

Welsh National Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting 24 September 2026
OPEN BUSINESS

This meeting will be held in person at Royal College Offices, at 2pm 2 Ash Tree Court, Woodsy Close, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RW. And via the Microsoft Teams Meeting Link below: -

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OPEN BUSINESS AGENDA 24 September 2026 at 14.00

Item (approx. start time)	Subject	Purpose	Related papers/slides	Objective	Chair/or lead person
Members welcomed to the meeting					
1 (14.00)	Welcome and apologies	For noting	No paper	To note apologies	WPAC Chair Liz Hallett
	Declarations of Interest	For noting	24.09. WPAC 02		WPAC Chair Liz Hallett
	Minutes and matters arising		24.09. NPAC 03	To approve the minutes of the open National Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting held in June for England, Scotland and Wales and to discuss matters arising from these minutes	WPAC Chair Liz Hallett
2. (14.10)	Engagement Team and Ambassadors, and update on newly qualified pharmacists' membership offer	For Update	24.09. NPAC 05	An introduction to the Engagement Team and Regional Ambassadors, and to receive an update on the past and upcoming regional conferences. Update on the newly qualified pharmacists RC Pharm membership offer.	Neal Patel Head of Engagement Team
3. (14.40)	Guidance and Standards update	Verbal		Guidance and Standards update – Introduction from Emily Kennedy	Emily Kennedy Head of Guidance and Standards
4. (15.00)	Medicines Shortages		24.09. NPAC 06	To discuss progress on recommendations and next steps following on from the Medicines shortages: solutions for empty shelves — one year on report	WPAC Chair/Alwyn Fortune

5. (15.30)	G B Workplan		Verbal	Update on overview of G B Workplan	Alwyn Fortune Policy Lead
10 min coffee break 15.50					
6. (16.00)	Senedd Update	For noting	Verbal	To receive an update on the political landscape of the Senedd	Iwan Hughes Head of Public Relations
7.	Papers for noting	For noting	24.09.NPAC 10 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)	For the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils to note the following papers: (i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance	WPAC Chair
8. (16.15)	Key points for reporting to Royal College members – standing item	Discussion	Verbal	To highlight the key points from the meeting to be reported back to members	WPAC Chair
9. (16.20)	Any other business	For Noting		National Pharmacy Advisory Council Members should inform their respective Chair, National Director or Business Manager in writing at least 48 hours before the meeting of any matter that is to be raised under Any other Business.	WPAC Chair
Close of open business – 16.30					

September 2026

Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council Declarations of Interest

Aled Roberts

- Community Pharmacy Wales
- Various community pharmacy contractors via self-employed locum arrangements.

Dylan Jones

- HOW Pharm Ltd
- Jones Pharm 2 Ltd
- DL & CV Jones Agricultural Business
- RPS Wales Board Member
- AWMSG Community Pharmacy Representative
- Powys Independent Representative for Community Pharmacy Wales

Eleri Schiavone

- Head of Blood Donation Service: Welsh Blood Service. Velindre University NHS Trust
- Welsh Pharmacy Board member and RPS Assembly member
- Vice Chair of the Welsh Pharmacy Board
- Member of the RPS Audit & risk Committee
- Member of the European Blood Alliance Benchmarking Working Group
- Member of Unite the Union/Guild of Healthcare •Pharmacists.

Gareth Hughes

- GRH Pharma Ltd
- Director of GRH Pharma Ltd (t/a Tynewydd Pharmacy)
- Board Member of Community Pharmacy Wales
- Member of Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee
- Member of the Faculty of Clinical Informatics
- Community Pharmacy Cluster Lead for Rhondda
- Member of Community Pharmacy Microsoft Office 365 Project Board
- Member of the Pharmacists' Defence Association

Claire Clement

- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (employer)

Amy Jayham

- Swansea Bay University Health Board

Liz Hallett

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) - employer
- Deputy Member of Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee for ABUHB
- PCPA Primary Care Association Member
- NPCHF National Pharmacy Care Home Faculty Member
- AWPAG All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group Member
- All Wales Prison Pharmacist group
- All Wales Care Home
- Husband a Pharmacist National Informatics Lead for Pharmacy Community

Helen Davies

Current Substantive post:

- Principal Pharmacist for Primary Care; Medicines Optimisation. Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board from March 2018.
- Directly employed at Forest View Medical Centre, Treorchy for 1 day a week as a GP practice Pharmacist
- Paid webinar session provided for Celtic Conference by PM (Pharmacy management) October 2024

From March 2018 to February 2021

- HEIW teaching sessions – cardiology
- HEIW teaching sessions – primary care

Sessions from 2011 onwards

- Honoraria from BMS to be an expert speaker for anticoagulation teaching sessions and attendance at a masterclass 2018
- Swansea Bay UHB bank staff – NHS 111 evening sessions 2017
- Pfizer sponsorship to attend anticoagulant and cardiology conference 2018 and 2015
- Boehringer to assist a consultant cardiologist with an anticoagulant clinic 2015
- Expert review of materials for WCPPE 2014
- Cardiology teaching sessions for WCPPE in 2014

Cardiff University to provide cardiology teaching sessions 2008 until 2019

- Swansea University – assisting with undergraduate OSCEs, voluntary position
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board Representative for AWPAG
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- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Member of the UKCPA
- Member of the PCPA

Sarah Brown

- Cardiff Metropolitan University (Research grant funding provided through the Cystic Fibrosis Trust)
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Community pharmacy locum – no fixed employer

National Pharmacy Advisory Council Open Business meeting – 4 June 2026**Present**

England: Claire Anderson (CA), Sarah Baig (SB), Aisling Considine (AC), Mildred Johnson (MJ), Sue Ladds (SL) Claire Nevinson (CN), Tase Oputu (TA), Mahendra Patel (MP) **(Chair)** Katherine Pearson (KP), Bruce Warner (BW), Joseph Williams (JW)

