5th June 2025

Dear LLR LPC,

Your reflections on the pressures faced by community pharmacy providers and the evolving responsibilities associated with this service are well noted and valued and we acknowledge the urgency you convey.

After careful consideration, including discussions with our commissioners, it will unfortunately not be possible to bring the review forward.

The planned review of payment rates remains scheduled for implementation from April 2026. This timeframe is necessary to ensure that the process is thorough, inclusive, and informed by the appropriate data. In parallel, we are undertaking a programme of pharmacy visits to better understand current delivery pressures and gather first-hand insights that will inform this review process. This work is already underway, but will require adequate time to complete in order to ensure we have a comprehensive and representative understanding to inform the review process effectively.

That said, we are keen to begin early discussions and ensure preparatory work is well underway in advance. To that end, we propose setting up a meeting in September, which we believe is the most appropriate time to convene.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative working relationship and will be in touch closer to the time to coordinate a suitable date.

Kind regards,

Andrea Knowles – Senior ops manager (Leicester city)

Jo Hall – Senior ops manager (Leicestershire and Rutland)