

## **PSNC ANNOUNCES WORK PROGRAMME AND VISION FOR 2011 AND BEYOND**

**01 February 2011**– The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) has established its vision and work programme for the year ahead, and has set out how these plans fit into a 4 year programme of activity leading up to 2015. The plans, which have been in formulation for a number of months, were ratified by committee members at PSNC’s January Committee meeting.

As the national representative body for NHS pharmacy in England, PSNC has developed the plans with a mind to enabling community pharmacies to offer an increased range of high quality and fully funded services; services that meet the needs of their local communities, provide good health outcomes for patients, and deliver excellent value for the NHS. At the heart of the plans is a focus on supporting and empowering LPCs to act as a strong voice for pharmacy at a local level; matching the ongoing power shift from central to local decision making across the Health Service.

With this focus in mind, the PSNC’s principal objectives in 2011 are:

- To establish the foundations for future growth of community pharmacy services in line with government policy and the introduction of new services changes agreed with NHS Employers.
- To secure full and fair funding for community pharmacy services, based on the evidence of the Cost of Service inquiry; to negotiate acceptable revisions to funding distribution; to ensure fully funded services can be accessed equitably by all contractors; and to continue to secure improvements to pricing accuracy through effective audit and negotiation.
- To ensure that developments in technology support the community pharmacy service; to continue work to build a national evidence base for the quality and cost effectiveness of NHS community pharmacy services; and to provide a regulatory framework that meets contractor needs.
- To provide information, advice and support to contractors and LPCs, and build alliances within and outside pharmacy to promote pharmacy’s interests.

This work will be undertaken as part of PSNC’s four year strategy for the development of the NHS community pharmacy service. This strategy is built around a clear vision for the community pharmacy service in 2015:

- The community pharmacy service in 2015 will offer support to our communities, helping people to optimise use of medicines to support their health and care for acute and long-term conditions, and providing information, advice and assistance for healthy living.
- All pharmacies will provide a high and reliable range and quality of services to their patients, encouraged by funding arrangements that reward patient outcomes.

- Pharmacies will be fully integrated into provision of primary care and public health services, and will have a substantial and acknowledged role in the delivery of accessible care at the heart of our community.
- Pharmacies will be able to gain accreditation to deliver a wide range of NHS services to support their customers and patients, and be able to offer them services on equal terms to other primary care providers.
- Patients will use pharmacists and members of the pharmacy team with confidence that they have skills of a high standard, and through effective communication integrate seamlessly with other NHS care providers.
- All patients will have free and unfettered access to services provided by the pharmacy of their choice.

Commenting on the establishment of PSNC's work programme and vision for 2011 and beyond, Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

"The changing shape and focus of today's health service will present tremendous challenges and opportunities for community pharmacy. As the recognised voice of community pharmacy on NHS matters, PSNC is taking this opportunity to clearly establish its work programme, priorities and long-term strategic aims. Never has it been more important to fight for the realisation of pharmacy's full potential, to make pharmacy's voice heard, and to drive forward our role at the heart of the NHS."

~Ends~

#### **Notes to Editor**

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
2. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible NHS service opportunities, remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England. PSNC represents and promotes the interests of 10,500 pharmacy contractors (pharmacy owners) in England. It is the role of PSNC to liaise with the Department of Health and representatives of the NHS in England to negotiate the contractual terms for the provision of NHS community pharmacy services.