

OPEN BUSINESS

National Pharmacy Advisory Councils' meeting 5 November 2026

This meeting will be held in person at RPS Offices, 66 East Smithfield, London, E1W A1W

OPEN BUSINESS AGENDA 5 November 2026 at 15.05pm

Item (approx. start time)	Subject	Purpose	Related papers/slides	Objective	Chair/or lead person
1(15.05)	Welcome	For noting	No paper/Verbal address	Welcome	EPAC Chair
	Apologies	For noting	No paper/Verbal address	To note apologies: EPAC: Tase Oputu WPAC: Dylan Jones	EPAC Chair
2	Declarations of Interests	For noting	26.11.NPAC.02 (E/S/W)	To note declarations of interest for Council members (England/Scotland/Wales)	EPAC Chair
3	Open Minutes and matters arising	For decision	26.11.NPAC.03 (E/S/W)	To approve the open minutes of the National Pharmacy Advisory Council meetings for England, Scotland and Wales held in September 2026 and to discuss matters arising from these minutes.	EPAC Chair

4 (15.15)	MHRA Engagement	For discussion	Verbal	To discuss MHRA engagement with National Pharmacy Advisory Councils on the Improving Patient Information project PILS	EPAC Chair/Smita Robinson
Refreshment Break (16.00 – 16.45 – 15 minutes)					
5 (16.15)	Digital & AI workstream/MHRA National Commission (TBC)	For discussion	26.11.NPAC.05 Verbal	To discuss MHRA National Commission into the Regulation of AI in Healthcare: Recommendations for a future regulatory framework	EPAC Chair/Speakers tbc
6 (16.45)	Royal College Transition Strategy	For information	Verbal update	Royal College Transition Strategy update	EPAC Chair/Justine Scanlan
7 (17.05)	Annual Conference Update	For information	Verbal	To give an update on the Annual Conference – 6 November 2026	EPAC Chair/Country Director
8 (17.15)	Papers for noting	For noting	26.11.NPB.08 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v),	For the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils to note the following papers: (i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (v)Review of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians work in General Practice in Wales and Welsh Government Response	EPAC Chair
9 (17.15)	Any other business	For noting/discussion	Verbal	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	EPAC Chair

10 (17.20)	Dates of next meeting	For noting		Dates of meetings below in 2027.	EPAC Chair																				
				<table><tr><th>Month (2027)</th><th>EPAC</th><th>SPAC</th><th>WPAC</th></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>16 and 17</td><td>18 and 19</td><td>23 and 24</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>21 and 22</td><td>15 and 16</td><td>14 and 15</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td colspan="3">Still awaiting confirmation of conference date</td></tr></table>		Month (2027)	EPAC	SPAC	WPAC	February	16 and 17	18 and 19	23 and 24	June	8 and 9	8 and 9	8 and 9	September	21 and 22	15 and 16	14 and 15	November	Still awaiting confirmation of conference date		
Month (2027)	EPAC	SPAC	WPAC																						
February	16 and 17	18 and 19	23 and 24																						
June	8 and 9	8 and 9	8 and 9																						
September	21 and 22	15 and 16	14 and 15																						
November	Still awaiting confirmation of conference date																								

Close of open business (17.20)

Dinner will be at 7pm at Tayyabs (indian restaurant), 83-89 Fieldgate St, London E1 1JU
Directions can be found [here](#)

English Pharmacy Advisory Council– November 2026

Declaration of Interests

Claire Anderson

- Professor of Social Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham
- Trustee Commonwealth Pharmacy Association
- Vice President of FIP Board

Sarah Baig

Employment:

- The University of Birmingham, School of Pharmacy
 - Dudley Group NHS Trust – Primary Place Division
- ##### **Honoraria:**
- Novo Nordisk, Astra Zeneca, Eli Lilly, Recordati, BI, Daichii Sankyo, Novartis, Bayer, Menarini

Association/Board Memberships:

- UK Clinical Pharmacists Association – Diabetes and Endocrine Committee
- Primary Care Pharmacists Association – Academy Academic Lead
- Morph – Neighbourhood Education Lead – NEL
- Pharmacists Defence Association – Member

Personal:

- Shamma Baig – sister – Pharmacy Technician (Dudley)
- Ruby Shoffa – sister – Pharmacist and GP (Leamington)

Aisling Considine

- Member of the British Hepatology Pharmacy Association
- Co-Chair of NHSE London Emergency Planning Pharmacy Interest Group
- Honorary Lecturer Kings College London (undergraduates)
- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists

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Ciara Marie Duffy

- Quality Manager/Qualified Person at Novartis
- Sister – National Lead Pharmacist Interface
- Sister – HSE Pharmacist
- Brother in law – Regulatory Pharmacist Uniphar
- Lecturing: Undergrad: Newcastle University, University of Manchester, University of Swansea; Post Grad: Oxford Academy

Mildred Johnson

- Pharmacy Clinical Director and Professional Lead at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- Trustee and member of Borden Grammar School Academy Trust Board (Sittingbourne, Kent)
- Member of PM Healthcare & Editorial Board
- Advisor to Beckton Dickinson and Company (BD)- Connected Medication Management (CMM) technologies.

Sue Ladds

- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- GPhC Statutory Committee Member - Fitness to Practice Committee
- Specialist Project Director with UHS Pharmacy Ltd

Erutase Oputu

- NHS Kent & Medway ICB
- Member of the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Member PDA
- Member of Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
- Pharmacy Research UK Trustee
- Member of Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Advisory Board,
- Member of PM Healthcare Editorial Board
- Volunteer Associate, Global Policy Network

Claire Nevinson

- Honorary Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Uni of Nottm
- Member of FiP

Mahendra Patel

Academic Appointments and Distinctions

- Director, Centre for Research Equity, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford.
- Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy, Wilkes University USA.
- Visiting Professor of Pharmacy, Birmingham City University.

OPEN and CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- Honorary Doctor of Health and Global Ambassador, University of Bradford.
- Honorary Visiting Professor, University of Bradford.

Professional and Advisory Roles

- Professional Advisor on inclusive pharmacy practice to the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer NHS England.
- Board member of Inclusive Pharmacy Practice, led by NHS England and Co-chair of Improving Pharmacy Engagement Group (IPEG).
- Independent Member of the Professional Advisory Committee, Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists (GHP)
- Pharmacy Lead for British Association of Physicians of Indian origin (BAPIO)
- No membership of trade unions.

Academic, Professional Memberships, Recognition and Honours

- Fellow, Royal College Of Pharmacy (RCPharm)
- Honorary Fellow, Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
- Honorary Member, Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)
- Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)
- Alumni Fellow, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).
- International Fellow, Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA).
- Fellow, International Institute of Organisational Psychological Medicine (FIIOPM).
- Member, Scientific Committee, Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, (ISBE), Faculty of Medicine University of Lisbon, Portugal.
- Patron, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association.

Trusteeships and Charitable Roles

- Trustee, Mouth Cancer Foundation – providing online information and support for individuals at risk of or affected by mouth cancer.
- Chair of Trustees, Yorkshire Indian Society Charitable Trust – supporting fundraising for charitable causes in Yorkshire and India.

Governance and Public Appointments

- Governor Sheffield Girls' High School, Sheffield.

Other Relevant Interests

- Immediate family members in clinical practice (GPs; and liver cancer surgeon).

Katherine Pearson

- Employed by NHS Professionals staff bank
- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- Assistant Professor in Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Birmingham
- Member of the Steering Group Committee for the Pharmacy Education Conference
- Member of the PDA
- Fellow of Advance HE

Bruce Warner

- Non-Executive Director – PrescQIPP
- Non-Executive Director Birmingham Children's Hospital (Pharmacy)
- Chair of the Board of Trustees – Rotherham Hospice
- Visiting Professor of Pharmacy Practice – University of Huddersfield
- Honorary Professor of Pharmacy Policy and Practice – University of Nottingham

Joseph Williams

Employment:

- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust / The University of Manchester

Honoraria:

- Pfizer, Teva, Roche, Merck, Ipsen, BMS, Gilead, Servier, Nordic Pharma, BI

Conference Sponsorship:

- BOPA, ESMO, EBMT, ISOPP, ASCO, NCODA

Association/Board Memberships:

- BOPA Vice Chair | Past Chair (2022 – 2025)
- UK PPL Board Member
- ISOPP E&T Subcommittee Vice Chair
- UK SACT Board Member (Co-Chair 2025)

