

Update for LPCs and Pharmacy Owners

October and November 2025

Fin Mc Caul

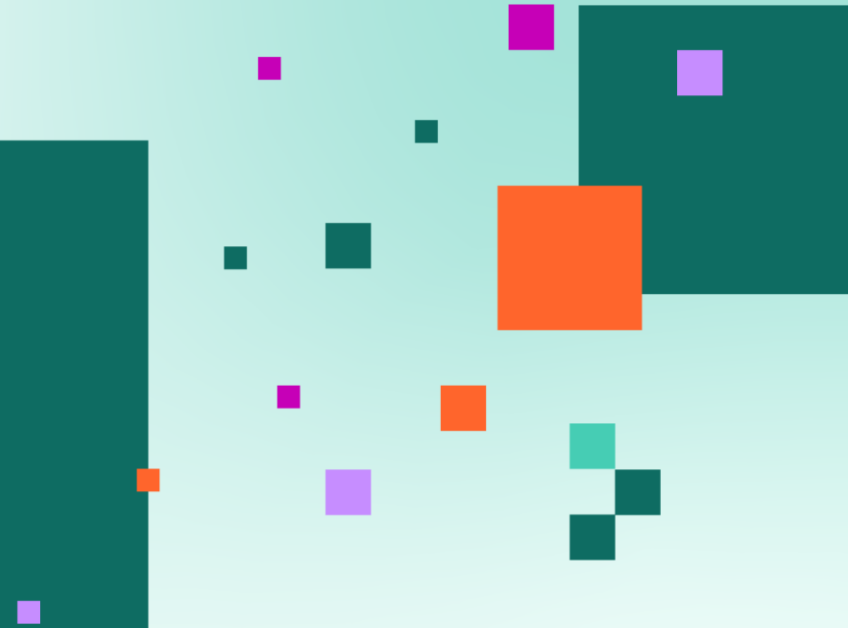
Regional Representative
North West Region



In this update

- The September meeting of the Community Pharmacy England Committee, including introducing our new Chair
- Work ahead of the 2026/27 CPCF negotiations and ongoing influencing
- What we have heard from pharmacy owners ahead of negotiations
- Next steps with Committee composition
- LPC Support and involvement
- Conference of LPC Representatives
- Questions and discussion

The September meeting of the Committee



Meeting summary and main issues

- The full Committee met in London on 24th and 25th September 2025
- Committee discussions included preparation for the upcoming CPCF negotiations and updates on economic and dispensing projects
- The Committee had a full session on strategy and tactics ahead of the upcoming negotiations

The two days also covered other topics including:

- Inputs from across the sector into the negotiations from LPCs, sector bodies, summer pharmacy owner events and pre-committee opinion polling
- Subcommittees considered progress on critical CPCF implementation work and other matters
- Rebalancing Committee composition

Meeting summary and main issues

- First meeting for the new non-executive Chair of Community Pharmacy England, Professor Dame Jenny Harries DBE DL
- The chair role includes leadership of the Community Pharmacy England Committee, supporting strong governance and strategic delivery, and working closely with the Executive Team to enable effective engagement with business owners and wider stakeholders
- As a former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England and the founding Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency, we look forward to bringing Professor Harries' extensive knowledge and experience to bear in our work and ambitions
- She's is very much looking forward to engaging with you and will attend the Conference of LPC Representatives in November — a great opportunity for introductions



Subcommittee updates

Service Development

- Reviewed work to implement October CPCF service changes – Pharmacy First gateway points, emergency contraception, depression in NMS, child flu vacs
- Discussed feedback on seasonal vaccination services
- Reviewed policy on health campaigns & progress on IP Pathfinder Programme

Funding & Contract

- Discussed important topics aimed at easing cashflow and providing a more equitable distribution of funding
- Considered how best to take forward plans for accelerated advance payments
- Discussed initiatives around delivering and validating retained margin

Subcommittee updates

Legislation & Regulatory

- Discussed submissions for possible regulatory asks
- Considered response to Government consultation on pharmacist flexibilities

