

Annual Report

An Update from the CPAW Chair, Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer

Chair's Annual Report

Once again, it continues to be very challenging for community pharmacy but despite all of the challenges, we have achieved so much. Service income for contractors across the LPC has significantly increased and we continue to be one of the best performing LPCs in the country for Pharmacy First.

As Chair of Community Pharmacy Avon and Wiltshire I am very proud of what we have achieved. I would like to thank the committee for their commitment and support.

I am also extremely grateful for all the hard work and dedication shown by the Operations team. Richard Brown (Chief Executive Officer), Judith Poulton, Roger Herbert, Sarah Cotton, Rachael Montgomery, Caroline Quinn and Debbie Scudamore who work tirelessly on behalf of the contractors.

I am delighted that independent prescribing is now in our national contract. This has been a priority in our strategic plan and we are in a great place with a high ratio of community pharmacists already having the accreditation. Once appropriately funded the LPC will support contractors to make this a success and take our profession forward.

As Chair of Community Pharmacy Avon and Wiltshire I can assure you that we will continue to promote community pharmacy across Avon and Wiltshire and support our contractors. We fully appreciate how hard it is but please remember that we are here to help you every step of the way.

Lisa Fisher

Treasurer's Annual Report

A significant amount of the financial work this year was around putting in place new processes and governance for the new combined LPC. This included new combined banking and savings accounts, new software for payroll and a new Zero account. We ran two accounts for the year. One for the new LPC and one for Avon LPC as there was some overlap in payments from the previous financial year. My comments will be from the combined accounts though the others are published for transparency. I would like to express my thanks to our Engagement Officer who had the mammoth task of setting up all the accounts on our new bank account and has subsequently kept all the accounts up to date.

Following the merger and subsequent savings made, we were able to maintain the Statutory Levy at the previous level producing an income of £337,570. Excellent work by our Chief Executive Officer resulted in grants of £110,426 being added to our income. Together these allowed the Committee to maintain a high level of service including a strong Operations Team that are showing their worth every day as they support the contractors to maximise their profits as pressures on income increase.

Income	£498,877
Expenditure	£508,669
Loss after tax	£9,902
Closing balance	£176,679

We finished the year with a small loss of £9,902. We felt this was acceptable as we worked to merge the two LPC's. We also wanted our operations team to get out and meet you all as quickly as possible. Both of these had a pressure on costs.

The closing balance represents 35% of annual turnover. This leaves us in a stable and secure financial position to confidently support the contractors with the challenges faced in the next few years. In particular we are thinking of the support we wish to give with the IP element of Pharmacy First. The Committee work with the best interests of the contractors in mind, ensuring that every pound we spend on their behalf is for their benefit.

My thanks go to the committee for their support throughout the year.

Robert Townsend

Treasurer

Chief Executive Officer's Annual Report

The past year has been a significant one for Community Pharmacy Avon and Wiltshire and for the wider profession.

Following the merger of Community Pharmacy Avon and Community Pharmacy Swindon and Wiltshire in April 2025, CPAW now represents almost 300 pharmacies across two Integrated Care Boards and six local authorities. The merger has strengthened our resilience, increased our influence and improved our ability to support contractors across a large and diverse area.

During the year, our Operations Team has continued to help pharmacies maximise the opportunities available through the community pharmacy contract. This has included support for Pharmacy First, the Pharmacy Contraception Service and the Hypertension Case-Finding Service, alongside practical help with implementation, engagement and performance.

Our GP and pharmacy relationship programme remains central to this work. Regular engagement with practices and Primary Care Networks has helped increase referrals, improve understanding of community pharmacy services and strengthen pharmacy's position within primary care. Our funded Community Pharmacy PCN Leads have played an important role in representing contractors and resolving local issues.

We also continue to work closely with both BNSSG and BSW Integrated Care Boards. These relationships ensure that community pharmacy is represented in important strategic and operational discussions, particularly as the NHS develops more neighbourhood-based and community-focused models of care.

Workforce development remains a major priority. In 2025/6, more than 40 Foundation Pharmacists have begun training placements in community pharmacy, helping to create a stronger future workforce. This has increased to over 85 in 2026/7. We have also continued to support pharmacists undertaking independent prescribing qualifications and seeking access to Designated Prescribing Practitioners.

Independent prescribing is now becoming central to the future of the community pharmacy contract. During the 2026/27 contract, pharmacist independent prescribers will begin prescribing within nationally commissioned community pharmacy services.

This is much more than the introduction of another service. It marks the beginning of a fundamental change in the role of community pharmacy, allowing pharmacists to assess, treat and prescribe for patients as part of the NHS.

The initial service will not be the finished product. There are legitimate concerns about funding, workload, infrastructure and professional risk. However, the Independent Prescribing Pathfinder Programme has demonstrated the contribution community pharmacy can make, and the new national service is a direct consequence of that work.

Our priority must now be to make the first phase successful, demonstrate its value and create the evidence needed to expand prescribing through future contracts. Independent prescribing has the potential to improve patient access, reduce pressure elsewhere in the NHS and make better use of the clinical skills already available in community pharmacy.

The 2026/27 contract provides additional investment, but significant financial pressures remain. CPAW will therefore continue to represent contractors, support service implementation and press for a sustainable contractual model that properly recognises the value of community pharmacy.

I would like to thank our contractors, pharmacy teams, Committee members, Operations Team, Local Authority and NHS partners for their continued hard work and support.

Community Pharmacy Avon and Wiltshire is here to represent and support you. As the profession enters this new era, please continue to engage with us and ask for help whenever you need it.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Brown PhD FRPharmS

Chief Executive Officer

Community Pharmacy Avon and Wiltshire