November 2026

**Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council
Declarations of interest**

Jonathan Burton

- Community Pharmacist & co-owner, Right Medicine Pharmacy – 2000 onwards
- Member, Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council – 2026
- Co-Editor of Pharmaceutical Press textbook 'Pharmacy management of Long-Term Medical Conditions
- Assist on sessional basis with workshops & OSCE assessment for Univ. of Strathclyde Independent Prescribing course, Postgraduate Research Student – University of Strathclyde
- North Coast Healthcare Training Ltd
- Public Services Delivery Scotland (formerly NES)
- Member of the Editorial Advisory Panel – Pharmacy Magazine
- Wife is P/T dispensing assistant for Right Medicine Pharmacy Ltd
- Wife is owner & director of North Coast Healthcare Training Ltd
- Son and step-daughter both student nurses

Lucy Dixon

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council - 2026
- Pharmacist employee, NHS Highland
- Co-contractor (with husband), Dornoch Pharmacy Ltd
- Co-contractor (with husband), Mitchells Chemist Ltd
- Co-owner, Dornoch Properties Ltd
- Share-holder, Dornoch Pharmacy Ltd
- Share-holder, Mitchells Chemist Ltd
- Secondment to Effective Prescribing and Therapeutics Division of Scottish Government

Paul Forsyth

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council – 2026
- Member, Royal College of Pharmacy, Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council – 2026
- Member, Royal College of Pharmacy
 - Fellow, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (now Royal College of Pharmacy), 2022

- Consultant Pharmacist Credentialing, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (now Royal College of Pharmacy), 2021
- Member, Task & Finish Group Member, Advanced Practice Curriculum, Credentialing, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (now Royal College of Pharmacy), 2021-2022
- Chair (paid), Review of 1st Year Consultant Pharmacist Credentialing Process, Chair of Review Process, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (now Royal College of Pharmacy), 2022
- Consultant Pharmacist, NHS Golden Jubilee
- Consultant Pharmacist (Honorary), NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- Visiting Professor, University of Strathclyde
- Member, UKCPA
 - Ex-Chair, Heart Failure Sub-Group, UKCPA
- Member, British Society for Heart Failure
 - Ex-Board Observer, British Society for Heart Failure
- Member, European Society of Clinical Pharmacy
- Member, European Society of Cardiology
 - Member, Scientific Programme Organising Committee, Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions (ACNAP), European Society of Cardiology
- Member, Scottish Heart and Arterial Risk disease Prevention (SHARP)
 - Ex-Trustee, Scottish Heart and Arterial Risk disease Prevention (SHARP)
- Member, Transforming CVD Models of Care Group, Scottish Government
- Member, Heart Disease Task Force, Scottish Government
- Member, Prevention of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Guideline Stakeholder Group, Joint British Societies and British Heart Foundation
- Member, BHF Implementation Fund Grant Assessment Committee, British Heart Foundation
- Member, Transforming Pharmacy Roles Writing Group, National Pharmacy Workforce Advisory Group, NHS Scotland
- Editorial Board Member, International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy
- Editorial Board Member, Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy
- Member, Dunblane Sports Club
 - Ex-Trustee & Board Member, Dunblane Sports Club
- Private Ad-hoc Consultancy Work, including previous personal honoraria for scientific advice and/or non-personal educational / research grants from: Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pharmacosmos, Servier, and Vifor

Laura Fulton

- Chief Pharmacist, Healthcare Improvement Scotland May 2025 –
- Chair, the National Health Board Directors of Pharmacy Group
- DoP, representative/member on the NHS Scotland Executive Group Quality and Safety Subgroup

- Co-chair, Patient Access Scheme Assessment Group (PASAG)
- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council - 2026
- Past member, Scottish Pharmacy Board

Kellie King

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council – 2026
- Senior Educator, Pharmacy Foundation Training Year, Public Services Delivery Scotland.
- Member of GPhC Fitness to Practice Committee
- Member Scottish Menopause Clinical network

Josh Miller

- Advanced Clinical Pharmacist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council - 2026
- Chair, Area Pharmaceutical Committee NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Member, Area Clinical Forum, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Non-Contractor Member, Pharmacy Practice Committee, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Member, UKCPA

Catriona Sinclair

- Chair, Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council (2026-)
- Community Pharmacy Scotland Board
- Chair, Community Pharmacy Highland
- Director and Superintendent, Spa Pharmacy, Strathpeffer
- Locum pharmacist at GP surgery in Brora

Jill Swan

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council (2026-)
- Member, Faculty of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Advanced Stage II)
- Member, UK Pharmacogenetics and Stratified Medicine Network
- Chair - NAPS Clinical (until end of December 2026)
- Member, UKCPA

Audrey Thompson

- Member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council - 2026
- Past member, RPS Scottish Pharmacy Board
- Past member, RPS Assembly (SPB rep)
- Member NHSGGC pharmacy practices committee 2024
- Member Scottish Practice Pharmacist and Prescribing Advisers' Leadership group 2015 – 2023
- Pharmacist, NHS Forth Valley

November 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

- Director of GRH Pharma Ltd (t/a Tynewydd Pharmacy)
- Member of Welsh Pharmaceutical Committee
- Community Pharmacy Collaborative Lead for Rhondda
- Deputy Board Member of Community Pharmacy Wales
- Member of British Menopause Society

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

English Pharmacy Advisory Council Open Business meeting held on 23 September 2026 held at The Royal College of Pharmacy, 66 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AW

Present:

England Pharmacy Advisory Board

Claire Anderson (CA), Sarah Baig (SB), Aisling Considine (AC), Ciara Duffy (CD), Mildred Johnson (MJ), Claire Nevinson (CN), Tase Oputu (TO), Mahendra Patel (MP) (**Chair**), Katherine Pearson (KP), Bruce Warner (BW), Joseph Williams (JW)

Staff: Asra Ahmed (AA), Acting Head of Engagement and Belonging, Yvonne Dennington (YD) Business Manager for England, Melissa Dear (MD) Campaigns and Corporate Communications Manager, Amandeep Doll (AD) Director for England, Alwyn Fortune (AF) (on line for item 06), Practice and Policy Lead for Wales, Amira Guirguis (AG) Chief Scientist (on line), Emily Kennedy (EK) Head of Professional Standards (on line) , Neal Patel (NP) Associate Director of Membership (item 5 only), Justine Scanlan (JS) Director of Pharmacy, Caroline Thomsett (CT) Interim Director of Communications

Invited Guests: Becky Jarvis, Pharmacy Technician Fellow GPhC, (online)

Royal College of Pharmacy observers: There were no observers

Apologies: Sue Ladds

Item No	Minute	
26.09.EPAC.01	Welcome The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Apologies Apologies were received from Sue Ladds	
26.09.EPAC.02	Declarations of Interest	

	The English Pharmacy Advisory Council noted paper 26.09.EPAC.02 Council members were asked to give any updates to their Declarations of Interest to the Business manager.	
26.09.EPAC.03	Minutes and matters arising The English Pharmacy Advisory Council noted paper 26.09.EPAC.03 <u>Minutes</u> The English Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils open meeting, held on 4 June 2026. <u>Amendments</u> There were no amendments to the NPAC open minutes of 4 June 2026. Proposed by: Aisling Considine and seconded by: Claire Anderson <u>Actions</u> Action 1 – Decs of Interest – Closed Action 2 –Code of Conduct – open – with the Senate for approval Action 3 – Campaigns policy – open – with Senate for approval Action 4 – Aesthetics – closed Action 5 – GPhC consultation - closed There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.	
26.09.EPAC.04	Public Affairs Update JL was invited by the chair to give the update. JL gave an update and highlighted the following points:-	

	• Ministerial changes with the new Government. The College has written to new ministers, including the new position for of Minister for Social Care and Mental Health. • The Health Bill is proceeding through Parliament, with topics including: ○ Abolition of NHSE ○ Future of Healthwatch and Health Services Safety Investigations Body ○ Single Patient Record ○ Performers List • Wider policy landscape, including 10-Year Health Plan and Neighbourhood Health. • Workforce plan not yet published, following changes in Government. • Medicines shortages: thanked BW for his attendance at APPG session on medicines shortages. Awaiting outcome of DHSC consultation on pharmacist flexibilities. • Single National Formulary: College attending national meetings . • Assisted dying bill – MPs have voted against the Bill, which means it will not proceed further and cannot be reintroduced until the next Parliamentary session. • Outlined ongoing partnership working and coalitions, including the Prescription Charges Coalition, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, and co-sponsorship on Pharmacy APPG. The Chair thanked JL for his comprehensive update.	
26.09.EPAC.05	Engagement Team and Ambassadors and an update on Newly Qualified Offer The Chair welcomed AA and NP to the meeting.	

