

Minutes of the meeting of the Pharmacy Practises Committee (PPC) held on Monday 10th June at 1400 hrs via MS Teams

The composition of the PPC at this Hearing was.

Chair: Mr Martin Connor

Present: **Lay Members Appointed by NHS Lothian**
Mr Michael Ash
Mr John Niven
Mr Brian McGregor

1. NAP Chairman's Appeal decision on application by TPB Partnership LLP 269 High Street Linlithgow EH49 7EP

1.1 The NAP Chairman ruled in the appellant's favour in terms of Grounds of Appeal 2 in that there had been a failure of the Board to properly narrate the facts or reasons upon which their determination of the application was based.

This was specifically to do with the PPC referring to its own analysis when discounting the view of Mr Jamieson from Boots that the low uptake of Pharmacy First was due to the area being affluent, and patients would rather meet the cost of items out of their own pocket.

1.2 The NAP chairman has remitted this issue back to the committee for reconsideration.

2. Meeting of PPC Chair and Lay Members

2.1 The panel reconvened to consider the evidence relating to the Pharmacy First uptake issue. In the intervening time since the original hearing the chairman of that hearing Mr McQueen has retired, and the reconvened panel was chaired by Mr Martin Connor.

2.2 The committee agreed that the language used in the original minute had been unfortunate and did not clearly narrate the reasons for the conclusion reached.

2.3 The committee then discussed in detail the evidence on the issue of Pharmacy First uptake. The committee noted Mr Jamieson's assertions about the affluence of the area and the ability of patients to meet costs out of their own pocket. The committee noted that Mr Jamieson did not back this up directly with evidence but did in answer to a subsequent question say his view was formed from the information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

2.4 The committee noted that the representative of the Community Council had held a contrary view that statistics for the area surrounding the High Street proved it to be one of the most deprived areas in Scotland. The committee noted Mr Green's submission that statistics for the year of 2022 stated that pharmacy first uptake in Linlithgow Boots was less than half the national average.

The committee noted the evidence from the community council representative that there was a long-held view within the community that service from the pharmacies had been poor for some time.

- 2.5 The committee then considered the various submissions to the hearing which related to the provision of service.
- 2.6 The letter from the Linlithgow Group Medical Practice outlined an increasing pressure on the two pharmacies over several years. The pharmacies had been unable to cope with the increased pressure and workload, leading to long waits for prescriptions and patients not being able to access pharmacy first services.
- 2.7 The letter from Fiona Hyslop MSP in which she outlined concerns for elderly constituents not being able to get medicines in a timely fashion due to the pressures and difficulties with the local pharmaceutical provision.
- 2.8 The individual responses to the CAR in many cases cited issues of pressure in the system, long waits, long queues and poor service.
- 2.9 The committee then discussed their own site visits to the pharmacies. All members agreed that they had encountered queues at the pharmacies during their visits. In some of these cases the queues were out of the door and into the street.

3. **Conclusion**

- 3.1 **The committee concluded that after reconsideration of the evidence that they believed that pressure in the system had led to the low uptake of pharmacy first services rather than the appellant's view that it was down to the affluent nature of the area.**
- 3.2 **The committee were unanimous in their view that this issue was only one of the concerns that had led to their original decision. Having now reconsidered this matter the committee agreed that the original decision to find in favour of the applicant was correct and should stand.**

Signed by the Chair
Martin Connor

Date 10th June 2024