Scotland: Jonathan Burton (JB), Lucy Dixon (:D), Paul Forsyth (PF), Laura Fulton (LF), Kellie King (KK) (on line), Josh Miller (JM) Catriona Sinclair (CS) **(Chair)**, Jill Swan (JS), Audrey Thompson (AT)

Wales: Sarah Brown (SH), Clare Clement (CC), Helen Davies (HD), Liz Hallett (LH) **(Chair)**, Gareth Hughes (GH), Amy Jayham (AJ), Dylan Jones (DJ), Aled Roberts (AR)

Staff: Staff: Karen Baxter (KB) CEO, Ross Barrow (RB) Public Affairs Manager Scotland, Elspeth Boxall (EB) Clinical Fellow (Scotland), Corrine Burns (CR) News Correspondent for the Pharmaceutical Journal, Yvonne Dennington (YD) Business Manager for England, Amandeep Doll (AD) Director for England, Alwyn Fortune (AF), Practice and Policy Lead for Wales, Iwan Hughes (IH) Public Affairs Manager Wales, John Lunny (JL) Public Affairs Manager England, Fiona McIntyre (FM) Practice and Policy Lead for Scotland, Geraldine McCaffrey (GM) Director for Wales, Carolyn Rattray (CR) Business Manager for Scotland, Laura Wilson (LW) Director for Scotland, , Heidi Wright (HW), Practice and Policy Lead for England (on line),

Invited Guests: Justine Scanlan (starting in post as the Director of Pharmacy on 29 June 2026)
Faith Adebimpe
Kay Bhatara

Royal College of Pharmacy member observers: one member attended

Apologies: England: Ciara Duffy (CD)

Scotland: no apologies

Wales: Eleri Schiavone (ES)

Item No	Minute	Chaired
26.06.NPAC .01	Welcome The Chair welcomed all to the first formal meeting of the Council. Apologies Apologies were received from:- EPAC: Ciara Duffy WPAC: Eleri Schiavone	SPAC
26.06.NPAC 02	Declarations of Interests Council members noted papers 26.06.NPAC.02(E/S/W). Council members were asked to forward any changes to declarations of interest to their Business Managers. YD reported that she had received an update from CA. LF gave a declaration of interest for item 7 – she had been a former Director for Scotland for the GPhC. Action 1: Declarations of Interest to be updated by Business Managers	SPAC
26.06.NPAC 03	Minutes and Matters arising English Pharmacy Advisory Council <u>Minutes</u> The English Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the English Pharmacy Board meeting, held on 25 February 2026. (paper: 26.06.NPAC.03) <u>Amendments</u> There were no amendments. Proposed by: Sue Ladds and seconded by: Tase Oputu <u>Matters arising and actions:</u>	SPAC

	Action1 - closed Action 2 – GB workplan – on the agenda for today – remains open Action 3 – open – bring back to a future meeting Action 4 – Closed Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council <u>Minutes</u> The Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the Scottish Pharmacy Board meeting, held on 25 February 2026 (paper: 26.06.NPAC.03), subject to the following amendment – page 8 CPD should read CD. Proposed by: Audrey Thompson and seconded by: Jill Swan <u>Matters arising and actions:</u> Action 1 – ongoing Action 2 – closed Action 3 – closed Action 4 - closed Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council <u>Minutes</u> The Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the Welsh Pharmacy Board meeting, held on 25 February 2026 (paper: 26.06.NPAC.03) <u>Amendments</u> There were no amendments. Proposed by: Gareth Hughes and seconded by: Aled Roberts <u>Matters arising and actions:</u>	
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	Action 1 – closed Action 2 – Closed Action 3 – closed Action 4 - closed	
26.06.NPAC 04	Code of Conduct Council members noted paper 26.06.NPAC.04. The Chair introduced this item saying that the policy has already been reviewed by the Trustee Board and that comments are being invited from Council members before finalising the policy. Council members were broadly in agreement with the policy, there was a short discussion and some of the points raised were:- • The inclusion of the word fairness – not everyone agreed with this as “fairness” can be subjective • UK to be changed to GB (as policy does not include NI) Action 2: KB to update policy with GB	SPAC
26.06.NPAC 05	Campaigns and Political Activity Policy (Lobbying Policy) Council members noted paper 26.06.NPAC.05. The Chair introduced this paper and asked for comments from Council members. There was some discussion from Council members and some of the points raised were :- • Always adhering to taking a neutral political stance and being evidence based – this is also a requirement of having Charity status.	SPAC

	- The policy does not cover any guidance on when elected members cease to be an elected member – KB gave assurance that this has been picked up when reviewing the draft and is being worked on. - Council members need to be clear on which ‘hat they are wearing’ and when and clearly state that - this needs to be clear in the policy – it is recognised that Council members are often employed by other organisations. Action 3: Policy to be reviewed to include points about what happens when Council members cease to be elected members and also to be clear on whether the person is acting as a Council member or as a representative of another organisation.	
26.06.NPAC 06	Aesthetics – draft position statement Council members noted paper 26.06.NPAC.06. The Chair introduced this item saying that the purpose of this item was to seek Council members’ views and feedback on the draft updated position statement on Aesthetic Practice and Pharmacy. Elspeth Boxall, the Scottish Pharmacy Clinical Leadership Fellow will describe the reasons why this position statement update has been prioritised and the methodology used. The paper states 3 areas for consideration. The position statement was first published in 2019 and since then there has been a lot of changes in this area – i.e. government legislation, regulatory guidance updated, expanding industry and the potential for an increasing number of pharmacists getting involved in this area of practice. The methodology involved a literature search, stakeholder engagement, focus groups, questionnaire, which has culminated in this first draft. Some key themes have emerged from the stakeholder engagement:- lack of standardisation of training, lack of training, complications management, delegation and remote prescribing and planning for emergency situations.	EPAC

