

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	<p>Welcome The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Apologies Apologies were received from Lucy Dixon, Laura Fulton and Josh Miller</p>	
26.09.SPAC.02	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Scottish Council noted paper 26.09.SPAC.02</p>	

	<p>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.</p> <p>Action 1: Update declarations of interest – YD/CR</p>	
26.09.SPAC.03	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <p>The Scottish Council noted paper 26.09.SPAC.03</p> <p><u>Minutes</u> The Scottish Pharmacy Advisory Council approved the minutes of the National Pharmacy Advisory Councils open meeting, held on 4 June 2026.</p> <p><u>Amendments</u> There were no amendments to the NPAC open minutes of 4 June 2026.</p> <p>Proposed by: Audrey Thompson and seconded by: Jonathan Burton</p> <p><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 position statement – Closed Action 5 – GPhC consultation - closed</p> <p><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:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Action 2: Contact Gordon Rushworth to discuss the letter and what it should contain. Letter to be sent from the Chair – JS</p>	
26.09.SPAC.04	<p>Public Affairs update</p> <p>LW introduced this item looking at the key themes of the Scottish Government in their first 100 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

	<p>resulted in contact from members and other organisations which supported the publication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 from NHS to the CPhO 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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<p>26.09.SPAC.05</p>	<p>Ambassadors</p> <p>AK introduced this item giving a short presentation on the work of the Team which includes the following engagement activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The President also added her thanks.</p>	
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26.09.SPAC.06	<p>Medicines shortages</p> <p>The SPAC noted paper 26.09.SPAC.06.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SPAC had a lengthy discussion and some of the points raised were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Standards and Guidance</p> <p>EK introduced this item, introducing herself saying that she took up the post at the end of June.</p> <p>EK highlighted the work currently in train with the team, acknowledging that it is a really busy programme of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision and authorisation guidance – the team have prioritised this work 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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	<p>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.</p>	
26.09.SPAC.08	<p>GB workplan</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The priorities suggested by SPAC for GB are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of Practice • NHS Reforms • Foundation training year capacity <p>And priorities for SPAC are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy Vision; • Workforce (Transforming Roles & Impact of NHS Reform) • Drug Policy <p>SPAC thought that a number of areas under consideration would ultimately sit under the work of Scope of Practice.</p> <p>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</p> <p>There was further discussion from Council members which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The Chair thanked all for their thoughts and contributions to the discussion on priorities.</p>	
26.09.SPAC.09	<p>Papers for noting The SPAC noted the following papers (26.09.SPAC.09 (i) – (iv)</p> <p>(i)Implementing Country Visions (ii)Professional Issues (iii)Workforce (iv)Strengthening Pharmacy Governance</p>	
26.09.SPAC.10	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other open business to report.</p>	
26.09.SPAC.11	<p>Key points for reporting to Royal College members – standing item</p> <p>The Council members highlighted the following key points from the meeting to be reported on:-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 updated 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	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <p>5 November 2026 (joint meeting)</p> <p>Dates for 2027:</p> <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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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.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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