



Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain



PRESS RELEASE

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Pharmacy bodies pledge to work as one on White Paper

The principal bodies representing the Pharmacy sector have agreed to ensure that the opportunities presented by the White Paper *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths –delivering the future* become a reality.

The five bodies have put on the record a commitment to work together to deliver the best possible range of high quality services for the ultimate benefit of patients and the public in England.

The AIMp, CCA, NPA, PSNC, and RPSGB have already identified the work streams required to secure delivery for each element of the action plan listed within the White Paper.

The five organisations have received the support of the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Dr Keith Ridge, and all parties will now work towards creating a suitable framework for collaboration.

Rob Darracott, Chief Executive of the CCA and AIMp, said: "The most significant White Paper for community pharmacy in England for a generation required a significant response from pharmacy. The CCA and AIMp are delighted to be part of this joint initiative and we look forward, with colleagues, to turning this vision into a reality, for pharmacists and pharmacy and, most importantly, for patients."

John Turk, NPA Chief Executive, said: "There is much to welcome in the pharmacy White Paper, not least a clear direction of travel for community pharmacy in England. A shared understanding and agreement of the future of pharmacy has led to a common sense of purpose by the pharmacy bodies. This will now be translated into actions that will ensure the whole sector feels the benefit of the sum of the bodies working collaboratively together. I have mandated the NPA to play its part in full as an active partner in this collaborative enterprise"

Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of the PSNC, said: "Implementation of the service development proposals in the White Paper would revolutionise the role of community pharmacy in providing support to patients and customers. We have an unprecedented opportunity, and I am delighted that we are all committed to working together."

Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar of the RPSGB, said: "The White Paper will shape the future of modern pharmacy services and it is important for the profession to speak with a united voice. This is our chance to show government and patients that extended pharmacy services can add real value to healthcare."

Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, said: "It is very encouraging that these bodies have taken this initiative. It reflects the industry's enthusiasm to speak and act on core issues together and to promote community pharmacy's role as a key provider of primary care. Collaborative working will be vital to ensure the successful implementation of many of the proposals contained in the White Paper and I look forward to working together constructively and coherently to deliver the highest quality community pharmacy services to people."

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Notes to editors

The Association of Independent Multiples (AIMp) has over 1200 pharmacies in membership and represents the interests of the independent multiple sector. Its members have between 5 to 300 shops, and include: Day Lewis plc, HI Weldrick Ltd and PCT Healthcare.

The Company Chemists Association (CCA) provides a forum for the major businesses engaged in community pharmacy to work together to help create an environment where community pharmacy can flourish, and where pharmacy contractors compete in a fair and equitable way. The CCA's nine member companies are: Alliance Boots, Co-operative Group Pharmacy, LloydsPharmacy, Tesco, J Sainsbury, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, Asda Wal-Mart, Rowlands Pharmacy and Superdrug. Between them they own over 5,000 pharmacies, representing around 45% of the pharmacies in the United Kingdom.

The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) was established in 1921 as the trade association of community pharmacy owners. To reflect the changes in the pharmacy environment the NPA now extends membership and its associated benefits to all members of the community pharmacy infrastructure.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as representative of community pharmacy on NHS matters. PSNC's main objective is to secure the best possible remuneration, terms and conditions for NHS pharmacy contractors in England and Wales. Much of the PSNC's work involves discussions and negotiations with the Department of Health.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) is the professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy.

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