

# **Response to Scottish Executive 'Modernising Community Pharmacy in Scotland' Consultation Paper**

## **Forth Valley Area Pharmaceutical Committee**

### **Introduction**

As a committee we welcome the opportunity to put our views forward on this important and timely document. We support the need to work towards legislation that will enable community pharmacists to deliver 'The Right Medicine' and make a greater contribution to Scotland's health. We would like to make the following comments regarding the content of the document:

### **Section 2 Introduction of a New Community Pharmacy Contract**

- We support the requirement to give incentives to community pharmacists to improve and deliver quality health care in Scotland.
- A move towards service centred remuneration is to be encouraged and may deter some of the current criticisms against community pharmacy.

### **Section 3 Planning and Provision of Pharmaceutical Care Services**

- We share concerns over the provision of pharmaceutical services in rural, remote and deprived areas, and agree that the current contract does not always encourage service provision in these areas.
- We disagree that the introduction of 'Holding Contracts' would be beneficial for the rational distribution of services. Such arrangements would destabilise the current service structure and act as a disincentive to invest in the new contract structure.
- We support the idea of providing assistance to contractors wishing to provide services in areas of under provision. However, this assistance must be structured appropriately to ensure long-term financial viability.

### **Section 4 Pharmaceutical Lists**

- We support the need for systems to improve clinical governance and professional accountability.
- It would be useful for the extended List to include details of a pharmacist's accreditation for local and national services.

## **Section 6 Cross Boundary and Distant Provision of Pharmaceutical Services**

- We agree with the principle that proper use of IT in the provision of community pharmacy services must be fully explored.
- The detail of this proposed legislation, particularly with regard to potential for internet and mail order services, must be clarified and be structured as not to destabilise the existing community pharmacy network.
- We support the introduction of legislation that recognises the value of the face to face relationship between patient and pharmacist and the accessibility of pharmacy services for local communities.

## **Final Comments**

- In summary, we welcome legislative changes that will improve access to community pharmacy services for the Scottish people. However, such changes must not compromise the existing network of pharmacies that serves this population.
- The key to ensuring successful evolution of the community pharmacy service is to bring services to areas of under provision whilst maintaining general stability in the market. This will ensure that pharmacy contractors continue to invest in the delivery of quality services and standards.