

September 2021

Dear LPC Chief Officer,

Match Funding Contribution to Review Steering Group (RSG) Costs 2021-22

The PSNC levy letter dated 15th February 2021, set out arrangements for flat PSNC funding in 2021/22, and the expected funding arrangements to support the next stages of the Review Steering Group (RSG)'s work. It highlighted the likely ask of the network of LPCs to match fund the £90,000 originally allocated to the RSG by PSNC in 2020/21.

The RSG asked PSNC to support the collection of funds through a delineated levy, the approach taken to co-fund the Wright Review. This was set after careful consideration of the likely RSG costs and to match PSNC contributions from the previous year.

This request has been allocated on the same basis as the ongoing PSNC levy and will be payable with the H2 2021/22 PSNC Levy on the 1st October 2021, with invoices enclosed. It is the view of PSNC that this expenditure can be deemed to be administrative expenses for the purpose of levy collection on a statutory basis. It is therefore recoverable from contractors per the statutory procedure authorised by s167 of the NHS Act 2006. We hope that LPCs with reserves or continued pandemic related savings, will consider using these for part or all of the payment.

The RSG is taking forward work to improve community pharmacy contractor representation and support, so that community pharmacy contractors get the best service possible from their local and national representatives. It has set out a planned timeline of activities to the point of a contractor vote in early 2022.

Through a small programme team, using Wright Review and other inputs to shape ideas (including ongoing developments to the NHS structure), the RSG will continue to work with contractors, LPCs, PSNC, trade bodies and other stakeholders on developing new models for the functions and structures of local and national representative bodies. At the beginning of September, Deep Sen Gupta joined team as programme manager to lead the work going forwards.

The RSG will continue to try and build consensus, and after hearing from all the different parts of the sector, put forward workable solutions to address the issues identified by Professor Wright. To achieve this we will need to find common ground and focus on what works for the vast majority of contractors.

This is complex work: over the summer the RSG developed options for what the functions of the national and local representative bodies could be (the 'what'), and made over 500 places available to LPCs and contractors in a series of focus groups, to seek feedback on these proposals.

The next stage of the work will be critical, to work out what the best structures will be to deliver that work (the 'how'). The RSG will soon move on to consider governance of the whole system of NHS representation and support and LPC input into this next stage of the programme will be critical.

As at previous stages, we will set up consultation for LPCs (and all key stakeholders) on specific and relevant topics to help shape the proposals as they mature.

Our ask from you is to:

- Provide meaningful inputs on early draft proposals shared with you to shape RSG thinking
- Help us ensure communications are effective and engaging and reach all contractors
- Encourage contractors to continue to engage with our work. The RSG website has had over 11,600+ views since the start of the year and 5000+ people are reading the RSG emails.

For further information about the work of the RSG, please visit www.pharmacy-review.org

For any specific questions, please contact the Review Steering Group by email to review@pharmacyreview.org.uk

Yours Sincerely



James Wood
Secretary, Review Steering Group



Mark Burdon
RSG Member
Chair of PSNC Development and Finance Subcommittee

cc: LPC Treasurer