

## Proposed LPC Transformation: Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ explains the proposed transformation of local pharmacy representation across Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley.

### Why is change being proposed?

The NHS has evolved significantly in recent years, with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) becoming the primary structures through which healthcare services are planned, commissioned and delivered. Community pharmacy is increasingly expected to work as an integrated clinical partner in neighbourhood healthcare, prevention, urgent care and population health. The current LPC arrangements need to also evolve so that representation is better aligned with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, has stronger strategic capacity and influence, reduces duplication and is more resilient.

### Who developed the proposal?

A working group of committee members from Community Pharmacy Halton, St Helens and Knowsley, Community Pharmacy Liverpool and Community Pharmacy Sefton reviewed the arrangements. The group concluded that a merged committee would strengthen influence, investment and sustainability, and each participating LPC agreed with the findings.

### What exactly is being proposed?

Subject to pharmacy owner approval, Community Pharmacy Sefton, Liverpool, and Halton, St Helens and Knowsley would merge to become Community Pharmacy Merseyside. As a result, Community Pharmacy Merseyside would be one of two local pharmacy representative bodies (alongside Community Pharmacy Cheshire and Wirral) aligned with the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside footprint.

### Is this proposal intended to reduce local representation?

No. The aim is to strengthen the existing structure while maintaining support that reflects local needs.

### How would representation improve?

Pharmacies would retain a local voice at Place level while gaining wider influence across NHS Cheshire and Merseyside. Bringing together leadership skills and expertise should also reduce duplicated meetings and administrative work, creating more capacity for strategic engagement and local commissioning opportunities.

### Will my pharmacy still receive local support?

Yes. Pharmacy owners would continue to receive local support and representation. Familiar team members with local knowledge would be retained, while a combined team would provide greater workforce capacity and resilience.

### What are the working group's key recommendations?

- Align representation across Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley more effectively with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.



- Create infrastructure capable of supporting pharmacy owners across a larger geography.
- Reduce duplication in governance, administration and operations.
- Improve sustainability and help keep future levy uplifts to a minimum.
- Increase capacity and scale so that more can be invested in executive and operational support.
- Strengthen community pharmacy's influence over service development and commissioning opportunities.

### How would pharmacy owners be represented on the new committee?

Pharmacy owners within the new geography will have the opportunity to elect representatives as part of the scheduled elections in 2027. There is a commitment to ensuring effective representation across the new LPC geography, recognising the five Places of Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley. Clear local contact points will be developed during the transition so that pharmacy owners continue to have accessible local support alongside the stronger strategic voice of the combined LPC.

### How will pharmacy owners be involved in the decision?

Pharmacy owners will be able to discuss and question the proposal, attend drop-in sessions and vote through the formal process. Engagement, transparency and good governance will remain central throughout.

### Who can vote?

Pharmacy owners are entitled to cast one vote for each of the pharmacy owner's premises in each of the Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley LPC areas (via the individual LPC's Special General Meeting vote as below).

### How will the vote work and what majority is required?

Full details of the voting process, including how you can vote if you cannot attend the Special General Meeting and the majority required, will be set out in the formal notice and voting papers. Each LPC will conduct its own vote in accordance with its current constitution and good governance practice.

### What happens if one LPC votes in favour and another against?

The proposal is for a tripartite merger. The outcome of each LPC's vote will be considered by the respective committees. Further discussions would take place if the results are not aligned. The working group's preference is for a unified approach across the three LPCs.

### What financial efficiencies are expected?

The main savings are expected from lower committee costs. The total number of committee members across the three LPCs would reduce from 29 to between 10 and 13. Meeting administration and venue costs would also fall, and the new LPC would require only one Chair and one Treasurer rather than three of each.

## How would the savings be used?

Savings would be reinvested in strategic and operational functions, improving the LPC's capacity to represent pharmacy owners, respond to NHS priorities and support future service development.

## Will existing local services or commissioning arrangements change?

The transformation does not itself alter pharmacy contracts or existing commissioned services. Local service arrangements remain subject to the relevant commissioner and contractual processes. Closer alignment is intended to strengthen the LPC's ability to influence future opportunities.

## Will the levy be collected differently?

No change to the collection method is proposed. Levy funding would continue to be calculated in the same way and collected by NHS Business Services Authority Prescription Services. The LPC would continue to seek to keep future levy uplifts to a minimum while meeting increasing expectations and responsibilities.

The final levy rate will be set by the new Community Pharmacy Merseyside committee once it has agreed its first budget and reserves policy. Any changes will be communicated transparently.

## What will happen to existing reserves?

Existing reserve funds held by Community Pharmacy Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley and transferred to Community Pharmacy Merseyside would remain ring-fenced until a fair single reserves system can be implemented.

## When would the transformed LPC take effect?

Subject to pharmacy owner approval and adoption of the constitution for Community Pharmacy Merseyside, the transformed LPC would take effect on 1st April 2027.

## Will the constitution need to change?

Relevant constitutional and governance documents will need to reflect the new geography and future committee arrangements. When voting at the Special General Meeting, pharmacy owners will be asked if they vote to accept the proposal and the constitution for Community Pharmacy Merseyside.

## Where can I ask further questions?

Pharmacy owners can raise questions at the planned drop-in sessions or contact your LPC directly. Further details about locality engagement, representation and support during the transition will be shared as the process develops.

## Pharmacy owner drop-in events

**Pharmacy owners can attend one of the drop-in sessions held by members of Sefton, Liverpool, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley LPC's.**



**Date and Time:** Tuesday 8th September at 7pm–8pm

**Location:** Online

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/326739493279796?p=2ITaeKQLS3H2cmoDxS>

Meeting ID: 326 739 493 279 796

Passcode: Th6LK6GX

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 9th September 1pm–2pm

**Location:** Online

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join:** <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/324390024490128?p=08wNwpZvLnNJrpn2rc>

Meeting ID: 324 390 024 490 128

Passcode: qy7CF2SP