	EB highlighted the key recommendations from the draft and asked for feedback from Council members. Council members had a lengthy discussion on this issue and some of the points raised to be considered were:- • General agreement with the key recommendations but some areas need to be strengthened - Clearer that pharmacists are responsible for complications management - Need to be over 18 to undergo procedures • Premises are a grey area – re CQC and GPhC – needs to be strengthened – there are certain practices that cannot be undertaken – should policy state “only in a clinical environment”? • Try to align new legislation with Scottish legislation • Is there a plan to expand on this work as it is a growing area? • More focus needed on risk assessment – put at front of statement • Link everything to professional judgement and standards • Include what is mandatory and what is recommended • Ensure practitioners do not only do initial education and training – it is about continued learning and ongoing assessment of competency • Position statement is not patient/public focused – could there be a summary that talks directly to patients/public? • Be more explicit around anaphylaxis – but there is a problem around stock holding • Take a more holistic view around safeguarding and mental health • Does the Royal College need to do additional work around this, i.e. identifying gaps and any further work that might be required? LW added that we are hoping to publish the revised statement and work with The Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) in identifying any gaps. This is the start of this work to ensure pharmacists work as safely as they can for patient and public benefit. EB and LW clarified that the scope of this work was to update the College’s position statement on Aesthetics, any requests for additional work in this area will need to be considered as part of the work planning process later in the year.	
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	The Chair thanked Council members for their comments and engagement in this topic and said that the position statement will be strengthened based on those comments to make it more rigorous with a focus on informed consent, risk assessment and safety, whilst keeping in mind how these procedures are advertised with a view to psychological harm and vulnerable patients. The Chair thanked EB for her presentation. Action 4: EB to review and update draft position statement based on feedback from Council members, to be signed off by Council Chairs over summer. National Directors to bring Council member proposal for additional work on Aesthetics back to NPACs as part of work planning cycle in September/November 2026.	
26.06.NPAC 07	GPhC Consultation response on International Education and Training Council members noted paper 26.06.NPAC.07. The Chair introduced this item saying the purpose was to seek the Councils' views and feedback for inclusion into the Royal College's consultation response. Views will also be sought from a wide range of stakeholders. Two guests were invited to give their views to help given some background, they were Faith Adebimpe(FA) and Kay Bhatara(KB) (online). AF and FMc introduced the item setting out the proposals from the GPhC consultation. An overview of the current route to registration was given which involves 4 stages over two years and the proposed 3 stage route which is reduced to one year and now includes independent prescribing.	EPAC

	FA was requested to give feedback on her work with internationally trained pharmacists. She said there had been a conference a week ago where discussion took place and some of the things discussed had been around:- - Maintaining patient safety - The one-year route is highly appreciated but prescribing adds another layer of responsibility - Queries around integration gap - Lack of direction and point of contact for support - Financial pressures – lack of support – put at risk of exploitation by employers who offer the visa - Poor return on investment - Workplace dissatisfaction and isolation (different system in NHS – no support) - Lack of sense of professional belonging (employers do not help with this) - Language barriers – interpretation - Mentors for IP KB said she was a OSPAP provider at Aston University and explained that:- - Numbers are growing – 4 years ago there were 35 on the course – two years later doubled to 70 and last year was 140 – so there is demand for the programme - An impact of the change could be a reduction in numbers as placements need to be arranged - Lots to include in one year including IP – both practice and academic study - Financial implications could be significant for students – programme does not attract funding, and inclusion of additional clinical placements will increase costs - Study currently allows students to work a part time job whereas a one-year course would not allow time for this – financial implications - Students can already have significant commuting time and costs to university and to placements, which may not be close to where they live. This burden may increase under the proposal. - Two-year course is already very intense Council members added their comments to what was presented:-	
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	- The new proposal will do a disservice to students, will add additional financial pressures and does not offer flexibility - Medical colleagues have a structured training pathway with supervision - Agree current system needs to change but the proposal including IP is too much – no reason why IP cannot take place at a later date - Support is needed – it is hard to find placements for our own university students – including IP is probably too much in one year - Cost of commuting can be an issue especially in Wales and Scotland - There might be alternative models to consider – need to think of scenarios - Could be similar to the apprenticeship model - Questions around the validity check – who is doing the mapping? - DPP availability is an issue - Do not understand what the driver for change is – what problem needs to be fixed? – not feasible to incorporate two years into one and add prescribing – patients need to be kept safe and that cannot be done by lowering the bar. - There are points that need addressing by employers - This strategy will add risk - Pathways need to be established before introducing additional prescriber. - Public confidence needs to be considered. - Consultation is a confusing and ambiguous document – top down rather than bottom up approach – if studies are not completed are there financial penalties? - Cannot ignore ‘domino effect’ – especially around supervision The Chair thanked all for their input into this discussion. The team will collate the points made to formulate a robust and concerning response to the consultation including points made on validity checks, availability of DPPs, public safety, cost implications for students, equity and fairness, and employers role in supporting transitional experience. Any further comments/thoughts to be fed back to AF and FMc before 21st July and to share widely among colleagues and help encourage a stronger objection. A meeting with the GPhC would help in developing the response.	
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	FMc added that she has spoken with some senior pharmacists during stakeholder engagement who do support the change. Action 5: Policy leads to utilise feedback from the NPACs in formulating the College's response to the GPhC Consultation response on revised standards for the education and training of internationally-qualified pharmacists, due 21st July 2026. Further comments to be fed back to AF and FMc before 21st July,	
26.06.NPAC 08	Papers for noting Council members noted papers 26.06.NPAC.08. (i) Implementing country visions (ii) Professional Issues (iii) Workforce (iv) Strengthening Pharmacy Governance	EPAC
26.06.NPAC 09	Any other business JM highlighted that in Scotland there had been a MSP motion to formally recognise the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's transition into the Royal College of Pharmacy. JM congratulated the Scotland team in achieving this recognition for the Royal College.	EPAC
26.06.NPAC 10	Key points for reporting to Royal College Members– standing item The 3 key points to highlight from today's meeting to the members were discussed to be:- Aesthetics - strengthening the statement with risk/advertising issues/ongoing degree of assessment/looking at vulnerable patients/looking at harm issues and our ongoing work with JCCP	EPAC

