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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Wednesday 11th January 2023 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: CEO video update; joint letter calls for workforce plan including pharmacy; Pharmacy Vision engagement events; extension of free PPE for pharmacy teams; EPS tokens factsheet.January video update from PSNC’s CEOPSNC Chief Executive Janet Morrison has recorded a video update for community pharmacy contractors. The video looks back at some of the work and discussions with contractors that PSNC held in December, as well as looking to the year ahead. Janet also describes how PSNC has increased its influencing capacity in recent months and talks about her December meeting with the Pharmacy Minister as well as the cross-sector approach to the Health Secretary making this point.Both the Secretary of State and the Minister were told that Government has now reached a fork in the road: they can build on the great work of pharmacies during the pandemic by investing the sector, including in Pharmacy First, but if they instead let things continue as they are they will force many pharmacies to collapse, impacting directly on patients.[**Watch Janet's video update**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=07b58a8e12&e=d19e9fd41c) Joint letter calls for workforce plan to include whole of pharmacyPSNC and other pharmacy leaders have signed a joint letter calling for reassurance that the Government’s long-term NHS workforce plan, expected by April 2023, will cover the entirety of the pharmacy workforce across the health service, including in community pharmacy. The letter notes that the Health and Social Care Committee in July 2022 called for a pharmacy workforce plan to help optimise workloads across primary care, and highlights the importance of supporting the pharmacy workforce so that the staff needed to deliver patient care now and into the future can be recruited, trained and retained.[**Read the joint letter**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=1867c386c1&e=d19e9fd41c) Pharmacy Vision: PSNC to hold engagement eventsWork to develop a new vision and strategic options for community pharmacy is now well underway, being led by Nuffield Trust and The King’s Fund.  Following the closure of the Pharmacy Vision consultation last month, PSNC has announced two online engagement events to give community pharmacy contractors who didn’t manage to fill in the consultation survey a chance to share their views. They will involve group discussions with members of the PSNC team and fellow contractors, focused on the questions asked in the online consultation.[**Register for one of the upcoming Pharmacy Vision events**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=598c4139b9&e=d19e9fd41c)Free PPE for pharmacy teams extended until March 2024The Government’s scheme providing free personal protective equipment (PPE) to health and care providers, including community pharmacies in England, has been [**extended for another year**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=b6f675503e&e=d19e9fd41c). EPS Tokens factsheetPSNC has published a factsheet for community pharmacy teams explaining how to order tokens for the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) and escalate issues, if necessary. Please note, Primary Care Support England (PCSE) is responsible for distributing tokens and administer the ordering portal.[**Read the factsheet**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=318f41b043&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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