



## Open Letter to UK Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Trainees and Students

*From the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board*

22 January 2026

Dear colleagues

In April 2026, the new Royal College of Pharmacy is scheduled to be established by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The Royal College of Pharmacy has the potential to unite pharmacy in a way we have not seen before.

It offers a clear opportunity to:

- **Co-create a unified and inclusive professional home for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy trainees and students together** – for the benefit of patients and local communities.
- **Prioritise excellence and ambition in education, innovation and research** – supporting the pharmacy professions to learn, develop and access new career opportunities.
- **Strengthen the collective voice of pharmacy professional leadership through collaboration** – achieving greater recognition for pharmacy, while respecting and reflecting the plurality of different voices in the pharmacy professions, and ensuring the professions are distinctly and equitably represented.



- **Renew relationships** – enhancing engagement with members, potential members, the wider pharmacy and healthcare systems, and with patients and the public.
- **Showcase and promote the best in pharmacy leadership** – representing pharmacy well on national and international stages, and increasing pride in professional leadership.

But only if we all work together to realise the benefits.

Up to now, pharmacy professional leadership has been fragmented, making it harder to influence national policy, shape workforce development and demonstrate the impact pharmacy has on patients and communities across the UK.

Since April 2024, the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board has been working with colleagues across pharmacy to address this.

Through closer collaboration between the eight organisations on the Board, supported by other Board members, listed below, we have agreed a collective [Vision and Common Purpose](#).

Following this we held a series of co-creation discussions about the Royal College of Pharmacy with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Now we are preparing to publish proposals for a bold and ambitious new approach, aiming to create a stronger, more inclusive leadership model for the future.

### **What will happen next?**

In February the Board will publish its proposals for a more inclusive, effective and sustainable future for pharmacy professional leadership in the UK.

These have been developed by its members, and through widespread engagement, and will set out a process for future collaboration which will involve



further work and consultation before it can be implemented. There will be plenty of time for further discussions during the process.

### How can I hear more?

We want to be as transparent and open as possible. If you'd like to receive a copy of the statement, please sign up here:

[england.ukpplboard@nhs.net](mailto:england.ukpplboard@nhs.net)

Registration is now open for a series of four Board webinars where colleagues will be able to discuss the proposals with Board members. Each webinar will have a particular focus but everyone is welcome to join.

To register, please sign up here:

- [Tuesday 24 February, 6-7pm](#) – to focus on pharmacy technicians across the UK.
- [Wednesday 25 February, 6-7pm](#) – to focus on pharmacy teams in Northern Ireland.
- [Tuesday 3 March, 7-8pm](#) – to focus on members of specialist professional groups.
- [Wednesday 4 March, 1-2pm](#) – to focus on pharmacy students and trainees.

We look forward to working with you to seize this unique opportunity to further shape the future of pharmacy professional leadership in the UK.

Best regards

### UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board Members:

<b>Sir Hugh Taylor</b> (Chair)	Independent Chair	UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board
<b>Martina Aikon</b>	President	British Pharmaceutical Students' Association



Ex-Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group		
<b>Professor Claire Anderson</b> Ex-Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	President	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
<b>Raymond Anderson</b> Independent Expert Member	Director  Associate Consultant	Northern Pharmacies Ltd  Health and Social Care Leadership Centre, Belfast
<b>Laura Angus</b> Independent Expert Member	Chief Pharmacy Officer/Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation	NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
<b>Rebecca Chamberlain</b> Independent Expert Member	Accreditation and Recognition Panel Team Leader (Chair)	General Pharmaceutical Council
<b>Dr Jeanette Dickson</b> Ex-Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	Chair of Council	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
<b>Professor Christine Gilmour</b> Independent Expert Member	Fellow	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
<b>Nicola Greenhalgh</b> Ex-Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	College of Mental Health Pharmacy
<b>Mildred Johnson</b> Independent Expert Member	Chief Pharmacist/Clinical Director of Pharmacy	Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust



	and Medicines Optimisation	
<b>Amy Laflin</b> Ex-Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	President	Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK
<b>Sheelin McKeagney</b> Ex-Officio Member - Professional Leadership Body	Chair	Pharmacy Forum Northern Ireland
<b>Dr Berwyn Owen</b> Independent Expert Member	Director	Fferyllfa Penygroes Pharmacy, Caernarfon
<b>Professor Mahendra Patel OBE</b> Independent Expert Member	Director	Centre for Research Equity, University of Oxford
<b>Joan Saddler OBE</b> Ex-Officio Member – Chair of the Patient and Public Reference Group	Co-Chair	NHS Equality and Diversity Council
<b>Shilpa Shah</b> Independent Expert Member	Chief Executive	Community Pharmacy North East London
<b>Panayiotis Sphikas</b> Independent Expert Member	Head of Pharmacy Operations	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
<b>Dr Graham Stretch</b> Ex-Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	Primary Care Pharmacy Association
<b>John Warburton</b> Ex-Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	Chair	UK Clinical Pharmacy Association

# UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board

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collaborative pharmacy  
professional leadership



<b>Ellen Williams</b> Independent Expert Member	Director of Regional Pharmacy Training	Pharmacy Workforce Development South, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
<b>Joseph Williams</b> Ex-Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	Immediate Past Chair	British Oncology Pharmacy Association