LPC & Contractor Support

- Agreed to expand and improve LPC observer programme for Committee Meetings
- Considered LPC Conference plans (as informed by the LPC working group)
- Reviewed guidance and potential support on LPC incorporation and proposed ICB mergers

Subcommittee updates

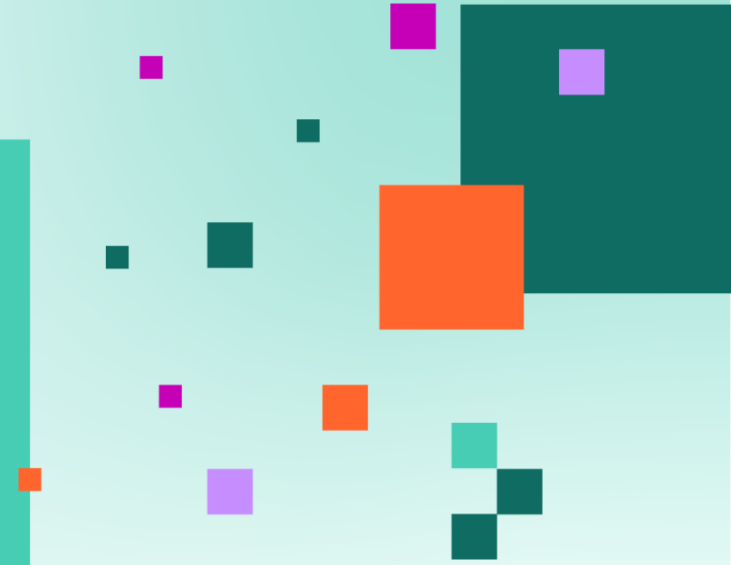
Audit & Risk

- Agreed next steps on sharing of KPIs with LPCs, and support for LPCs with KPIs
- Considered the Annual Report which will be published shortly
- Approved latest financial accounts

Communications & Public Affairs

- Considered the regional events for 2026, with ambitions to find and publicise dates soon
- Reviewed ongoing including work – including updated constituency briefings for MPs

Work ahead of the CPCF
negotiations and what
we have heard from you



CPCF Negotiation: Prior to starting

Community Pharmacy England works to influence Government spending decisions on an ongoing basis, including with:

- **Analysis and economic evidence:** tailored to match the way Government makes spending decisions and showing the state and value of the sector.
- **Influencing Government processes:** Spending review submission
- **Building support for the sector and pitching solutions:** Policy work builds support from charities, patient groups, and others to influence NHS policies.
- **Political influencing:** to influence ministers and Government policy.
- **Monitoring:** funding, services, pressures and cost pressures.
- **Regulatory support:** input to new legislation and pressing for improvements.



Sector inputs ahead of the negotiations

- We have gathered insights from pharmacy owners across the sector via a variety of routes:
 - through opinion polling, with over 4,000 pharmacy premises represented in our polls in June and September
 - through input from other sector bodies, who we wrote to over the summer asking for their thoughts and ideas
 - through our sector workshops held in every region during the summer, with LPCs and Pharmacy Owners
 - To supplement our own work on financial analysis, policy development, committee strategy and tactics discussions
- **The team will also be attending the Pharmacy Show this autumn, where we'll continue these conversations – we're running several sessions to update on our key workstreams, and we will also have a stand – H55**

Negotiations Inputs: Outlook & Pressures

Sector polling showed:

- **90%** say that their biggest challenge is that **core funding is still not sufficient** to cover current business costs
- **75%** express negative sentiment about the outlook for their pharmacy business:
 - **54%** say they are **subsidising** from other parts of the business
 - **13%** losing money at a concerning rate
- **Workforce costs and unpredictable revenue stream** are currently the highest pressures



Negotiations Inputs: 10 Year Health Plan

Sector polling showed:

- **Confidence to deliver** on almost all pharmacy services described in 10 Year Health Plan
- **87% say specific funding to support implementation** would help aid their confidence, with other suggestions including appropriate service fees, protected learning time, interoperable record access and GP buy-in
- **Developing the NHS App** so patients can manage medicines and access pharmacy services was ranked as the most important pharmacy-related element, with modernisation of dispensing second



