

9 August 2022

To: Registered Pharmacy Professionals in the UK

UK Commission on Pharmacy Professional Leadership: July Meeting Report

1. The first meeting of the independent Commission took place on Tuesday 19 July. The Commission's role is to advise on the future of pharmacy professional leadership in the UK. Discussions at the first meeting covered the purpose and functions of pharmacy professional leadership.
2. The Commission is co-chaired by Professor Dame Jane Dacre and Nigel Clarke. For more details on the Commission and its members please view this [open letter](#).

Key points from the meeting

Role of the Commission

3. The Commission's role was agreed as producing recommendations for the UK chief pharmaceutical officers on the purpose, functions, governance and design of future pharmacy professional leadership.
4. Commission members agreed that the Commission's role should be communicated clearly and understood by pharmacy professionals.

What should pharmacy professional leadership do?

5. Commission members discussed the purpose and functions of pharmacy professional leadership.

Leadership, policy and professionalism:

6. Commission members agreed that a key role of pharmacy professional leadership is to set the overall vision and strategic direction for pharmacy practice. It should influence, direct and inspire pharmacy professionals. Commission members mentioned that the professional leadership body or bodies would need to listen to its members, stakeholders and the general public.

7. Commission members talked about the importance of an inclusive approach and providing trusted leadership to professionals across all sectors and career stages. Others raised that the leaders of a pharmacy professional leadership organisation should have the authority, credibility and respect to lead, and the ability to communicate effectively with, a wide range of stakeholders and people.

Regulatory support:

8. Commission members discussed how the professional leadership body or bodies would work closely with the pharmacy regulator, the General Pharmaceutical Council, and support pharmacy technicians and pharmacists to meet the standards required for their professions. Members highlighted the importance of professional leadership organisations actively responding to government consultations on legislative changes, bringing professional knowledge and practical experience to help shape proposals.

Professional education and training:

9. Commission members emphasised the focus on supporting professional development for pharmacy professionals at a local level and engaging with education institutions. Pharmacy professional leadership was about “role modelling best practice”. Others mentioned it was about supporting, educating and empowering pharmacy professionals to deliver evidence-based patient care to high standards.

Regional, country and international relations and engagement:

10. The Commission recognised that excellent engagement with individual members is key. Commission members discussed how pharmacy professional leadership needs to get relationships right with stakeholders and establish momentum. Working with other professional leaders, such as the chief pharmaceutical officers, a leadership body should engage and influence across the healthcare system, ensuring that the pharmacy professions have a seat at the table when policy decisions are made. It needs the transparency and credibility to win confidence across a range of different sectors, including education, government and social care.

Scope of practice of future pharmacy professionals:

11. Supporting the involvement of pharmacy professionals in research and innovation was cited by Commission members as a central theme of professional leadership. They also noted the importance of professional leadership in the context of expanding clinical roles and the impact of data

and technology on pharmacy professionals. Commission members discussed the focus on patient care and others also emphasised how professional leadership can empower pharmacy professionals to further improve population health.

Timetable and next steps

12. The Commission is in the process of appointing its five working groups and membership of these will be communicated in early September once the Inclusive Pharmacy Practice expression of interest process has concluded.

13. The five working groups, which will be chaired by Commission members, and supported by the chief pharmaceutical officers, will take forward work on the key themes:

- Leadership, policy and professionalism
- Regulatory support
- Professional education and training
- Regional, country and international relations and engagement
- Scope of practice of future pharmacy professionals.

14. A public Call for Evidence, seeking the views of pharmacy professionals, other individuals and organisations, will take place from mid-August to mid-September 2022 and its findings will be considered by the working groups.

15. The Commission will meet in September to hear evidence from professional leadership bodies of other professions, and in November 2022 to consider the working group recommendations. Currently it aims to publish its final report and recommendations in December 2022.

Other key points

16. Whilst recognising the different regulatory and professional leadership arrangements between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the commission's recommendations will be considered in the context of the whole of the UK.

17. It is an independent Commission, appointed by the four UK chief pharmaceutical officers, and the final report will be presented to them by the Commission. The CPhOs will act as advisors to the Commission and take part in its meetings.

18. Commission members have been appointed on behalf of all pharmacy professionals to contribute their expertise in and knowledge of professional

leadership and are not appointed to represent their particular countries, organisations, sectors or roles.

How to get involved

19. UK pharmacy professionals, patients, other individuals and organisations will be invited to contribute to the Call for Evidence when it is launched in mid-August 2022, and we will hold Call for Evidence webinars in September 2022. Please join our [FutureNHS page](#) for more information.