	GPhC consultation - robust Council discussion, there will be wide stakeholder engagement/ response will be of good quality - confirmed growing area of concern and will include the patient safety angle Recognising that at this first meeting there was a change in focus - public and patient safety as a cornerstone of what was discussed	
26.06.NPAC 11	Date of next meetings EPAC: 22/23 September and joint meeting on 5 November (day before RCoPharm annual conference) SPAC: 16/17 September and joint meeting on 5 November (day before RCoPharm annual conference) WPAC: 24 September and joint meeting on 5 November (day before RCoPharm annual conference)	EPAC

Action List

Previous actions from February 2026	Action	By whom	Comments /open/closed
EPB	Action 3: Country Teams to do some more work in this area (Foundation numbers) and bring a paper back to the next meeting.		Open – will bring back to a future meeting when more information is available

Actions from June 2026			
26.06.NPAC 02	Action 1: update decs of interest	Bus Managers	Open
26.06.NPAC 04	Action 2: Code of Conduct Policy: KB to update policy with GB	KB	Open
26.06.NPAC 05	Action 3: Campaigns and Political Activity Policy: to be reviewed to include points about what happens when Council members cease to be elected members and also to be clear on what hat Council members are wearing.		
26.06.NPAC.06	Action 4: EB to review and update draft position statement based on feedback from Council members, to be signed off by Council Chairs over summer. National Directors to bring Council member proposal for additional work on Aesthetics back to NPACs as part of work planning cycle in September/November 2026.	EB/LW	Open
26.06.NPAC.07	Action 5: Policy leads to utilise feedback from the NPACs in formulating the College's response to the GPhC Consultation response on revised standards for the education and training of internationally-	Policy Leads	Open

	qualified pharmacists, due 21 st July 2026. Further comments to be fed back to AF and FMc before 21 st July,		
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National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – (Date)

Title of item	Engagement Team update
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Asra Ahmed Acting Head of Engagement and Belonging Neal Patel Associate Director of Membership
Item to be led at the meeting by	Asra Ahmed/ Neal Patel
Headline summary of paper	Engagement team activities Introduction to regional ambassadors
Purpose of item (decision / discussion)	For information
For noting	
Risk implications	
Resource implications	

Professional Engagement Team update

The strategic purpose of the professional engagement team is to increase the impact of RCPHarm engagement across the profession, for both members and non-members to create a sense of professional belonging to both the organisation and within the profession. This also includes increasing engagement with RCPHarm products and services.

Regional Ambassadors: Who they are and what they do

RCPHarm regional ambassadors support pharmacists at all career stages and across all sectors by helping them connect through geographically specific networks, share best practice, celebrate regional success, and access the benefits of RCPHarm membership.

Our Regional Ambassadors are a vital part of the Engagement Team. They bring strong local insight, understand regional audiences, and play a key role in keeping the profession informed, connected, and engaged with RCPHarm activity. They support a wide range of engagement activities, including attending student and foundation trainee engagement events, exhibiting at local conferences, contributing to the planning of regional conferences, and driving local RCPHarm engagement.

20 Regional Ambassadors are currently in post, strengthening regional coverage and capacity. The contribution of RCPHarm Ambassadors has had a significant impact this year. Thanks to their time, commitment and willingness to represent the Royal College regionally, we have been able to attend more than 35 additional events so far. This has extended the reach of the engagement team well beyond what would have been possible through internal capacity alone, helping RCPHarm build stronger regional connections and maintain a visible presence among members and within wider pharmacy networks across the country.

England Ambassadors	Reporting to Asra Ahmed
Bhavna Halai	London
Andrea Okoloekwe	London
Seema Buckley	London
Rajshri Owen	East Midlands
Chris Grahame	East of England
Maria Nasim	South East England
Nipa Patel	South East England
Simon Wall	Jersey
Scotland and the North of England	Reporting to Aisling Kerr
Osman Ali	North East England & Yorkshire

Amna Khan-Patel	North East England & Yorkshire
Helena Young	North East England & Yorkshire
Sadie Pinkney	North West England
Stephanie Pacey	North West England
Mariam Al-Hajaj	West Scotland
Giovanna DiTano	East Scotland
Wales and the West of England	Reporting to Gareth Holyfield
Gurpreet Kaur	West Midlands
Pavitar Gandham	West Midlands
Anyia Bowen	East Wales
Anna Croston	North Wales
Yung Strawbridge	South West Coast
Abie Wilson	South West Coast

Engagement Highlights

Regional conferences

Two successful member engagement conferences were held this year with the support of RCPHarm teams, regional ambassadors and board members: one in the Midlands (July) and a national conference in Scotland (August).

The theme of this year's conference was Leading Change. Feedback was excellent, with delegates particularly positive about the keynote speakers, Trailblazer presentations and opportunity to network. Overall, the conference was very well received.

Midlands conference:

- Attendance: 96, held at Aston University, Birmingham.
- Recommendations: 100% of attendees would recommend the event to a colleague or friend.
- The agenda included a keynote address from Helen Bevan, one of the most influential thought leaders in large-scale change across health and care. This was followed by Richard Cattell, who provided a pharmacy perspective on leading change, and a Royal College update from Tase Oputu. The Trailblazers talks provided an opportunity to showcase local leaders who are driving change and innovation in practice. The afternoon session focused on neighbourhood health, with senior leaders sharing insights through a panel discussion, followed by

interactive discussions exploring how these could translate into meaningful local action.