	AA introduced this item giving a short presentation on the work of the Team (which consists of 3 part-time engagement leads supported by the Ambassadors) which includes the following engagement activities: • Regional events – opportunities to connect with members • University engagement –the team have engaged with 30 universities and attended 18 career fairs • Student engagement – including BPSA training day at RCPPharm London Offices and exhibiting at BPSA Annual Conference • Foundation trainees – delivering presentations at Foundation Trainee training days at pharmacy multiples. The team also exhibited at ProPharmace Conference, attended online Foundation Trainee Consortium inductions sessions and participated in South West Regional Foundation Trainee induction days. • External engagement events – e.g. Clinical Pharmacy Congress, Pharmacy Show, collaboration with the Great Northern Research Conference • Ad hoc events – these help to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders • Midlands Conference –held in Birmingham 3 July – Leading Change – included trailblazer presentations and discussion on the left shift of care – received excellent feedback • I&D celebration events –Walked in London Pride March in collaboration with APTUK. Held the following EDI hybrid events International Women’s Day, South Asian Heritage Month, East and South East Asian Heritage Month (online), and the Black History Month is coming up (8 October) The Council members were impressed by the amount of work and coverage that has gone on and made the following comments:-	
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	• Could a diary of events be circulated to help council members when considering availability to attend local events • Provide details of regional ambassadors • Engagement seems to be focused on students and early careers there appears to be little engagement with established career phase and later career stage pharmacists • Presentation has raised awareness of the ambassadors, their role who they are and where they are located • There is a growing number of independent pharmacies – could there be a greater focus on engaging with them? • Suggested mapping council members to the universities in their locality • School visits – could develop a pack for the website for general use for members when invited to speak on pharmacy as a career at schools. • Could a summary be produced after events to inform Council members? • Do we have data on conversion rates – NP replied that lots of work goes on re segmentation but currently we do not have data on conversion rates • Could presentations and resources be loaded onto the learning resource hub so that everything is in one place for Council members? • Could a welcome pack for Council members be produced to help with promoting the College The Chair thanked AA for her presentation and the great work of the team. MP asked if more could be done to champion the role of ambassadors and drive up enthusiasm amongst members. Action 1: The engagement team to look at suggestions made by the English Council members and work on delivery of some aspects.	
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	<u>Newly Qualified Offer</u> NP presented this item; since the last meeting (June) the Newly Qualified Toolkit has been launched in addition to the enhanced curriculum which aligns with the toolkit. It has been 6 weeks since the launch of the toolkit and the membership response has been good. Currently looking at the evaluation process for the toolkit to assess the benefits and supporting members expanding their scope of practice and taking up different roles. The toolkit will remain on the website. The next phase for the College will be case based learning, sector specific (country specific) and then a focus on careers. In 2027, there are plans to develop skill sets for portfolio careers. The Council members made the following comments and questions:- • How do we get new pharmacists to understand the prescribing competency framework? • What is the offer for industrial pharmacists? NP responded saying we will be looking at different membership segments in the future • Offer is good – how do we join it all up with credentialing/career pathways. NP said he will take this away and ask the project group to think this through. The Chair thanked NP for attending the meeting.	
26.09.EPAC.06	Medicines shortages The EPAC noted paper 26.09.EPAC.06 AF attended the meeting (online) for this item. AF gave a short update recapping the contents of the paper shared in advance with council members as part of their pack with a particular focus on the RCPharm 'one year on' report. AF iterated that whilst much has happened in this space since the	

	publication of the original RCPharm medicines shortages report, highlighted in the 'one year on' report, medicines shortages continue to be challenging for pharmacists and patients. He referred EPAC to the two questions contained in the paper, the outputs from the discussion will be taken back to the Country Teams alongside SPAC and WPAC comments to come up with a balanced opinion on the way forward. AF opened up the discussion with Council members, some of the points made are captured below:- • The council acknowledged the significant collaborative work of the College to date in this space, culminating in the original report into medicines shortages and the subsequent 'one year on' report. • There was an acknowledgement of the College's role as an influencer, however, it is not within their remit to implement solutions that will directly fix medicines shortages • Shortages continue to have an impact of patients and pharmacy teams with particularly complex scenarios being experienced • A view was raised that this still needs to remain a priority • A counter view was proposed for this to not remain an immediate priority. Acknowledging the work of the College to date, it was accepted that it's not within the College's gift to implement solutions that resolve shortages. However, the College should continue to raise awareness and advocate for changes in line with its recommendations to support patients and pharmacy teams alike. With an already busy workplan for 2027, there are other areas the College can prioritise and have impact on. • It was suggested the College has a role to support the wellbeing of pharmacists dealing with shortages, need to consider what more can be done to provide support. • There is still work to be done on the recommendations from the Medicines Shortage report, not all have come to fruition – however it	
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	was acknowledged that implementation of many are not in the College's gift and it should continue to collaborate with stakeholders and raise awareness and advocate for change. • If we do continue with this as a priority, there needs to be focus on the things that the College can deliver and influence. The Chair summarised that there were mixed views amongst Council members with some members wanting it to remain on the workplan. AF thanked the council members for their informative feedback and these will be taken alongside that received from members in Scotland and Wales. He added that the Scottish Council had suggested a review of the guidance produced by the College in how pharmacy teams deal with medicines shortages.	
26.09.EPAC.07	Standards and Guidance EK introduced this item, introducing herself saying that she took up the post at the end of June and has had a varied pharmacy background having worked in different sectors over the years. EK highlighted the work currently in train with the team, acknowledging that it is a really busy programme of work:- • GB Wide - Chief Pharmacists Guide, this is now live • MEP print copy has been distributed to members and the Digital MEP is ongoing • Emergency supply guidance has been updated and this now includes time critical medicines. GPhC will be including this in their next edition of Regulate • Supervision and authorisation guidance – the team have prioritised this work, it needs to be completed by 10 December 2026	

	• QAAPS – in development – currently with the quality assurance committee. MHRA have requested sight of this work before it goes out for consultations. Implementation date is 10 December 2026. • Podiatrist guide – will be available to members and non members. • Pharmacogenomics – endorsements have been added to the webpage and an evaluation will take place next year. • Responsible pharmacist and locum guidance: been working closely with GPhC and the Pharmacy Schools' Council on this, it's on track for wider circulation. • Greener pharmacy toolkit – currently have 478 pharmacies signed up and hoping to do more comms around this to increase sign ups. • World Patient Safety Day – signposted to resources and a new website hub is being developed. • Propranolol letter – a joint letter has been sent to the MHRA from the RCP and RCPHarm. • Future workplan – there will be a standards and guidance review, the prescribing competency framework (multi professional) review, update of hospital standards and the use of medicines in care homes. The Chair thanked EK for her comprehensive update and asked Council members to reach out to EK if they wished to help or support with any elements of the workplan.	
26.09.EPAC.08	Community Pharmacy England The English Pharmacy Advisory Council had a discussion at their working day on community pharmacy which included a presentation from Community Pharmacy England (CPE). As the negotiator of the Community Pharmacy contract, the College can support CPE by supporting members working in the community pharmacy sector, to deliver pharmacy services and high quality patient care.	

	The Council discussed the community pharmacy landscape and the Royal College's support for practice and supervision and the delegation of authority and what that means, alongside support for newly qualified prescribers. The reform programme is part of the Community Pharmacy Contract. The Council will proactively write a letter to the Department of Health and Social Care commenting on what the College thinks the Reform should include, i.e. appropriate funding for prescribing, workforce education and training, protected learning time. The Council valued the visit from CPE and suggested that similar visits should be arranged for primary care, hospital and industry. These visits are important for valued discussion and widening knowledge of the sectors for all council members. Action 2 – Draft a letter to DHSC on the reforms and share draft for review with EPAC before it is sent Action 3 – To invite different sectors to future working days to widen knowledge for all council members	
26.09.EPAC.09	GB Workplan The English Council held a workshop session at their working day to discuss the GB workplan for 2027. The key priorities that were discussed included:- • Communication - Media responses – eg polypharmacy/proactive promotional role in advocacy and lobbying • AI – future of AI and hosting further roundtables • Health Inequalities – potentially focusing on literacy and numeracy • Climate change – medicines resilience, emergency preparedness • Selfcare	

	• Workforce Wellbeing • Prescribing – considering private prescribing • Neighbourhood Teams – ensuring pharmacy is involved • Polypharmacy – medicines optimisation There have been similar workshops held with the Scottish and Welsh councils to develop a workplan for 2027 which will align with the annual budgeting process for the organisation which will look at affordability and resource implications. Action 4: The three country teams will collate the suggested buckets and present a 2027 GB workplan at the November NPAC meeting	
26.09.EPAC.10	Papers for noting The EPAC noted the following papers (26.09.EPAC.10 (i) – (iv)) (i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance	
26.09.EPAC.11	Any other business There was no other open business to report.	
26.09.EPAC.12	Key points for reporting to Royal College members – standing item The Council members highlighted the following key points from the meeting to be reported on:- • Community Pharmacy Reforms – responding to Government • Ambassadors – strengthening engagement and supporting the engagement team	