Negotiations Inputs: Immediate CPCF Priorities

Workshops indicated:

- **Strong concern about unpredictability of current funding**, with a clear appetite for income streams they can **influence and control directly**
- Many advocated for a **core payment** to reduce operational risk, enable safe staffing levels, and provide a stable foundation for business planning
- Wanted **economic stability** and a **more transparent and reliable funding model**



Negotiations Inputs: Future CPCF Priorities

Workshops indicated:

- **Vaccination services** and **independent prescribing** for common conditions were consistently highlighted as high priorities for future services

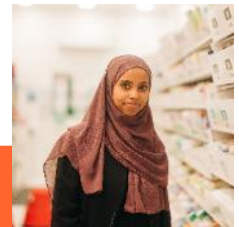
Polling showed:

- Pursue pre-agreed **closures to support staff training** and development
- Top three service options were an **NHS weight management service**, **increasing vaccination services**, and a **walk-in service for urgent supply** strand of Pharmacy First



Publication of our Annual Report

- Other key priority areas of work for this year are set out in our vision, strategy and objectives and our final workplan for 2025/26 (previously shared)
- Our 2024/25 annual report, published 30th September describes the value we have generated for pharmacy owners and the impact we have on investment, clinical service development and ongoing influence
- This and further detail is available at cpe.org.uk/our-work/about-us/our-annual-report/



Governance: Committee Composition



Committee Composition: Update

- In September, the Committee agreed new interim arrangements, that will come into effect from 1st November 2025 and last until elections are completed in April 2027 .
- **IPA will nominate two 10-plus multiple representatives to the committee (owner of the business, or employee with significant authority in the business). This is in addition to the existing three members of the Committee in the non-CCA multiples category, taking the total to 5.**
- **The CCA appointments will be reduced by one place and an additional independent (1-9) will be co-opted to the Committee.**

Committee Composition: Update

- The changes to composition will better reflect the make-up of the sector following change in ownership mix. They follow a consultation with LPCs and sector bodies – thank you for your views.
- An external expert recommended to increase the numbers of 10+ multiple owners on the Committee and to give the IPA appointment rights to Community Pharmacy England. There were also recommendations for LPCs, which will be captured in future revisions to the model constitution.
- A meeting between us and the sector bodies – CCA, IPA and NPA was then held over the summer, where consensus was sought and a provisional agreement reached on arrangements to be in place until elections in April 2027.