Feedback we received included:

“Great event for networking and I especially enjoyed the trailblazer sessions and learned so much about what other systems are doing on the ground”

“Networking opportunities were very good”

“Keynote talk and the trailblazers were both excellent and inspiring.”

Scotland Conference:

- Attendance: 122, held in Glasgow.
- Recommendation: 100% would recommend the event to a colleague or friend.
- Two keynote presentations were delivered by Dame Laura Lee, Chief Executive of Maggie's, and Paul Johnston, CEO of Public Health Scotland. A Royal College update was provided by Justine Scanlan. The Trailblazer session showcased local leaders driving change in practice. The afternoon focused on realistic medicine and translating value-based health and care policy into practice.
- An awards ceremony celebrated individuals' contributions to advancing the profession, championing patient care, and driving positive change.

Feedback we received included:

“Really good varied programme with something for every sector and stage of practice”

“2 excellent keynote speakers with direct relevance to practice and inspiring trail blazers”

“It makes me excited about the future of our profession.”

Engagement with undergraduate students in university

Engagement leads continue to build positive relationships with universities, working closely with course leads to support attendance at lectures, workshops, careers fairs and welcome week events. To date, the team has engaged with 34 universities and exhibited at 19 careers fairs.

Planning is underway for Year 1 Welcome Week activity in collaboration with new BPSA Area Coordinators, with joint RCPharm/ BPSA Roadshow activity being organised for university welcome weeks in September and October 2026.

Bespoke workshops have also been delivered to university students, covering topics including the history of the Royal College, ORIEL and careers.

Student engagement

The team continues to work closely with the BPSA team, strengthening relationships and supporting student initiatives. We exhibited at the annual BPSA Conference in Nottingham, delivering workshops on interviews and wellbeing, alongside a Royal College presentation.

Advisory Council members and local regional ambassadors also supported the student mentoring session and the Royal College stand.

We also delivered a successful BPSA Executive Team training day for both the current and incoming teams, designed to strengthen their understanding of Royal College functions. At the team's request, leadership and public speaking workshops were also delivered.

In collaboration with colleagues from the Science and Research team, we reviewed the BPSA Conference poster competition and relaunched it at this year's BPSA Conference.

Foundation trainee engagement

The team has engaged with community pharmacy chains by attending induction days to promote RCPHarm foundation trainee membership benefits, including at Boots, Superdrug, Day Lewis, Well, Rowlands and Paydens.

We also exhibited at the ProPharmace Future Pharmacist Conference in London, where Amira Guirguis, Chief Scientist, delivered a presentation on the importance of research in a pharmacy career. In addition, we engaged with the Foundation Trainee Consortium and presented at 13 online induction events.

The team also coordinated RCPHarm attendance and presentations at the seven HEIW Foundation Trainee induction events held across Wales, with support from the wider team. In addition, we presented Foundation Trainee support at the South West Regional Foundation Trainee induction day in Wiltshire and delivered an online presentation at an event organised by Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and ICB. This provided a valuable opportunity to establish a new contact, with plans to develop the relationship and explore further opportunities for engagement.

In Scotland, a recorded video was shared with PSD Scotland, featuring messaging for Foundation Trainees across the country.

Inclusion and diversity events

We successfully supported the planning and delivery of International Women's Day and South Asian Heritage Month celebrations, working in partnership with external organisations. Planning is also underway for upcoming Black History Month and East and South East Asian Heritage Month celebrations.

In June, we were pleased to take part in London Pride alongside colleagues from APTUK. Together with more than 30 RCPHarm members, friends and colleagues, we celebrated and walked in the parade.

Other events and activities

- Exhibited at the CPC Conference, which was well attended and provided valuable opportunities for engagement and networking.
- Collaborated with the organisers of the Great North Research Conference, where we exhibited, providing an opportunity to showcase royal college work and engage with the research community. Prof. Amira Guirgis spoke in plenary on behalf of the College and Neal Patel ran a workshop for delegates. The team were also invited to be part of a career session.
- Exhibited at the Sussex Pharmacy Conference, engaging with pharmacy professionals and raising awareness of RCPHarm membership and support. Neal Patel joined the panel in the afternoon about the future of collaborative professional leadership.
- Exhibited at a range of other external conferences and events, including the Enigma Annual Celebration event, Catalyst Conference for overseas pharmacists, IntoHealthcare event and local community pharmacy events. The team received very positive feedback from members and non-members, reaffirming the need for increased visibility in local communities and at national events.

Upcoming activities

- Planning is underway with universities for Freshers Week activities.
- The team will exhibit at the BOPA conference in October.
- Attendance at the Pharmacy Show.

National Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting – September 2026

Title of item	Medicines Shortages Policy – ‘one year on’ update and next steps
Author of paper	Alwyn Fortune
Position in organisation	Policy Lead, Wales
Telephone	Alwyn.fortune@rcpharm.org
E-mail	
Item to be led at the meeting by	Alwyn Fortune
Headline summary of paper	Medicines shortages were previously identified by national council members of the Royal College of Pharmacy (previously national board members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society) as a key policy priority area. The College has undertaken extensive collaborative work in this area, which has supported the publication of Medicines shortages: solutions for empty shelves and the follow up ‘one year on’ report. In addition, the College has informed parliamentary inquiries centred around medicines security and shortages. A background of some of the work to date is provided below.
Purpose of item (decision / discussion)	To seek views and feedback from council members on the potential next steps and leadership role of the College in this area, noting the work to date and in the context of wider GB workplan discussions and priority areas.
For consideration	- Do council members feel that the area of medicines shortages should remain a key priority for the Royal College in the context of the wider GB workplan? - Given the work of the Royal College to date, in terms of the production of the original report, the subsequent ‘one year on’ report

	and contribution to wider parliamentary enquiries, what are the views of council members in terms of potential next steps and the ongoing role of the College in this area?
Risk implications	Risk implications are low, substantial work has happened in this area to date led by the Royal College with a policy and thought leadership piece produced to lobby and advocate for change to support patients and pharmacy teams. • Risk that medicines shortages may not be viewed as a priority ongoing by the Royal College, despite continued pressures in practice, if we deprioritise the policy area. Albeit stakeholder engagement and lobbying would naturally continue to support members and patients, as part of 'business as usual'.
Resource implications	Resource will be dependent on the outcomes and next steps proposed and agreed by the national councils

Medicines Shortages Policy – ‘one year on’ update and next steps

Background:

Medicines shortages were previously identified by national council members of the Royal College of Pharmacy (previously national board members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society) as a key policy priority area.