	• Reviewing election process for 2027 • Advocacy and lobbying – understanding what members want																					
26.09.EPAC.13	Dates of next meetings 5 November 2026 (joint meeting in London) Dates for 2027: <table><tr><th>Month (2027)</th><th>EPAC</th><th>SPAC</th><th>WPAC</th></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>16 and 17</td><td>18 and 19</td><td>23 and 24</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>21 and 22</td><td>15 and 16</td><td>14 and 15</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>Still awaiting confirmation of conference date</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Month (2027)	EPAC	SPAC	WPAC	February	16 and 17	18 and 19	23 and 24	June	8 and 9	8 and 9	8 and 9	September	21 and 22	15 and 16	14 and 15	November	Still awaiting confirmation of conference date			
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Action List

Item No	Action and number	By whom	Open/Closed/Comment
June meeting			
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.		Open
September meeting			
26.09.EPAC.05	Action 1: The engagement team to look at suggestions made by the English Council members and work of delivery of some aspects.	AA/NP	Open
26.09.EPAC.08	Action 2 – Draft a letter to DHSC on the reforms and share draft for re-view with EPAC before it is sent	JL/AD	Open
26.09.EPAC.08	Action 3 – To invite different sectors to future working days to widen knowledge for all council members	AD	February
29.09.EPAC.09	Action 4: The three country teams will collate the suggested buckets		

	and present a 2027 GB workplan at the November NPAC meeting		
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Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council Open Business meeting held on 17 September 2026 held at The Royal College of Pharmacy, Scotland, 44 Melville Street, Edinburgh**Present:**

Scotland: Jonathan Burton (JB), Paul Forsyth (PF), Kellie King (KK), Catriona Sinclair (CS) (**Chair**), Jill Swan (JS), Audrey Thompson (AT), Tase Oputu (TO), Royal College of Pharmacy President

Staff: Barry Chapman (BC) Scottish Clinical Fellow, Yvonne Dennington (YD) Business Manager for England, Alwyn Fortune (AF) (on line for item 06), Practice and Policy Lead for Wales, Emily Kennedy (EK), Head of Professional Standards, Aisling Kerr (AK), Engagement Lead for Scotland, Fiona McIntyre (FM) Practice and Policy Lead for Scotland, Justine Scanlan (JS) Director of Pharmacy, Laura Wilson (LW) Director for Scotland,

Invited Guests: Giovanna Di Tano (GDT), Ambassador East Scotland

Royal College of Pharmacy observers: There were no observers

Apologies: Lucy Dixon, Laura Fulton and Josh Miller

Item No	Minute	
26.09.SPAC.01	Welcome The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Apologies Apologies were received from Lucy Dixon, Laura Fulton and Josh Miller	
26.09.SPAC.02	Declarations of Interest The Scottish Council noted paper 26.09.SPAC.02	

	Updates to declarations of interest were received from JB and JS. Others were reminded to send through any updates to YD (in the absence of CR) and to keep them relevant and concise. Action 1: Update declarations of interest – YD/CR	
26.09.SPAC.03	Minutes and matters arising The Scottish Council noted paper 26.09.SPAC.03 <u>Minutes</u> The Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils open meeting, held on 4 June 2026. <u>Amendments</u> There were no amendments to the NPAC open minutes of 4 June 2026. Proposed by: Audrey Thompson and seconded by: Jonathan Burton <u>Actions</u> Action 1 – Decs of Interest – Closed Action 2 – Code of Conduct – Open (LW to check) Action 3 – Campaigns and Political Activity Policy – Open Action 4 – Aesthetics draft positions statement – Closed Action 5 – GPhC consultation - closed <u>Matters arising</u> Adults with Incapacity: JS introduced this item outlining the contents of the paper circulated. The SPAC had a lengthy discussion and some of the points raised are as follows:	

	• Link back to RCPHarm advanced curricula • Some concerns re the training aspects – good example of pharmacists undertaking clinical supervision – training requirements are set out in secondary legislation – RCPHarm could do due diligence on what training might look like • How do we share with members to help practice evolve? • Gives opportunities to align ourselves with other professions • Is there a need for a register? • This could be a good example to consider for the Scope of Practice work – gather core principles • Timelines are not yet clear The SPAC agreed with the recommendations as set out in the paper and the letter will include some of the points discussed at the meeting: • The College is being asked to publicly support the inclusion of pharmacists in the assessment of capacity in the updated legislation. • At the least, this should be a letter of support for pharmacist inclusion to the AWI Chair of the Expert Committee Action 2: Contact Gordon Rushworth to discuss the letter and what it should contain. Letter to be sent from the Chair – JS	
26.09.SPAC.04	Public Affairs update LW introduced this item looking at the key themes of the Scottish Government in their first 100 days: • Walk in Centres. After speaking to RCGP re ts concerns around diverting government money, RCPHarm published a joint statement with RCGP (Scot) – this received good coverage in the media and has	

	resulted in contact from members and other organisations which supported the publication. • RCPPharm Scotland followed up with Adam Harley MSP to understand how the walk-in centres were being used and he is requesting a meeting to discuss National Pathways for NDRs: there is good pharmacy representation on this group. The team has met with the pharmacists on this group and will keep a watching brief. • News plans for hospital flow: still awaiting follow up on how this will impact pharmacy. The input from pharmacy is not known but it will be necessary. • Heart and Lung MOTs: Scottish Government is committed to this. An SBAR has been submitted on funding proposals. –Awaiting outcome – there may be a role for RCPPharm in promoting the establishment of the service. • Public consultation on banning Vaping and Nicotine products: Action 3: a response is currently being prepared and will be circulated to Council soon – closing date at the beginning October • Engagement with Committees/Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries: endeavouring to secure meetings in the diary with those who have an interest in pharmacy. • Public Service Reform: proactive in this area. A public consultation was released but did not give any mechanism to disagree with the way forward. RCPPharm published an open letter which has also formed that basis of our response. This is a key area for the future – keep a watching brief for the impact on pharmacy services. • Parliamentary event 15 April 2027 to celebrate one year on for the RCPPharm. Action 4: Will be working on a “save the date” list of stakeholders and work with the Events team on setting up a registration link.	
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26.09.SPAC.05	Ambassadors AK introduced this item giving a short presentation on the work of the Team which includes the following engagement activities: • University engagement • Student member engagement • Foundation trainees • Regional event – Scottish Conference • External engagement events – e.g. Clinical Pharmacy Congress, Pharmacy Show • Ad hoc events – these help to strengthen relationships • Regional Ambassadors – this group assists with engagement with university visiting at regional and local level and have a presence at career fairs • I&D celebration events. AK invited Giovanna Di Tano, Regional Ambassador for the East of Scotland, to give a short talk on her work on engagement, also highlighting her attendance at pharmaceutical committees. The Council picked up on pharmaceutical committees asking if we could regularly update them on the work of the RCPPharm and be more proactive with these committees. The Chair thanked AK for her work on engagement and also thanked GDT for taking the time to attend the meeting to give a real-life contribution on the work of the ambassadors. The President also added her thanks.	
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26.09.SPAC.06	Medicines shortages The SPAC noted paper 26.09.SPAC.06. AF attending the meeting (on line) for this item. AF gave a short update recapping the contents of the paper and referring SPAC to the two questions contained in the paper and opened up the discussion. SPAC had a lengthy discussion and some of the points raised were:- • Good work to date and important to keep this topic active as still an important issue for patients and pharmacists – but cannot see anything obvious to do that will make a difference at this stage. The work has been a good example of collaborative working. • Not all recommendations are for the College to take forward so it would be good to get the Advisory Board's thoughts on this. • Action 5: Suggested that the guidance for members on medicines shortages could be reviewed and possibly updated and examples of good practice shared. AF agreed to discuss this with the team and review the wider feedback from the English and Welsh Councils • Action 6: Consider reconvening the advisory group to assess progress against the recommendations	
26.09.SPAC.07	Standards and Guidance EK introduced this item, introducing herself saying that she took up the post at the end of June. EK highlighted the work currently in train with the team, acknowledging that it is a really busy programme of work: • Supervision and authorisation guidance – the team have prioritised this work	

