In attendance:
Evelyne Beech (RPS), EB
Andrew Benzie, AB
Jane Hutchinson, JH
Richard Lau (Chair), RL
Chinyere Okoli, CO
Rimi Shah, RS
Lorna Sutcliffe, LS
Alan Tang, AT

Apologies for absence: Dr Shamela de Silva has demitted from the Group.

1. Welcome & Introduction
RL welcomed members of the SIG and introduced Chinyere Okoli, Chair of the HIV Pharmacists Association, to the Group. The minutes of the last meeting on 19th January 2011 were approved after corrections.

2. Matters arising from last meeting
- Web site development. The Group supported developing a web presence on the BASHH web site, likely to be within the Educational Subcommittee section. A web page has been drafted with minor revisions to Terms of reference suggested before upload; hyperlinks to RPS and CPPE to be added. Access to agenda and minutes to be restricted and held in private (members) area. RL to contact Martyn Wood (web rep), Ade Apoola or AT to help with upload.

3. Further work with RPS and CPPE
- Meeting with RPS/CPPE Feb 2011. Group felt that meeting went well, and that next phase of our work would be to look at opportunities to showcase BASHH standards and STIFlevel1Competency to pharmacists as well as to advertise work of Group within specialty. There was sufficient material and experience within Group to provide a number of talks and/or workshops, covering:
  - Recognition of common STIs
  - Taking a Sexual history
  - Overview of STIFCompetency and BASHH standards
  - Clinical governance in delivery of sexual health care
  - Confidentiality & PN issues
  - A Pharmacist’s perspective- invite a pharmacist ‘sexual health champion’

- ACTION: identifying opportunities and venues for above:
  - At next BASHH Spring meeting (Brighton 2012)- JH to raise this with Liz Foley. Perhaps invite a pharmacist to speak. LS to identify suitable speaker(s), should this go through.
  - At LPC- AB to contact Shilpa (?) at RPS to see if opportunities might exist. Evening meetings would be a possible obstacle.
At next year’s Pharmacy Show. This was a very large annual event for pharmacists and CO will raise this with the organiser (Laura Shapiro) to see if Group might get invited to speak or have a stand.

CO will also discuss with HIV Pharmacists Association if they would like Group to speak at their meetings, covering some of the topics listed above.

RS will explore possibility of Group being invited to speak at meetings organised by Asian Pharmacy Association.

4. Any other business

- EB suggested Group look at referral pathways into sexual health services for pharmacists offering L1 services. This will be especially important when commissioning bodies start to involve pharmacists in delivery of services.

- CO gave a perspective of the work of her Association and the opportunities for closer working. Although HIV pharmacists were largely hospital-based, they were in the ‘front line’ in terms of patient management. Group could offer her members expertise in developing knowledge and competencies in areas outlined (above).

- RS said that pharmacist accreditation was key in driving forward many of these ideas. EB agreed and suggested that some initiatives around accreditation from Gloucestershire might be applied nationally in developing a ‘competency passport’ system to avoid duplication of effort.

- JH was contacted by Karen Rogstad and raised the possibility of the BNF calling on the expertise of the Group in commenting on drugs used in GU/sexual health conditions. Awaiting further clarification.

- RL closed the meeting and thanked AB for his generous hospitality, once again, for hosting the meeting at Guy’s Hospital.

5. Date & venue of next meeting

Thursday 16th February 2012, Lloyd Clinic, Guy’s Hospital.