

Brief report of the first national pilot for the new Professional and leadership body ‘Local practice forums’
University of Huddersfield 17/02/09

Following the publication of the Prospectus for a New Professional and leadership body the University of Huddersfield hosted a meeting on February 17th which was arranged and facilitated by Huddersfield branch member Gill Hawksworth and branch secretary James Wood.

Leaders from across the West Yorkshire area were invited including staff from the 3 universities with a Pharmacy undergraduate degree and /or Pharmacy postgraduate programmes which includes Bradford and Leeds as well as Huddersfield. RPSGB staff Amanda King and Howard Duff were in attendance.

Representatives were invited from NHS trusts, PCTs, LPCs, CPPE, Community pharmacy multiples (training facilitators), local CPP and UKCPA members, branches and regional committee.

Over 40 pharmacists were in attendance to debate ‘What’ they wanted from a Local Practice forum in the area and ‘How’ it could be achieved. It was recognised that funding was a key issue to be clarified and this was identified as the first item on the agenda for the follow up meeting on March 24th at the University of Bradford. Any follow up meeting will hopefully be at the University of Leeds.

The meeting was a huge success in terms of local academic, community, hospital and primary care pharmacists coming together and identifying the essential elements that needed to be included in an LPF. It is interesting to note that desirable elements overlapped with essential in many cases.

What was highlighted was agreement of the following most essential elements of an LPF:-

Essential elements of a LPF

1. Support for revalidation/CPD/Standards-

The What:-

- Facilitation for how what where to do CPD, to help to do it and make it valid and fit for revalidation.
- Economical system for accreditation and quality assurance.
- Assistance through the LPF to set and support the standards nationally.

The How:-

- Facilitators or tutors/train the trainers/network forum.
- National accreditation system administered.
- LPF feedback to inform national standard setting.

2. Standards/Education & Training coordination /Inspiring professional development-

The what:-

An Inspiring professionalism forum’ to provide professional role models and an inclusive environment to welcome and nurture lifelong learning and development.

- Role models.
- Lifelong learning.
- Inclusive environment.

The How:-

- Multiple platforms
- Intelligent signposting
- Show casing (Regional conference)

3. Practice research/sharing best practice/ research networking-

The What:-

- Development of Advanced practice.
- Promulgation of Advanced practice.
- Development of General network and Specialist networks within overarching General network.

The How:-

- Via networks-share best practice (via communication).
- Provide opportunities for practical experience.
- Produce and publish practice research and agree standards.

4. Local communication/public relations/Inter and intra professional networking-

The What:-

- Local support and feedback for the nationally agreed strategy for the promotion of the pharmacy profession.
- Promote intra and inter professional collaboration/networking.
- Promote the role of the Pharmacist as the expert in medicines to the local population.

The How:-

- Appropriately trained PR coordinator accessible to the media and full time official to coordinate LPF.
- Schools events, careers advice and promoting the role.
- Discussion forum-real and virtual (face book for pharmacists) and signposting.

5. Engaging members/Students-

The What:-

- Definition= undergraduates 1year to pre-registration students.
- Engagement and inspiration.
- Ownership.

The How:-

- Regular agenda items eg.Pre-reg matters/careers fairs.
- Involve student groups e.g. BPSA.
- Communication tailored to students.

The energy in the room was evidence that could be a very good example of Clinical Leadership in action.

Gill Hawsworth