	• Responsible pharmacist and locum guidance – been working closely with GPhC and the Pharmacy Schools’ Council on this – on track for wider circulation • QAPPS – work is ongoing – currently with the quality assurance committee. MHRA have requested sight of this work before it goes out for consultations. This has been a major undertaking but is currently on track. Implementation date is 10 December 2026. • Chief Pharmacists Guide – GB wide – is now live • Emergency supply – guidance has been updated – this now includes time critical medicines. GPhC will be including this in their next edition of Regulate. • Podiatrist guide – will be available to members and non-members • MEP print copy has been distributed • Digital MEP – work on this is ongoing • Pharmacogenomics – endorsements have been added to the webpage – an evaluation will take place next year. • Greener pharmacy toolkit – currently have 478 pharmacies signed up – currently there are not many sign-ups in Scotland – overall there has been good engagement with 7-9 having achieved gold status. • Patient Safety – the website has been updated and a new website hub is being developed • Propranolol letter – joint letter has been sent to the MHRA from the RCP and RCPharm – comms going out on 17 September to coincide with World Health Safety Day • Patient Information leaflets – currently attending working groups at MHRA • Future workplan – standard and guidance review – competency framework for prescribers review (multi professional), update of hospital standards.	
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	The Chair thanked EK for her comprehensive update and said that as a Royal College we need to be more agile and dynamic. SPAC were asked to raise awareness of an areas of risk and guidance that may need updating.	
26.09.SPAC.08	GB workplan LW recapped on the GB workplan workshop session that had taken place on the previous day to establish the proposed priorities for the national teams going forward in year 2027. The priorities suggested by SPAC for GB are • Scope of Practice • NHS Reforms • Foundation training year capacity And priorities for SPAC are:- • Pharmacy Vision; • Workforce (Transforming Roles & Impact of NHS Reform) • Drug Policy SPAC thought that a number of areas under consideration would ultimately sit under the work of Scope of Practice. Action 7: Workplan priorities- following on from this meeting and the English and Welsh Council meetings the teams will meet to discuss the prioritisation outputs from the meetings and bring back a plan to be agreed at the November joint Council meeting on 5 November 2026 There was further discussion from Council members which included:- • Scope of practice is a big piece of work and could not be done in 12 months and it cannot be the only thing worked on or delivered in 2027.	

	Difficult to imagine that the national teams will have the capacity to do this work. This work will need senior pharmacy leaders to be involved and be collaborative. It will need to have a framework and principles and take a bottom up approach. JS added that this would need to run as a programme of work, far reaching, with wide engagements and bringing together a working group. • NHS Reforms will be different in each country – nuances but similar principles • Medicines shortages has been a huge piece of work over two years and has taken a huge amount of resource. • Team capacity to undertake priorities – JS added that RCPPharm is currently in the budget setting process and capacity and resource will form part of the overall discussions relating to the budget. The Chair thanked all for their thoughts and contributions to the discussion on priorities.	
26.09.SPAC.09	Papers for noting The SPAC noted the following papers (26.09.SPAC.09 (i) – (iv) (i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance	
26.09.SPAC.10	Any other business There was no other open business to report.	
26.09.SPAC.11	Key points for reporting to Royal College members – standing item The Council members highlighted the following key points from the meeting to be reported on:-	

	• Scope of practice – RCPharm will be undertaking a programme of work to help pharmacists define scope of practice • Adults with incapacity - The College is being asked to publicly support the inclusion of pharmacists in the assessment of capacity in the up-dated legislation. SPAC agreed to take this forward subject to a discussion with Gordon Rusworth. • Ambassadors – strengthening engagement - how do we reach pharmacists who are not members of the College?																					
26.09.SPAC.12	Dates of next meetings 5 November 2026 (joint meeting) Dates for 2027: <table><tr><th>Month (2027)</th><th>EPAC</th><th>SPAC</th><th>WPAC</th></tr><tr><td>February</td><td>16 and 17</td><td>18 and 19</td><td>23 and 24</td></tr><tr><td>June</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td><td>8 and 9</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>21 and 22</td><td>15 and 16</td><td>14 and 15</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>Still awaiting confirmation of</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Month (2027)	EPAC	SPAC	WPAC	February	16 and 17	18 and 19	23 and 24	June	8 and 9	8 and 9	8 and 9	September	21 and 22	15 and 16	14 and 15	November	Still awaiting confirmation of			
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June meeting			
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.		Open
September meeting			
26.09.SPAC.02	Action 1: update declarations of interest	YD	closed
26.09.SPAC.03	Action 2: Contact Gordon Rushworth to discuss the letter and what it should contain. Letter to be sent from the Chair	Jill Swan	Open

26.09.SPAC.04	Action 3: Public consultation on banning Vaping and Nicotine products: a response is currently being prepared and will be circulated to Council soon – closing date at the beginning of October	Policy Team	Open – beginning of October
26.09.SPAC.04	Action 4: Parliamentary event 15 April 2027 to celebrated one year on for the RCPHarm. Will be working on a “save the date” list of stakeholders and work with the Events team on setting up a registration link.	Scottish Team/Events Team	Open – Q3
26.09.SPAC.06	Action 5: Suggested that the guidance for members on medicines shortages could be revisited and possibly updated and examples of good practice shared. AF agreed to discuss this with the team and review the wider feedback from the English and Welsh Councils.	AF and Policy Team	Open
26.09.SPAC.06	Action 6: Consider reconvening the advisory group to assess progress against the recommendations	AF and Policy Team	Open
26.09.SPAC.08	Action 7: Workplan priorities- following on from this meeting and the English and Welsh Council meetings the teams will meet to	National Teams	Open - November

	discuss the prioritisation outputs from the meetings and bring back a plan to be agreed at the November joint Council meeting on 5 November 2026		
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Welsh National Pharmacy Advisory Council (WPAC) meeting 24 September 2026

26.11. WPAC.03

Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council (WPAC) Open Business meeting minutes – 24 September 2026

Held at the Royal College of Pharmacy, 2 Ash Tree Court, Woodsy Close, Cardiff Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RW

Present:

Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Board

Liz Hallett (LH) WPAC Chair, Aled Roberts (AR) WPAC Vice Chair, Gareth Hughes (GH), Helen Davies (HD), Sarah Brown (SB), Amy Jayham (AJ), Clare Clement (CC), Dylan Jones (DJ), Eleri Schiavone (ES) online for parts of the meeting, Tase Oputu (TO) RC President,

Staff: Geraldine Mccaffrey (GMc), Director for Wales, Alwyn Fortune (AF), Policy Lead, Cath Ward (CW), Business Manager for Wales, Emily Kennedy (EK), Head of Professional Standards (online item 3 only), Justine Scanlan (JS) Director of Pharmacy. Neal Patel (NP) Associate Director of Membership, Asra Ahmed (AA), Acting Head of Professional Belonging and Engagement and Gareth Holyfield (**GH**) Pharmacy Professional Engagement Lead for Wales and the West of England item 2 only.

Apologies: Iwan Hughes (IH)

Item1	Welcome and apologies	To note apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the open business section of the Welsh Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting. The Council noted that Corrine Burns from PJ should be attending online but unfortunately was unable to and that Emily Kennedy would be attending online for item, 3
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		She advised that Neal Patel (NP), Associate Director of Membership, Asra Ahmed. (AA), Acting Head of Professional Belonging and Engagement and Gareth Holyfield (GH) Pharmacy Professional Engagement Lead for Wales and the West of England were attending in person for item 2.
Item 2 24.09. WPAC 02	Declarations of Interest	The Council noted the Declarations of interest
Item 3 24.09. NPAC 03	Minutes and matters arising	The Council approved the minutes of the Open Business of the National Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting held in June for England, Scotland and Wales as a true record of the proceedings. Approver – Dylan Jones Seconder – Sarah Brown Matters Arising 26.06. NPAC 04 Action 2: Code of Conduct Policy: KB to update policy with GB KB to action – no further update (to remain 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. (open) 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. LW completed
Item 3	Engagement Team and	An introduction to the Engagement Team and Regional Ambassadors, and to receive An update on the past and upcoming regional conferences.