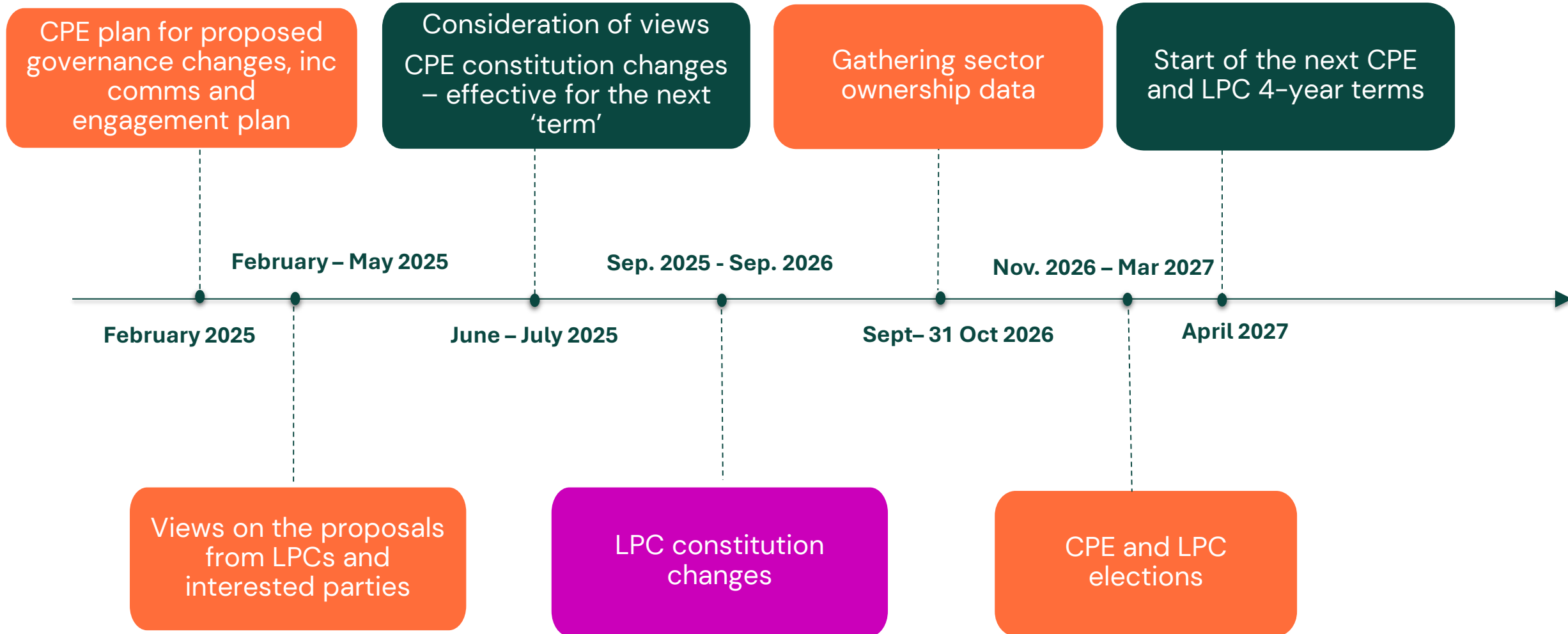
Committee Composition: Next steps

- We will be seeking expressions of interest from independents (1–9) who are serving elected LPC members to be co-opted to the Committee from November 2025 until 31st March 2027, as a floating regional representative.
- In addition to being an independent (elected) LPC member they must be the owner (either individually or in partnership) or a director and substantiate shareholder either personally, or through shares owned by members of their immediate family, i.e. parents, spouse or children) in a body corporate which is an Independent Pharmacy Owner
- A panel of regional representatives will select a candidate with the aim of seeking to complement and increase the diversity, knowledge and skills of existing 10 regional representatives, as well as the geography of representation from LPCs on the Committee.

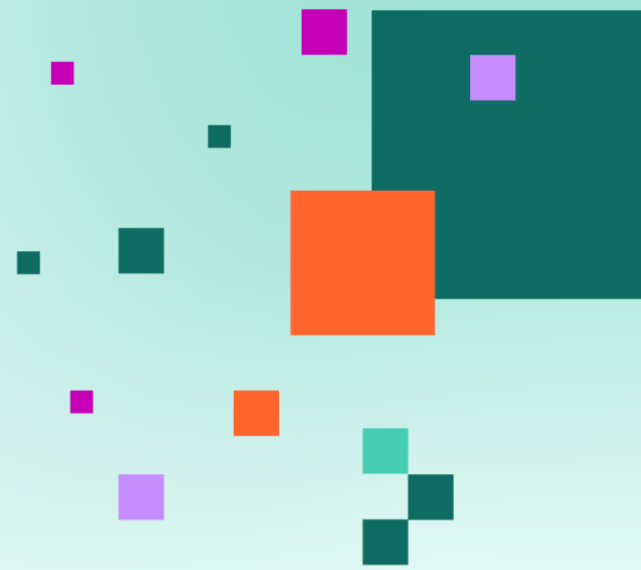
Timeline for new appointments

- IPA will nominate two 10-plus multiple representatives to the committee (owner of the business, or employee with significant authority in the business) effective from November 2025
- Expressions of interest for the independent (1-9) places will open on Wednesday 1st October until Sunday 19th October 2025. A short selection process including shortlisting and interviews by an appointment panel will take place between Monday 27th October and Friday 7th November.
- Interested LPC members can speak to me (today) or request an informal chat by emailing lpc.support@cpe.org.uk

