Minutes of
BASHH Pharmacy Special Interest Group
Wednesday 19th January 2011
Seminar Room, Lloyd Clinic
Guy’s Hospital

In attendance:
Dr Andrew Benzie
Dr Jane Hutchinson
Dr Richard Lau (Chair)
Geraldine Flavell (CPPE)
Miss Evelyne Beech (RPS)
Lorna Sutcliffe

Apologies for absence: Drs Rimi Shah, Alan Tang, Shamela de Silva

1. Welcome & Introduction
Richard Lau welcomed members of the SIG and introduced Miss Flavell to the Group. Apologies for absence were received (above). The minutes of the last meeting on 15th September 2010 were approved after correction.

2. Matters arising from last meeting
   • CPPE publications- Sexual Health in pharmacies. Geraldine Flavell (Regional Manager, CPPE) discussed the background to and objectives of the SHIP publications. The publications were commissioned by DH and made freely available to pharmacists. These were knowledge-based documents for self-study with e-assessment. CPPE accreditation was a benchmark that facilitated commissioning for sexual health services by community pharmacists.
   • Miss Flavell was keen to have a national network of pharmacy-friendly sexual health physicians to facilitate CPPE workshops. SIG was very supportive of this although it was noted that all the physicians within SIG (except for Dr Tang) were all currently based in London! Group was happy to publicise CPPE workshops if and when clinicians were needed nationally.
   • Jane Hutchinson commented that the SHIP publications are equivalent to the STIF core day 1. Pharmacists looking to develop further competencies should consider enrolling on STIF Level 1 competencies training & assessment. This is currently being piloted and both Geraldine Flavell and Evelyne Beech expressed interest in attending a regional Level 1 course to better understand curriculum coverage and its relevance to pharmacists.
   • There was discussion about the practicalities of role play in assessing the taking of a sexual history amongst pharmacists (as is used in STIF Level 1 Competency assessment). It was noted that training and competency assessment in taking a sexual history was not widely available and some pharmacists would benefit from acquiring basic skills. Younger colleagues trained in this format might be more comfortable with this than more senior colleagues, but it was not possible to gauge its popularity without trying it first. Suggestion to investigate developing a workshop jointly between BASHH and CPPE to fill any gaps between knowledge obtained through CPPE ‘Sexual Health in Pharmacies’ and skills required before being assessed through STIF Level 1 Competency package in particular training around taking a
sexual history. This would also provide necessary competencies in history taking for other related services.

- There were a number of uncertainties, given the changing NHS commissioning landscape. It was likely that sexual health would be under the ‘public health’ umbrella and looked after by local authorities. Important that representative organisations work closely, either co-badging educational projects or directing potential trainees to each other’s courses, etc.
- Evelyne Beech commented that the Group was not listed on the BASHH web site and suggested having a page to publicise its work with links to CPPE, its publications and RPS.

**Actions:**
Chair to develop Pharmacy SIG page for BASHH.org web site; write a short piece in next BASHH newsletter to publicise its work
Jane Hutchinson to notify EB and GF about local STIF L1 courses

**Confidentiality.** EB reported that retention of health records in pharmacy was in line with NHS guidance and the Data Protection Act. As a result records/proformas would be held securely and retained for eight years in the case of adults, and up to the age of 25yr for those under 16yrs.

- **eLfH module for pharmacists.** Access for pharmacists should, ideally, be through NHS network. Accreditation through having an nhs.net e-mail account helps enormously, otherwise pharmacists would be registered under ‘Other health care professional’ with a one-off registration fee of £10-20.

3. **Meeting with RPS, BASHH and CPPE, 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2011**
Andrew Benzie currently drafting agenda for initial meeting between the 3 organisations to explore areas of common interest. Promoting sexual health agenda for pharmacists, especially in light of SHIP publications.

4. **Any other business**
EB, as a representative of the new RPS (England) was awaiting confirmation from the Society that she was able to continue in this role, with reimbursement for travel expenses. If no funding for travel was available, the Chair suggested that BASHH would reimburse the cost, with proviso that she should ensure she purchases the cheapest train tickets in advance!

5. **Date & venue of next meeting**
Wednesday 25th May 2011, Lloyd Clinic, Guy’s Hospital.