	Ambassadors, and update on newly qualified pharmacists' membership offer	The Chair welcomed AA, GH and NP to the meeting. AA gave a brief overview of the team structure, their role and the role of the Regional Ambassadors. She said that there was a vacancy in West Wales and asked if the Council could keep this in mind and let us know if they knew anyone who would be interested in the role. Activity so far has included • Regional events – opportunities to connect with members • University engagement and career fairs • Student engagement – including BPSA training day and exhibiting at BPSA conference • Foundation trainees – delivering training at pharmacy multiples • External engagement events – e.g. Clinical Pharmacy Congress, Pharmacy Show, Great North Collaboration • Ad hoc events which help to strengthen relationships • Midlands Conference – 3 July – Leading Change – trailblazer presentation - feedback excellent • I&D celebration events – London Pride/International Women's Day/South Asian Heritage Month, Black History Month (8 October) GH provided a summary of July's Foundation Trainee engagement activity, which included coordinating RCPharm attendance and presentations at seven HEIW induction events across Wales: One event in North Wales (Prestatyn), two events in West Wales (Carmarthen and Swansea) and four events in South-East Wales (Cardiff). He thanked the team for the support and joint working between Team Wales, Engagement team and Regional Ambassadors who all shared the workload so that RCPharm could attend HEIW events all on the same day – 180+ in attendance across the different sites. The Chair asked the team to reach out if they needed any support at events/careers. <u>Newly Qualified Offer</u>
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		NP reported that, since the previous meeting, the Newly Qualified Toolkit had launched alongside an aligned enhanced curriculum. Six weeks after launch, membership uptake was positive. An evaluation is being developed to assess benefits, such as broader scopes of practice and access to different roles. The toolkit will remain available on the website. The next phase for the College will be case based learning (country specific) and then a focus on careers. In 2027 there are plans to develop skill sets for portfolio careers.
Item 4	Guidance and Standards update	Guidance and Standards update – Introduction from Emily Kennedy EK provided a brief explanation of her background, skills and knowledge and gave an update of the work of the team as follows: - - Supervision and authorisation have been completed - QAPPs will undergo a wider consultation by 10th Dec - Chief Pharmacist guide has been published - MEP is complete and distributed both hard copy and online version - Time critical meds and safety net – Nov GPhC, and emergency medicine guide - Podiatrist guide has been published and is available to non-members - Pharmacoeconomics resource to support the Prescribing Competency framework - Renew Greener pharmacy toolkit - 478 signed up. - Thoughts about how we celebrate achievements - World Patient Safety Day which featured non communicable diseases - Joint letter to the MHRA on propranolol safety - Future workplan – there will be a standards and guidance review, the prescribing competency framework (multi professional) review, update of hospital standards and the use of medicines in care home The Chair thanked EK for her thorough update.

4. (15.00)	Medicines Shortages	To discuss progress on recommendations and next steps following on from the Medicines shortages: solutions for empty shelves — one year on report Led by Alwyn Fortune Policy Lead AF briefly summarised the paper, noting that although much had happened, medicines shortages remained a significant challenge for pharmacists and patients. He outlined the paper's two questions and said he would take the discussion findings back to the Country Teams to develop a balanced view on the way forward. AF invited Council members to discuss the issues; key points are captured below: • Acknowledged by Community Pharmacy members – ‘still as bad as ever’, cost impact on medicines supply, and patient facing information extremely volatile market, huge impact on community pharmacies • Extending prescribing intervals to 56 days may exacerbate shortages • Continue to raise the profile of the work • Lobbying (with other Royal Colleges)
Item 5	G B Workplan	Update on overview of GB Workplan Team will provide an overview of the session held in the morning AF recapped the discussions from the GB work plan sessions held in the morning meeting. The areas for prioritising were agreed as

		- Scope of practice - o Prescribing / private - Community by design - Workforce numbers Other areas to consider: - Research in practice - Health Inequalities – touches all work, show case what a pharmacists could be doing to meet that agenda
Item 6	Senedd Update	To receive an update on the political landscape of the Senedd Alwyn Fortune (AF) Policy Lead and Geraldine McCaffrey (GMc) Director for Wales led jointly on this item GMc reported that the new style Y Farchnad and engagement with new MSs has proven successful and the Royal College secured their place early on. We fronted a stand with LH, GMc and IH in attendance. The focus of conversation was based around a two-page A4 handout with information about pharmacists, medicines and the importance and value they bring to the NHS with points about the pressures facing pharmacists. The handout also focused specifically on issues that would help MSs in their scrutiny of the new government. The scrutiny points included: - Cancer - pharmacy's role, knowing that the new cancer plan would be coming out later this year. - Surgery - pharmacists' role in supporting surgery, particularly in the context of the new government's commitment to surgical hubs. - Medicines waste - particularly in the context of sustainability and tight NHS budgets.

		- Medicines adherence and polypharmacy - the impact of poor adherence and the importance of effectively managing polypharmacy. Engagement with the new Health Minister Mabon ap - Gwynfor AF advised that we wrote to the new Health Minister Mabon ap - Gwynfor to congratulate him on his appointment and to invite him to speak at our conference and we were very pleased that he agreed to take part. The Council noted that it is helpful to have the Minister engaging directly with pharmacy and the profession so early in his time in government. It gives us another opportunity to get our key issues on his radar, but also to hear from him relatively freshly into the role about his priorities and where the new government is heading. Next steps include: - - Plan site visits etc - Engage and gain attendance on Cross party groups and specialist areas - Lung Health - Mental Health - Contribute to the Cancer plan The Programme for Government 2026-2030 -New Ambition from Wales has been published, key aspects for the Council to note are: Reducing waiting lists • Establish up to 10 surgical hubs across Wales. Improving outcomes through person-centred care • Ensure integrated care is delivered closer to home • Strengthen national clinical pathways for all age groups, with a particular focus on mental health, stroke, diabetes, ophthalmology and cardiovascular care • Deliver a National Cancer Strategy
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		Improving workforce and system infrastructure sustainability • delivery of a long-term workforce strategy • Implement a 10-year Digital Strategy that promotes innovation and the strategic use of AI Strengthening social care Review of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
24.09 NPAC 7(i) to 7(iv)	Papers for noting	For the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils to note the following papers: (i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance The Council noted the papers.
Item 8	Key points for reporting to Royal College members – standing item	To highlight the key points from the meeting to be reported back to members The following items were agreed by Council as noteworthy for reporting to members - Medicine shortages continue to impact on patients, RCPharm has completed great work but this is an area for continued advocacy - Work planning for the key priority areas for pharmacy for 2027, aligning with the new priorities of the new government and PFG - Engagement activities undertaken with the new government - Recognising the excellent work of the engagement team and ambassadors
Item 9	Any other business	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.

National Pharmacy Advisory Council meeting – 5th November 2026

Title of item	Digital Transformation and AI in Pharmacy: Strategic Priorities for 2027
Author of paper	Heidi Wright, Practice & Policy Lead, England
Position in organisation	Fiona McIntyre, Policy & Practice Lead, Scotland
Telephone	Heidi.wright@rcpharm.org
E-mail	Fiona.mcintyre@rcpharm.org
Item to be led at the meeting by	Heidi Wright and Fiona McIntyre
Headline summary of paper	Following substantial activity on digital innovation and AI in pharmacy since 2024, this paper asks the NPACs to consider strategic priorities for the next phase of work and how the College can support the profession thrive in a digitally enabled healthcare system.
Purpose of item (decision / discussion)	Discussion and decision on strategic direction of future College activities
For consideration	How can the College best support pharmacists and pharmacy teams to adopt AI and digital technologies safely, effectively and confidently? How can the College establish itself as a leader in shaping policy related to digital transformation in pharmacy? What should the College's priority activities be in relation to digital innovation in 2027? Are there areas where the College should develop new professional guidance, educational resources or competency frameworks?
Risk implications	Lack of professional pharmacy leadership could result in external stakeholders shaping policy without sufficient pharmacy input.

	Workforce capability gaps may limit the benefits realisation of digital transformation in pharmacy and medicines pathways. Rapid and dynamic change in the digital landscape could outpace the College's capacity to publish guidance and resources for the profession.
Resource implications	Outputs may require prioritisation within the Country, Professional Development and Professional Standards and Guidance Teams' workplan. Additional resource may be required depending on agreed outputs.

Digital Transformation and AI in Pharmacy: Strategic Priorities for 2027

Questions for consideration:

- How can the College best support pharmacists and pharmacy teams to adopt AI and digital technologies safely, effectively and confidently?
- How can the College establish itself as a leader in shaping policy related to digital transformation in pharmacy?
- What should the College's priority activities be in relation to digital innovation in 2027?
- Are there areas where the College should develop new professional guidance, educational resources or competency frameworks?

What we are looking to achieve.

With reference to Digital Innovation and AI in Pharmacy, Council members are asked to:

- Acknowledge the activities undertaken to date, including publication of policies, position statements, stakeholder engagement, convening of stakeholders to share learning, engagement with members through a survey
- Identify the strategic priorities for the College in 2027
- Identify any gaps in professional guidance, advocacy and education

Background:

Since 2024 the College has undertaken a substantial programme of work to explore the implications of digital transformation and AI for pharmacy practice. This has included publication of policy and position statements, engagement with stakeholders across Great Britain, facilitation of workshops and roundtable discussions, support for national digital programmes, and gathering intelligence from the profession.