This followed growing concern about the impact of medicines shortages on patient care in the UK together with the impact on pharmacy teams and wider healthcare professionals of an apparent increasing frequency and complexity of medicines shortages.

The Royal College committed to producing a comprehensive report which provided an assessment of the causes of medicines shortages, their impact on patients, pharmacists and healthcare professionals, and what more can be done to mitigate and manage medicines shortages.

[Medicines shortages: solutions for empty shelves](#) was developed with the aid of an advisory group formed of key stakeholders across the medicines supply chain, including patient representative bodies, and sets out key recommendations for collaborative action to mitigate against and manage medicines shortages.

The report set out 20 recommendations for collaborative action across the supply chain centred around five broad themes.

Following initial publication of the report, further stakeholder engagement and input into parliamentary enquiries, a further [‘one year on’](#) report was published in March 2026. This report provides an overview of progress in line with those original recommendations, noting where improvements have occurred and where further work might accelerate progress. This report was produced and informed by reconvening the advisory group.

The original recommendations, subsequent lobbying and engagement and reflection through the ‘one year on’ report highlighted the impact and progress alongside some of those recommendations.

DHSC consulted in September 2025 on ‘enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines’, we still await the outcome of that consultation which aligns to our recommendation to ‘make better use of pharmacists’ skills.’ In August 2025, a DHSC/NHSE policy paper set out new and ongoing work to improve shortages

management and strengthen medicines supply chain resilience, representing some aspects of a national strategy. The DHSC have consulted on options to improve better reporting of supply issues, namely: how to ensure the information provided by suppliers on shortages and discontinuations is sufficient to allow national teams to put timely measures in place to manage supply and mitigate the impact on patients; and the penalties regime used for non-reporting of shortages. These are just some examples with further examples covered within the 'one year on' report, which also highlights areas of ongoing concern.

Building on the report, the Royal College has contributed widely to further parliamentary focus within this area. In July 2025, The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pharmacy published its report into medicines shortages, a report we actively fed into. In February 2026, The House of Lords Public Service Committee published its recommendations on Medicines Security, an inquiry to which we provided written and oral evidence.

Recently, we attended and informed the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pharmacy (APPG) Inquiry into Medicines Shortages in England: One Year On, we await publication of that report.

Outside of the report and contributions to parliamentary enquiries, the collaborative nature of the recommendation formation and the reconvening of the advisory group has helped the Royal College strengthen and build relationships with key external stakeholders.

An update of activity over the past year will be provided to council members at the council meeting within the context of the one year on report, with a view to gaining input from council members on thoughts for potential next steps and the wider/ongoing role of the Royal College within this area

Questions for consideration:

- Do council members feel that the area of medicines shortages should remain a key priority for the Royal College in the context of the wider GB workplan?
- Given the work of the Royal College to date, in terms of the production of the original report, the subsequent 'one year on' report and contribution to wider parliamentary enquiries, what are the views of council members in terms of potential next steps and the ongoing role of the College in this area?

What we are looking to achieve. (Discussion based on questions above)

OPEN BUSINESS

We would welcome views of council members around the key discussion points outlined above, with a view to gaining some thoughts and insight into the further role of the College in this space.

With consideration of the wider workplan and work in this area to date, whether medicines shortages should remain a key priority as part of the wider GB workplan.

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – September 2026

26.09/NPAC/10(i)

Title of item	Implementing Country Visions
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Laura Wilson, Amandeep Doll, Iwan Hughes, Heidi Wright, Alwyn Fortune, Emily Kennedy, Geraldine McCaffrey
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas: Pharmacist Prescribing Environmental Sustainability Genomics Reducing Health Inequalities
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	• Alignment with UK government and NHS initiatives • Capacity to deliver across multiple workstreams
Resource implications	• Internal staff time • Ongoing prioritisation across multiple workstreams • Potential need to review capacity if additional opportunities or asks emerge.

Implementing Country Vision

Pharmacist Prescribing (Laura/Heidi)

Highlights

- RCPPharm co-hosted a DPP roundtable with NPA on 1 July 2026

Next Steps

- A meeting is set up with CPE to discuss the issue of enabling newly qualified pharmacist prescribers to use their prescribing skills as part of service specifications
- The purpose and scope of the DPP roundtable has been reviewed, the focus of the group will be discussed at the next DPP roundtable.
- Another DPP roundtable is planned for 14 October 2026

Environmental Sustainability (Iwan)

Highlights

- Continued to promote and market the greener pharmacy toolkits and respond to queries from users.
- Met with Greener NHS and AXIA (technology partner) to discuss future plans for the toolkits.
- Continued to engage and support the work of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change including supporting a letter expressing our concerns about the removal of the climate duty on NHS England and current proposals for future accountability.
- Contributed to stakeholder event and Public Health Wales Report on Environmentally Sustainable Medicines Management in Wales.

Genomics (Geraldine / Emily)

Highlights

- RCPPharm continues to attend the NHSE Pharmacy Workforce Group for genomics
- Following the publication of the *Pharmacogenomic Resource: Supporting the Competency Framework for All Prescribers*, endorsements from stakeholders including NHSE, RCGP and Pharmacy Schools Council have been confirmed and added to the website.

