



As we reflect on the past year at Community Pharmacy Tees Valley I am proud to report that we have navigated challenges and celebrated significant achievements together.

Our commitment to contractors and patients who access our local pharmacies has never been stronger, and I am grateful for the dedication of our committee and staff. Against the backdrop of unsustainable funding for the sector the committee has ensured that commissioners and local NHS bodies are both aware and sympathetic to the issues created by national policy. This year has tested our resilience but has also provided new opportunities for development and innovation. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to our objectives.

Following on from last year we have continued to see significant changes in the ownership of pharmacy contracts across the Tees Valley. This has resulted in a number of changes to the committee, most notable the resignation of our former Chair, Jay Badenhurst. I wish to thank Jay and the other departing members for their many years of service and wish them well in their new ventures. As a result we have welcomed new committee members, enhancing our diversity of thought and experience whilst maintaining proportional representation of the mix of contractors we have across the Tees Valley, each bringing unique skills that enrich our discussions and decision-making processes.

Key Achievements

- **Pharmacy First training and support:** We organised a number of clinical skills workshops for all contractors preparing for Pharmacy First, these were well attended with fantastic feedback following all events.
- **Contractor Engagement:** The work of our employed team, Sandie, Jane and Lindsey with their regular contact and visits to contractors.
- **Funding outside of global sum:** Working alongside PSNE and other commissioners significant additional funding has been available for contractors.

While we have made substantial progress, we encountered challenges, including:

- **Funding Constraints:** A sector that has remained under funded has struggled to deliver and adopt new services.
- **Delays in change of ownership:** Due to the volume and backlog of contract applications, new providers have been delayed in taking ownership.

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- **Support contractors and pharmacy teams to maximise funding opportunities both nationally and locally:** Through training and education we will support all contractors.
- **Champion the role of pharmacy across the Tees Valley:** Liaising with MPs, Health Watch, PCNs, local media and patient groups.
- **Work with the ICB to realise the potential for pharmacy:** Through our network of stakeholders we will offer strategic solutions to local health needs.
- **Represent contractors:** Both locally and through our work with CPE on national funding and contract issues.

I would like to express my gratitude to:

- Our dedicated committee members for their commitment and insights.
- The employed team Sandie, Jane & Lindsey for their hard work and passion.
- Our pharmacy contractors and teams whose contributions and feedback are invaluable.

As we move forward, I am optimistic about the future, and the significant role that community pharmacy can play in primary care. We look forward to a positive conclusion of national negotiations on our core contract, and reviewing the plans for future contract negotiations in 2025. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Pete Horrocks

Chair - Community Pharmacy Tees Valley