Recent engagement suggests that pharmacists are increasingly aware of and using AI-enabled tools. However, concerns remain regarding safety, governance, accountability, reliability, digital capability and equitable access. There is also a clear demand from pharmacists for practical implementation guidance, examples of good practice, educational support and professional leadership.

This aligns closely with the College's strategic ambition for pharmacy to be at the forefront of patient care and for the College to be the world leader in the safe and effective use of medicines. The themes of future work are centred around:

- Professional Leadership and influence
- Workforce capability, education and career development
- Safe adoption of AI in pharmacy practice and medicines use

A summary of College activity undertaken to date is provided in Annex 1.

Recommendations:

Notwithstanding feedback from Council members – internal team suggestions include:

- Build on the Digital Hub page on the College website as the go-to resource for pharmacists where links to College publications and external resources are available in one place ([Digital pharmacy: preparing for the future of the profession - Royal College of Pharmacy](#))
- Strengthen policy where needed – recommendations remain relevant but could be strengthened with more specific detail to influence national digital health policy and implementation
- Develop professional guidance on how to implement AI in pharmacy practice including examples of good practice, case studies
- Building on the RCPPharm annual conference stream in 2025, establish an education programme of digital education which complements, rather than duplicates, existing external offerings
- Collaborate with external partners to support the development of specialist digital pharmacy roles including the consideration of digital career curricula and the assurance of pharmacy practice in digital, data and technology
- Work with external partners to explore the creation of resources to support patients to utilise digital innovations, including AI, to manage their medicines and practice self-care.

Annex 1

Work to date

2024

- July 2024 we published the [Digital Capabilities for the Pharmacy Workforce](#) and key recommendations are:
 - Digital capabilities should be stated explicitly in initial pharmacy education and training standards as well as the supporting curriculum documentation.
 - Schools of pharmacy must ensure that digital capabilities are embedded across the undergraduate pharmacy curriculum.
 - Employers and NHS pharmacy education commissioners must ensure advancement of digital capabilities is embedded into education, training and professional development at all career stages, including the development of clinical informatics roles.
 - NHS England/Scotland/Wales must provide adequate resources, including funding, for the development of digital literacy and associated training for the current pharmacy workforce.
 - Digital capabilities for pharmacy teams should include an understanding of the opportunities, benefits and risks of artificial intelligence applications for pharmacy practice, and how these systems might enhance pharmacy services.
 - Before launching newly commissioned services involving the pharmacy workforce, the necessary digital capabilities must be assessed to ensure that the pharmacy staff are competent to deliver the service.
 - Pharmacists and pharmacy team members must have access to relevant technologies across health and care systems to provide high quality personalised care for patients.
 - More research needs to be undertaken to understand current and future digital needs for the pharmacy workforce.

2025

- January 2025 we published our policy on [Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy](#) and recommendations are focused on:
 - Leadership and advocacy
 - Education and training
 - Development and collaboration
 - Quality, safety and governance
 - Patient engagement and transparency
- June 2025 we facilitated a Digital Education and Innovation Roundtable and published a [report](#). Actions from the report are:
 - RPS should be lobbying with a unified message across devolved nations to influence their longer-term strategy on digital innovation surrounding medicines and pharmacy practice.

- An education piece for pharmacists in the digital space needs to be developed, emphasising the importance of clinical judgement and critical appraisal.
- RPS should facilitate the development of a worked example of a digital role moving through the credentialling process. This would guide pharmacists on the type of evidence they would be able to include as part of the credentialling process. This would also raise the profile of digital pharmacy careers including those as clinical informaticians.
- RPS will facilitate a series of events to enable stakeholders to 'deep dive' into particular aspects of digital capabilities and AI.
- December 2025 we published the digital webpage hub:
<https://www.rcpharm.org/campaigns/digital-pharmacy-preparing-for-the-future-of-the-profession/>

2026

- February 2026 we published our policy on [barcode standards and patient safety](#)
- February 2026 we published a [Digital Skills and Capabilities resource](#). This was developed by a national working group established by NHS England.
- February 2026 we facilitated a community pharmacy working group to support the National Commission into the Regulation of AI in Healthcare
- March 2026 we undertook a pharmacist AI use and impact survey and published a [report](#). Key findings are:
 - 98 respondents (69.5%) reported awareness of AI tools being used in pharmacy practice.
 - 90 respondents (63.8%) reported current use AI-based tools in their work.
 - Among users, AI was most commonly used for streamlining administrative tasks, followed by educational material development and professional development / learning tools.
 - Among non-users, the main barriers were concerns about accuracy or safety, unclear governance or accountability, lack of training or confidence, and lack of access to tools.
 - Across all respondents, 79 respondents (56.0%) reported that AI had improved workflow efficiency to some extent, although this figure should be interpreted in the context of the survey's branching structure.
 - Confidence in AI reliability was limited: only 4 respondents (2.8%) reported being very confident, while 60 (42.6%) reported being not confident.
 - In total, 104 respondents (73.8%) indicated that AI gives them cause for concern.
 - The most requested forms of support were practical use cases, workplace guidance / policies, and online learning resources.
- April 2026 we held a workshop focused on the impact of AI on pharmacy practice and we published a [report from the workshop](#)
- July 2027 we attended a CQC roundtable on the safe and proportionate oversight of AI-enabled care in medicines optimisation in secondary care settings

- September 2026 we held a workshop focused on the use and learning of AI in pharmacy education and training. A report is currently being drafted
- November 2026 we are holding a workshop focused on the application of AI in pharmaceutical science, research and clinical trials. We will publish a report following this workshop
- We are also feeding into an NHS England piece of work via the Community Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group looking at Community Pharmacy Digital Safety and Adoption Guidance Resource
- Via the Digital Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group we have received updates and fed into a number of pieces of work across GB. Notes from the meetings can be found on the RCPHarm website here: <https://www.rcpharm.org/information/digital-pharmacy-expert-advisory-group/>

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – 5 November 2026

26.11.NPAC.08(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, Kate Ryan Laura.wilson@rcpharm.org Geraldine.mccaffrey@rcpharm.org Amandeep.doll@rcpharm.org Emily.kennedy@rcpharm.org
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Pharmacist Prescribing Environmental Sustainability Genomics Reducing Health Inequalities Polypharmacy in Cancer Patient Information Leaflets
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 Visions

Pharmacist Prescribing (Laura/Heidi)

Highlights

- Held our profession-wide DPP roundtable co-chaired with NPA, discussion around experiences over the year and future focus of the group

Next Steps

- Take on recommendations and consider expanding the scope of the group to quality assurance of DPP and foundation training capacity

Environmental Sustainability (Iwan)

Highlights

- Attended the Council meeting of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC), during which Aisling Considine English Advisory Council was formally appointed as a Trustee of the Alliance.
- Submitted final evidence to the Climate and Health Scorecard Initiative, which assesses the progress of healthcare professional organisations in taking action on climate change across areas including internal operations, finance, education and advocacy.
- Continued to promote the Greener Pharmacy Toolkit, while exploring new approaches to raising awareness and encouraging wider uptake.
- Met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sustainability in Pharmacy Education Group to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration, with further discussions planned for later in the year.

Next Steps

- Develop new ways to promote the Greener Pharmacy Toolkits.

Pharmacogenomics (Geraldine/Emily)

Highlights

- No notable update since last meeting

Next Steps

Reducing Health Inequalities (Aman/Iwan)

Highlights

- Completed work on a new health inequalities hub webpage, outlining why tackling health inequalities matters, the role of pharmacy in addressing them, and the new Royal College's approach to promoting health equity and supporting efforts to reduce inequalities.

Next Steps

- Web page to be published when building work of web team is complete.

Polypharmacy in cancer (Heidi/Aman)

Highlights

- Paper in pack

Next Steps

-

Patient Information Leaflets (Aman/Laura/Kate)

Highlights

- Session at council meeting
- Ongoing attendance at MHRA workstreams

Next steps

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – 5 November 2026

26.11/NPAC/08(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 Aseptic Preparation Services (QAAPS) (Emily/Dafydd) Access to Medicines (A 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

- Held the 2nd workshop on The use and learning of AI in pharmacy education and training (24th September 2026)
- Report from this meeting in final draft stages and due for publishing by end of October

Next Steps

- Planning in hand for 3rd workshop on Application of AI in pharmaceutical science, research and clinical trials (4th November 2026)
- 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.
- Review themes from all 3 meetings and translate into recommendations for any further work on policy, professional standards and guidance or education

Palliative and End of Life Care (Ross/Geraldine)

Highlights

- No notable update since last meeting

Next Steps

Medicines Shortages (Aman/Alwyn/John)

Highlights

- We welcomed the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pharmacy (APPG) Inquiry into Medicines Shortages in England: One Year On report, a report we directly informed. The report highlights key priorities for ongoing work, aligning closely with the RCPHarm 'one year on' report.
- We attended a briefing call with staff supporting the office of Taiwo Owatemi MP, exploring medicines shortages, progress made and current challenges – with a view to supporting future work with the MP.

