

## **LPC Conference- LPC Constitution- Presentation from Mark Collins Chair PSNC LPC Support and Implementation sub committee**

For the past year PSNC has been reviewing the model LPC constitution. To give to LPCs a constitution that is fit for purpose and fit for the future. It is important that these changes facilitate recognition of LPCs by PCTs, especially with the changing contractor profile.

The process began with a questionnaire to get LPCs views on key principles and this was followed by a consultation with LPCs on a first draft and recently a further consultation with LPCs on a second draft.

These consultations are now complete. Throughout the process we have responded to your comments and accommodated the views of LPCs aiming to give a model that is flexible, fit for purpose and can be adopted by all LPCs.

There were some difficult issues. There was a lot of discussion at LPCs particularly around membership and I would like to thank all LPCs that commented. I would also like to thank the PSNC office and my colleagues on the LISS sub committee for their work over the past year.

Following the second consultation with LPCs, PSNC considered the final draft at its meeting last week. We will be sending this out to LPCs in due course with accompanying guidance notes.

You will be pleased to know that I don't intend to go through the new constitution clause by clause but I will highlight the main features:

As LPCs were split on whether the constitution should provide that members should be pharmacists PSNC is considering an optional clause for LPCs to use and whether the constitution should state that members need to be members with the provision to opt out, or not give that requirement and provide an optional clause to allow contractors to opt in and make it a requirement to be a pharmacist. This has been the most widely debated point and PSNC at its recent committee meeting felt that we need to agree the best way to give each LPC local flexibility according to the needs of the contractors it represents.

Dedicated places are created for AIMp members. These are to be appointed in the same way as CCA members are now. This means that LPCs are reflecting the fact that AIMp is also represented in this manner on PSNC. There are no changes to the way that CCA members are appointed.

Chairs and other officers no longer need to be members of the committee. This gives flexibility to bring in additional expertise if required.

Following comments on the second draft we have added constitutional authority for the LPC to own property and to enter into leases.

We have strengthened even further the governance provisions by adding the power to remove LPC members for breaches of governance.

To ensure that the LPC is representative of the contractors in the area, from a PCT perspective, membership is now determined by reference to the profile of contractors in the LPC area.

As a result of this change the old cap on the number of CCA places is removed.

The LPC is a contractors committee and the constitution is ultimately determined by contractors not the LPC. So the process from now on is that we will send the new model constitution to LPCs in due course. LPCs will then have to arrange an EGM, a special meeting, by October of this year. At this meeting contractors need to agree and adopt the new constitution so it is in place for the next round of elections.

From November with the new constitution in place the planning will start for the elections of the new committee which is to take office in April 2010.

When the new model constitution is sent out there will also be detailed guidance to assist LPCs in this process.

I am sure you will find that the new constitution meets your LPC needs for now and to make your LPC an LPC fit for purpose and the future.

I am happy to take any questions and I will hand back to Chris for the Q&A session.