Timeline for wider changes to 2027 elections

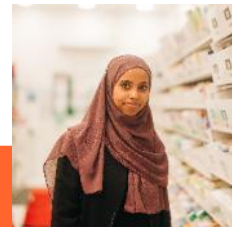


LPC Support and involvement



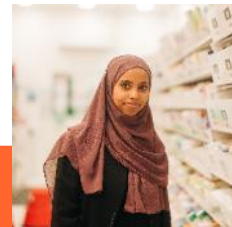
Support for Neighbourhood Health

- Ongoing series of Neighbourhood Health webinars for LPC staff and members
- New pages on the LPC and local section of the website have been created to provide LPCs and the wider audience with information on Neighbourhood Health
- Platform to share LPC Neighbourhood Health local resources using LPC area
- Development of resources in train to support local discussions and raise community pharmacy awareness with stakeholders
- Updated information on provider companies available to LPCs in the LPC area of our website



New Team Members

- During October we welcome two new colleagues to Community Pharmacy England to expand our capacity for in-depth research and LPC Support
- Both of which are critical as we work to secure a sustainable future for community pharmacy
- Rebecca Butterworth as our new LPC Engagement and Support Manager
- Dr James Davies as Director of Research and Insights
- Read more here: <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/community-pharmacy-england-expands-research-and-lpc-support-capacity-with-new-roles/>