Next Steps

- Review key areas of focus from the Pharmacy APPG one year on report and continue to collaborate with the group to drive forward recommendations.
- Contribute and participate in government work across the nations on medicines shortages, as well as the wider 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.
- Explore reconvening the advisory group to maintain the momentum of the group and to promote collaboration across the supply chain.

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

Highlights

- The Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) team completed their edit in September.
- The NHS Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance Committee (PQAC) and lead author have completed their review of the edit.
- The SPS editorial team are reviewing the comments and escalating key issues to the project management board.
- The project management board are gathering legal advice through the Royal College on the capacity of delegation and authority of registered Pharmacy Technician delegating to non-registered professionals e.g., Science Manufacturing Technician.
- We are also seeking clarity if non-registered professionals can dispense a product under the supervision of a registered Pharmacy Technician.

Next steps

- MHRA to review the standards after legal clarification.
- A 3-week consultation will be conducted. The aim is to publish the updated standards prior to the implementation, (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.
- To review QAAPS 5th edition Chapter 3 – Minimising Risk with Injectable Medicines. A decision is to be made whether the revised version of this chapter will be published alongside QAAPS 6th edition as stand-alone professional guidance. This is owing to the fact that the former Chapter 3 set standards for organisational governance independent of whether a hospital includes an aseptic unit or not. As non-aseptic unit standards have been removed from QAAPS, new guidance will need to be published incorporating the removed standards on organisational risk management of injectable medicines.

- 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.

Assisted Dying (Ross/Laura)

Highlights

- Exercise to refresh Assisted Dying policy has been undertaken and final draft with National Advisory Council Chairs for approval before publishing early November

Next Steps

- No current or anticipated legislative processes expected within next year

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 period from 26th August to 23rd October 2026 we responded to 2 consultations from UK Government and the NHS in England
- All consultation responses published [here](#) on the RCPPharm 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 – 5 November 2026

26.11/NPAC/08(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) 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

- No notable update since last meeting

Next Steps

Workforce Hot Topics (Fiona)

Highlights

- Scoping of workforce issues continues
- Briefing paper on current and emerging risks surrounding Pharmacist Foundation Training Capacity across GB in draft for internal review
- Response to APTUK consultation on Post registration career pathway for pharmacy technicians being co-ordinated

Next Steps

- Await ratification of GB workplan for 2027
- Submit APTUK consultation response ahead of deadline with associated member comms

I&D (Aman)

Highlights

- 10 year anniversary of RPS hosting BHM events celebrated
- Arranging neurodiversity line manager training to be held in Q1 2027
- ABCD meeting held to discuss the challenges experienced by Black pharmacists working in education and academia

Next Steps

- Planning up coming ABCD meetings in November and February 2027
- Planning acknowledgement of Islamophobia month and Disability History Month
- Working on finalising the LGBTQIA+ education resources

Differential Attainment (Aman)

Highlights and Next Steps

- Ongoing meetings with GPhC on how we can work together on creating meaningful action for sustainable change

Open BUSINESS

- Planning meetings with stakeholders identified as key in delivering the identified actions
- Planning the next oversight delivery group meeting in December

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – 5 November 2026

26.11/NPAC/08(iv)

RCPHarm Annual Conference 2026 - meeting for Chairs and speakers - Afternoon session (Stream 1) - Person-Centred Care Title of item	Strengthening Pharmacy Governance
Author of paper Position in organisation Telephone E-mail	Laura Wilson, Amandeep Doll, Emily Kennedy and Geraldine McCaffrey
Headline summary of paper	To give a progress update on the following areas:- Supervision Responsible Pharmacist (RP) /Superintendent Pharmacist (SP) / Chief Pharmacist 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	
Resource implications	Work part of 2026 workplan

Strengthening Pharmacy Governance (Aman/Laura)

Supervision (Emily)

Highlights

- Supervision description amended and circulated to council chairs and country directors for comment

Next Steps

- Seek legal advice regarding compliance with legislation wording
- Publish description following RCPharm protocols

Responsible Pharmacist / Superintendent Pharmacist/Chief Pharmacist Guidance

Highlights

- Feedback received from majority of stakeholders
- Revisions underway to take into account feedback and provide clear guidance with supplementary resources available (e.g. implementation tools)

Next Steps

- Awaiting GPhC council sign off of Responsible pharmacist/ Superintendent Pharmacist rules in preparation for the supervision and authorisation legislation change. Guidance will be finalised once this information confirmed and published on website following RCPharm protocols.
- Develop examples of clinical scenarios for FAQs

National Pharmacy Advisory Council
meeting – 5 November 2026

Title of item	<i>‘An independent review of pharmacy professionals working in, and for, general medical practice in Wales’ - Welsh Government commission</i>
Author of paper	Alwyn Fortune
Position in organisation	Policy Lead, Wales
Telephone	(0) 207 572 2346
E-mail	Alwyn.fortune@rcpharm.org
Item to be led at the meeting by	Paper for noting
Headline summary of paper	In September 2025, the Welsh Government commissioned the Royal College of Pharmacy in Wales to undertake an <i>‘independent review of pharmacy professionals working in, and for, general medical practice in Wales.’</i> The work was conducted under the guidance of a Welsh Government appointed Expert Steering Group and subsequent evidence-based recommendations have been formed following extensive engagement and a literature review. An outline of the current status of the review is provided.
Purpose of item (decision / discussion)	To provide an update to National Council members of the status of the Welsh Government commissioned <i>‘independent review of pharmacy professionals working in, and for, general medical practice in Wales.’</i>
For noting	
Risk implications	As the review is at a now near final completed designed stage, initial project risks around appropriate resource within the team to deliver the review in the timelines have been either negated or addressed within the project timelines.

	The collaborative nature and extensive engagement in developing the review and its recommendations, reduces/negates the risk of the Welsh Government not accepting the recommendations.
Resource implications	The commissioning process allowed the team to appoint external lead authors for the review to support the work. The resource implication on the team in Wales has been substantial to deliver the engagement needed, review and edit multiple drafts and ensure final designed bilingual reports – but this has now been largely delivered. There is the potential for further work for the College once Welsh Government publishes its response to the review with expected actions for individuals and organisations – we await this.

An independent review of pharmacy professionals working in, and for, general medical practice in Wales - Welsh Government commission

Background:

In September 2025, the Welsh Government commissioned the Royal College of Pharmacy (RCPharm) in Wales to undertake an *'Independent review of pharmacy professionals working in, and for, general medical practice in Wales,'*

The review aims were to assess the roles, activities, leadership, and clinical governance of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in general medical practice. The intention from the Welsh Government was that the review will inform future policy development and help establish governance structures which ensure high-quality pharmaceutical care is provided in this sector.

The review would complement the community pharmacy contractual reforms and the ['independent review of clinical hospital pharmacy services in Wales'](#) (undertaken previously by the RCPharm in Wales), driving forward improvements in pharmaceutical care across Wales's three main care settings.

The review has been undertaken under the direction of an Expert Steering Group appointed to by the Welsh Government and the subsequent recommendations have been agreed by this group.

The review has enabled the RCPharm team in Wales to undertake extensive engagement with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed by, or working for on behalf of health boards, general medical practices in Wales. Engagement has also been wide ranging across settings as the interface and transition of patient care was explored. Wider engagement and collaborative working with key stakeholders, including the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), patient groups, statutory education bodies and national digital delivery organisations amongst many others, has enabled the formation of a set of recommendations and subsequent review with a body of evidence to support these recommendations.

The RCPharm review is now completed, subject to some final minor amendments of the designed bilingual versions prior to publication. The review findings and final recommendations have been shared with the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government are now in the process of drafting their response to the review and likely undertaking a period of consultation with stakeholders, prior to any actions likely to emanate from their response.

We remain in dialogue with the Welsh Government, and we anticipate that some of the actions from the Welsh Government response will likely include asks of RCPharm. It is likely that some actions will require us to lead on specific pieces of work, whilst further asks may be for us to support the work of other leading organisations.

OPEN BUSINESS

We anticipate that the Welsh Government response will be finalised over the coming weeks/month, at that point, we will then be in a position to agree a publication date – to include both the RCPHarm independent review and the subsequent Welsh Government response.