision by local contractors.

This could then allow CPWY to support the PCN CP Lead with any further conversations with the PCN about the opportunity.

- Competition Law – contractors must not agree to any practices/proposals which might be deemed anticompetitive.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the role of the PCN Community Pharmacy Lead in more depth, please contact Phil Wiles at Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire using email pcnsupport@cpwy.org or via mobile number 07793218060.