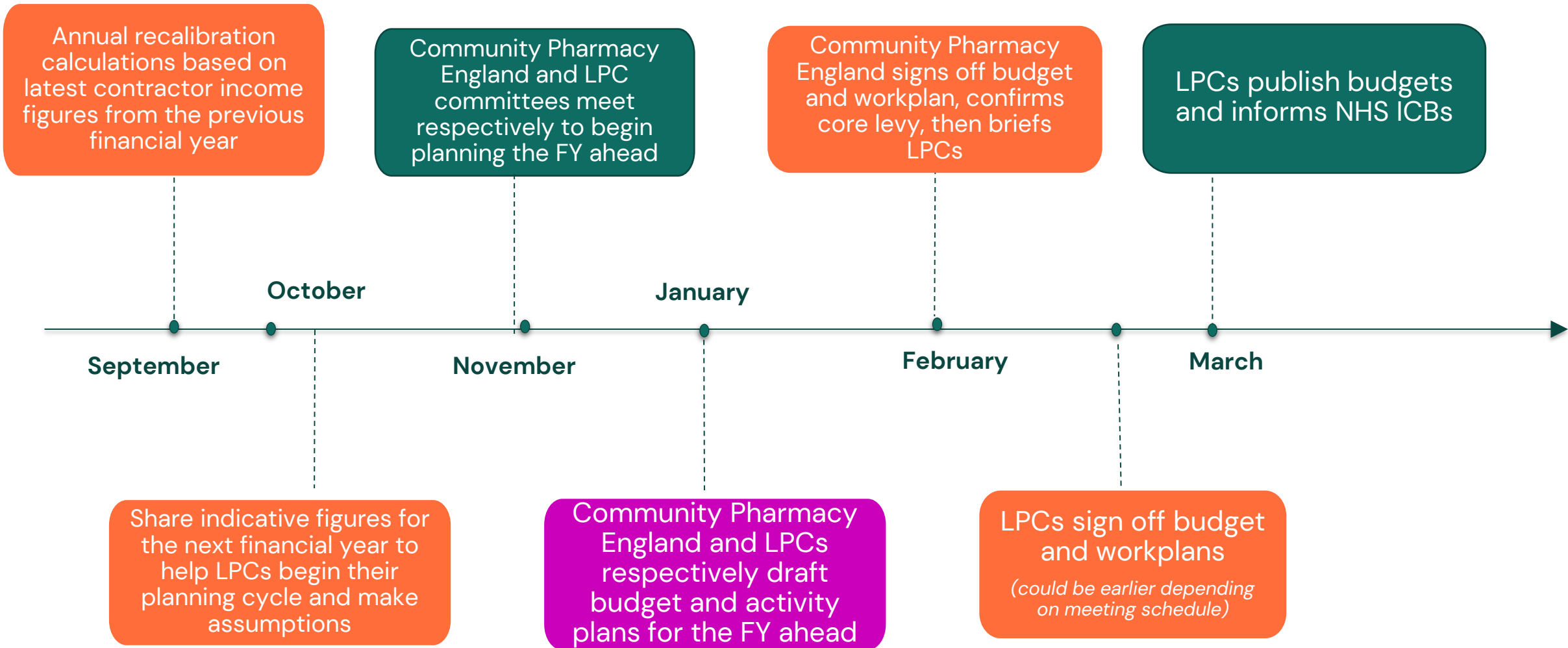


Future levy setting

- Considerations about funding for representation in 2026/27 will form part of our planning process from November 2025, concluding with our budget in February 2026
- We have listened to LPC feedback, and we will be providing earlier recalculated figures for 2026/27 levy in November (rather than February) to help your planning process
- The next slide is a planning cycle setting out the timeline, which we consulted you on earlier in the year. It will be of particular interest to Treasurers and finance subcommittees.



Annual Planning Lifecycle for illustration



Support for LPCs and Pharmacy Owners

Community Pharmacy England provides extensive support to LPCs, including comprehensive briefings, conferences and interactive webinars, training and networking opportunities, advice, and a range of resources such as governance toolkits plus HR and finance support. For pharmacy owners there is a similar offer of news and information, interpretation and guidance, training events and resources, promotion of the sector, one-to-one advice on Drug Tariff and other matters, and more. We have not sought to quantify the value of all of this.



8,600

pharmacy owners and LPC queries *(In 2023/24)*



39

briefings on topics such as regulations, data security and new pharmacy services *(In 2023/24)*



5,300

attendees to our webinars and events *(In 2023/24)*



Specialist working groups for LPCs and on pharmacy IT



52

out of the 54 LPCs were represented at the 2024 Annual Conference of LPCs

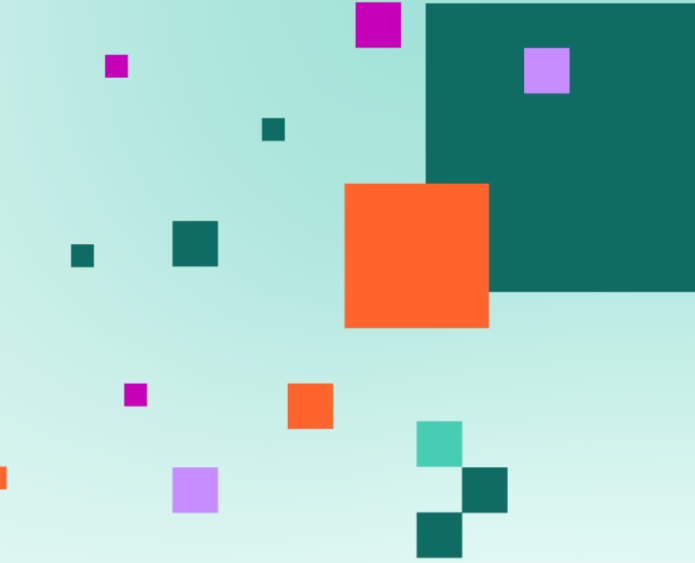


Community Pharmacy Local

established in 2024 to form a unified identity among LPCs



Seeking your input



Conference of LPC Representatives

Event details

- Date: Tuesday 25th November 2025
- Venue: The Royal Horseguards Hotel, 2 Whitehall Court, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2EJ
- Registration: Opens at 10:30am
- Conference Business: 11:00am – 4:00pm
- Networking Reception: Concludes around 5:30pm

Hearing LPC topics for discussion

- A section of the agenda will be dedicated as a platform of LPC-led topics, explored via table or full-floor discussions.
- **We are inviting LPCs to consider topics for discussion at your September and October LPC meetings and then to discuss in your regions, to submit one agreed topic per LPC region.**
- Chief Officers have further information

Questions and discussion