Next Steps

- Evaluation of the *Pharmacogenomic Resource: Supporting the Competency Framework for All Prescribers* to commence in early 2027, led by the Science and Research team.
- Publication of the Pharmacogenomics Delivery Plan in Wales is anticipated in Autumn 2026. Team Wales will identify opportunities to support.
- Work ongoing for RCPHarm to host *A genomic and pharmacogenomic competency framework for UK pharmacy undergraduates* at the request of the framework authors. The framework aligns to the relevant GPhC learning outcomes and has been approved by the Pharmacy Schools Council.

Reducing Health Inequalities (Aman/Iwan)

Highlights

- Work is nearing completion on a statement setting out our focus and commitments on health inequalities as a Royal College. This work has considered where we can have the greatest impact, how our commitments can be delivered effectively, and how our approach compares with the activity of longer established Royal Colleges in this area. The statement will provide clarity and direction for our role, priorities and responsibilities, and will form the core text for a new health inequalities hub page on our website.

Next Steps

- Publish new webpage
- Scope with the national councils a specific topic of focus for health inequalities

Polypharmacy in cancer (Heidi/Aman)

Highlights

- Working in partnership with Macmillan, a multidisciplinary roundtable was held on 4 August to build on the polypharmacy in cancer survey launched in May. The roundtable brought together multidisciplinary polypharmacy and cancer experts to produce recommendations on tackling polypharmacy in cancer.
- A first draft of the roundtable report is being developed and will be circulated for comments to stakeholders and roundtable attendees.

Next Steps

- A parliamentary event is being planned in collaboration with Macmillan for December 2026 to launch the findings and recommendations from the report

Patient Information Leaflets (Aman/Laura/Kate)

Highlights

- Members of RCPHarm staff are contributing to a series of workshops which form part of the MHRA [Improving Patient Information - GOV.UK](#) project. The aim of the project is to ensure that patient information for medicinal products is clearer, inclusive, and easier to understand. A major focus of this work will be improving access to patient information leaflets in the UK through the use of digital solutions.

Next steps

- To continue to engage with this project across GB

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – September 2026

26.09/NPAC/10(ii)

Title of item	Professional Issues
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Fiona McIntyre, Amandeep Doll, Heidi Wright, Alwyn Fortune, Ross Barrow, Laura Wilson, Geraldine McCaffrey, Dafydd Rizzo, Emily Kennedy, John Lunny
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Artificial Intelligence and Digital Capabilities (Fiona/Heidi) Palliative and End of Life Care (Ross/Geraldine) Medicines Shortages (Aman/Alwyn) Assisted Dying (Ross/Laura) Quality Assurance of Aseptic Preparation Services (Emily/Dafydd) Access to Medicines (Alwyn/John) Consultations List (Policy Leads)
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	• Capacity to deliver across multiple workstreams
Resource implications	• Internal staff time • Ongoing prioritisation across multiple workstreams • Potential need to review capacity if additional opportunities or asks emerge.

Professional Issues (Policy Leads)

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Capabilities (Fiona/Heidi)

Highlights

- The findings of the RCPHarm survey of pharmacists - exploring awareness, use, perception and support needs relating to AI in pharmacy practice across Great Britain - published on our website [[Summary-Report-Pharmacist-AI-Use_publish-version-UPDATED-FINAL.pdf](#)]
- Supported MHRA Commission on AI in healthcare with pharmacy stakeholder engagement and this was acknowledged

Next Steps

- Planning in hand for two further workshops
 - The use and learning of AI in pharmacy education and training (24th September 2026)
 - Application of AI in pharmaceutical science, research and clinical trials (date to be confirmed early Nov)
- Review themes from all 3 meetings and translate into recommendations for any further work on policy, professional standards and guidance or education
- Continue to identify opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders to maintain our position as a convener of good practice opinion on safe and effective AI deployment in pharmacy practice.

Palliative and End of Life Care (Ross/Geraldine)

Highlights

- Royal College of Pharmacy has been working in partnership with Marie Curie to create and promote the Daffodil Standards to support pharmacists to provide an excellent standard of palliative and end of life care.
- Over 1000 pharmacists / pharmacy teams have signed up to receive a free daffodil standards pack.

Next Steps

- We are currently reviewing our partnership agreement and future collaborative work plans with Marie Curie.
- We're also planning political activity across the 3 nations to celebrate and promote the 1000 sign ups landmark.

Medicines Shortages (Aman/Alwyn/John)

Highlights

- We have continued to raise awareness and promote both the work and the topic with key stakeholders, including through featuring on the Medicines UK podcast series, 'Medicines Matter'.
- We attended and informed the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pharmacy (APPG) Inquiry into Medicines Shortages in England: One Year On.

Next Steps

- Review any recommendations or key areas of focus that come from the Pharmacy APPG one year on report and respond accordingly.
- Contribute and participate in government work across the nations on medicines shortages, as well as the work of the Pharmacy APPG.
- Continue to work with key stakeholders including DHSC to highlight the ongoing challenges patients and pharmacists are experiencing with medicines shortages.
- There was appetite from the advisory group to reconvene periodically to maintain the momentum of the group and to promote collaboration across the supply chain

Quality Assurance Aseptic Preparation Services (QAAPS) (Dafydd/Emily)

Highlights

- NHS England Specialist Pharmacy Services, alongside RCPHarm, are editing the updated standards to ensure alignment with other RCPHarm standards e.g., the hospital standards.
- The edit is due to be completed early September; the NHS Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance (QA) Committee and lead author will then review this final edit.

Next steps

- A 3-week consultation will be conducted. The updated standards will be published prior to the implementation, by 10th December 2026, of the new supervision legislation which will allow pharmacy technicians to supervise the preparation, assembly and dispensing of medicines in hospital aseptic facilities.
- The standards will be published alongside signposting to existing relevant guidance.

- A locally printable PDF version is being created for aseptic units and auditors to utilise, as the 6th edition will not be available to purchase in a print version.
- Part B of the 5th edition of QAAPS will be made available digitally, however has not been updated as a part of this commission. This will be highlighted on the webpage.
- We are working to update the definitions of '*supervision*' and '*delegation*' in an unlicensed hospital aseptic unit context. We are working with the GPhC, DHSC and NHS QA Committee to update these definitions in line with the new regulation 4A in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 and a parallel exemption to the section 10 exemption of the Medicines Act 1968.

Assisted Dying (Ross/Laura)

Highlights

- Consolidation of learning and reflection from parliamentary engagement across GB.

Next Steps

- Refresh RCPHarm Assisted Dying policy, publish ahead of re-introduction of Assisted Dying legislation at Westminster (Autumn 2026).

Access to Medicines (Alwyn/John/Aman)

Highlights

- We attend NHSE led meetings focusing on the Single National Formulary.
- Oral and written evidence presented to House of Lords select committee inquiry on medicines security.
- Importance of pharmacy leadership highlighted in House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee session on workforce and Neighbourhood Health.

Next Steps

- As part of a review of our wider policies, we will review the access to medicines policy, but is not an immediate identified priority.
- We will continue to engage with NHSE discussions on proposed Single National Formulary.
- Build on discussions with key stakeholders, including around 10-Year Plan delivery and Life Sciences Sector Plan.

Consultations List (Policy Leads)

Highlights

- In the period from 1st June to 25th August 2026 we responded to 10 consultations across a number of stakeholders including Scottish Parliament, NHS Wales, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, MHRA, DHSC, GPhC and FIP
- All consultation responses published [here](#) on the RCPHarm website.

Next Steps

- Continue to identify and respond to relevant consultations, horizon scanning across external stakeholders including government, regulators and others.

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – September 2026

26.09/NPAC/10(iii)

Title of item	Workforce
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Heidi Wright, Amandeep Doll, Laura Wilson Fiona McIntyre, John Lunny Heidi.Wright@rcpharm.org Amandeep.Doll@rcpharm.org Laura.Wilson@rcpharm.org Fiona.McIntyre@rcpharm.org John.Lunny@rcpharm.org
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas: Workforce Wellbeing (Heidi) Access to DPP (Heidi/Laura) Workforce Hot Topics 2025/26 (Fiona) I&D (Aman) Differential Attainment (Aman)
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	Capacity to deliver across multiple workstreams
Resource implications	- Internal staff time - Ongoing prioritisation across multiple workstreams - Potential need to review capacity if additional opportunities or asks emerge.

Workforce

Workforce Wellbeing (Heidi)

Highlights

- We met with Pharmacist Support to discuss future working and Workforce Wellbeing surveys
- We are developing a paper to reflect back on the work we have undertaken to date in the area of Workforce Wellbeing and highlight areas of focus

Next Steps

- We are planning to run a Workforce Wellbeing survey with Pharmacist Support in 2027

Workforce Hot Topics (Fiona)

Highlights

- Scoping of workforce issues continues
- Established workstreams on wellbeing, inclusion and diversity, digital innovation and prescribing all progressing
- Responded to the GPhC consultation on proposals for standards for internationally-qualified pharmacists education and training

Next Steps

- Developing a briefing paper on current and emerging risks surrounding Pharmacist Foundation Training Capacity across GB

I&D (Aman)

Highlights

- RCPPharm walked in London Pride Parade alongside APTUK and BPSA colleagues
- In collaboration with Kingston University pharmacy team, we delivered two cultural competency and health inequalities sessions
- Delivered two neurodiversity training sessions in partnership with PWDS
- Presented at the GPhC anti-racism roundtable
- Celebrated South Asian Heritage Month in July

Next Steps

- Confirming plans to celebrate East and South East Asian Heritage and Black History Month in September and October
- Confirming plans for future ABCD meetings
- Continuing to work with the GPhC on embedding antiracism principles across pharmacy

Differential Attainment (Aman)

Highlights

- Working closely with GPhC on aligning the College led differential oversight group and GPhC awarding gap steering group
- Working with oversight group members to take identified actions forward

Next Steps

- Planning the next differential attainment oversight group meeting

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – September 2026

26.09/NPAC/10(iv)

Title of item	Strengthening Pharmacy Governance
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Laura Wilson, Amandeep Doll, Emily Kennedy, Geraldine McCaffery Emily.Kennedy@rcpharm.org Laura.Wilson@rcpharm.org Amandeep.Doll@rcpharm.org Geraldine.McCaffery@rcpharm.org
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas: Supervision Responsible Pharmacist (RP) /Superintendent Pharmacist (SP) /Community Pharmacist (CP) Guidance
Purpose of item	This paper is for noting only and will not be discussed at the meeting. Questions can be submitted to the author ahead of the meeting.
Risk implications	There is a risk of differing definitions and interpretation of the legislation, which is being mitigated through stakeholder engagement and planned review before publication
Resource implications	This work will require existing staff resource to review stakeholder feedback, finalise guidance and support publication. No additional financial resource is anticipated at this stage

Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (Aman/Laura)

Supervision (Emily)

Highlights

- Review of supervision descriptions to support implementation of Human medicines (Authorisation by pharmacists and supervision by pharmacy technicians) order 2025
- Engagement with GPhC, APTUK and Quality Assurance committee for input

Next Steps

- Discussion with councils for input and agreement

Responsible Pharmacist (RP) /Superintendent Pharmacist (SP) /Community Pharmacy (CP) Guidance

Highlights

- Implementation guidance for RP following pharmacy supervision legislation changes due in December 2026 is being developed. Views sought from APTUK, DHSC, PSNI and CPE, CPW, CPS following engagement with CPEAG and GPhC.

Next Steps

- Gather feedback and review in order to publish guidance before legislation changes.