

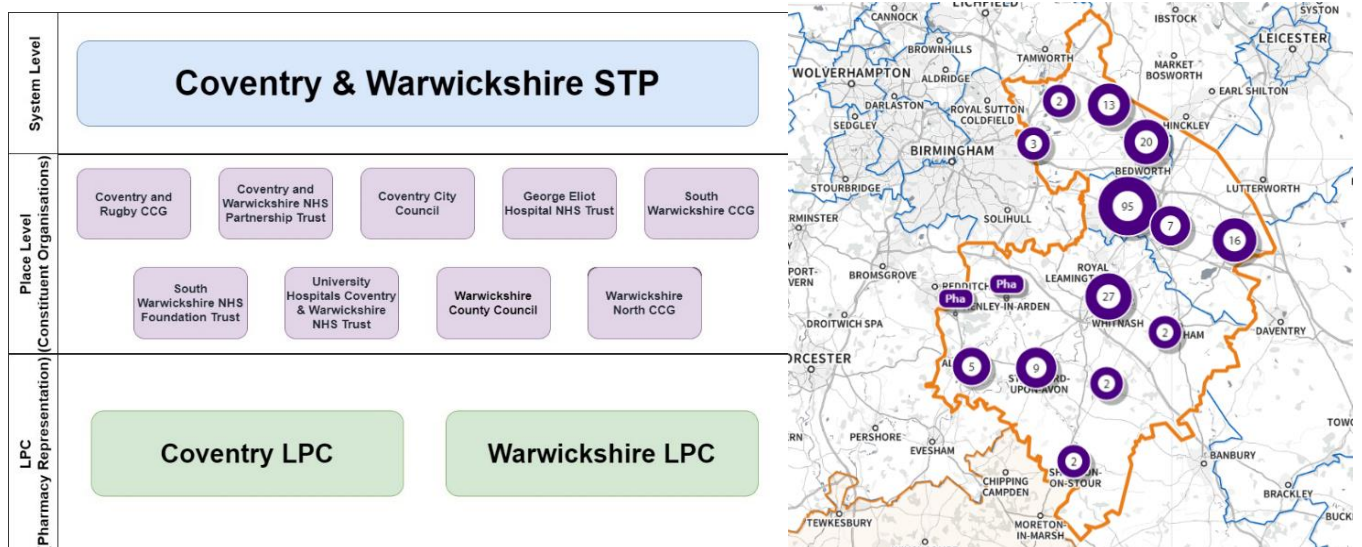
Proposal to merge Coventry & Warwickshire LPCs to form Community Pharmacy Arden

Alongside our Annual Report for 19-20, we shared an update on our ways of working and working more closely across Coventry, Warwickshire and Herefordshire & Worcestershire LPCs. This closer working has driven greater efficiency and productivity, especially for our shared office function and team.

We are keen to explore with our contractors a proposal to formalise this closer working by merging Coventry and Warwickshire LPCs to form a single LPC covering both Coventry and Warwickshire geographies to be known as Community Pharmacy Arden. Our two LPCs already work extremely closely and over the last 12 months we have had a number of joint working groups and joint LPC meetings to continue to build on the work we started in 2018-19.

Your LPC committee believe that changes to the external health environment within Coventry and Warwickshire mean that now is a good time to progress the proposal to merge Coventry and Warwickshire LPCs:

- Coventry and Warwickshire have a single STP (Sustainability and Transformation Partnership) organisation and the majority of strategic health and care decisions are now determined at STP-level
- The STP will form an ICS in April 2021 and a review is underway around future of Commissioning, CCGs and NHSEi with an even bigger role at the Coventry and Warwickshire footprint.
- During the Covid pandemic many of the task and finish / working groups established worked at STP level including a 'Pharmacy Cell' which included representatives from the pharmacy departments at the hospital trusts in addition to LPC representation.
- Seasonal workstreams (flu being the obvious one currently) are managed at STP-level
- There are CCG mergers within our geography planned or happening which will ultimately result in one CCG aligned with the STP footprint for Coventry & Warwickshire
- We acknowledge that the geographical area of Coventry and Warwickshire is large and beneath the STP four 'Place' systems will continue to exist – these are Coventry, Rugby, North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire so the LPC will continue to represent all contractors within any of these place-based systems, should the merger be approved
- Coventry and Warwickshire Councils continue to exist as separate entities but work very closely together, particularly on pharmacy-related matters. A formal concordat has been established to enable this close working.



Our most important consideration however in these proposals is what do they mean for our contractors? As your LPC committee we believe that the merger will result in a number of benefits for you:

- The merger will undoubtedly increase efficiency across the office team further – only having one set of communications to produce being an obvious example.
- This efficiency will allow us to build on the office team and the LPC committee to explore new opportunities for representation, local service income streams for contractors and engagement with PCNs.
- Greater efficiency may, in due course, result in cost savings for contractors and potentially a reduction in LPC levy, the LPC committee will of course be mindful of balancing investment and opportunity costs with value for money and savings for all of our contractors. The two LPCs are currently aligning their financial positions and levies ahead of the new financial year.
- We will retain close working relationship and shared functions with Herefordshire & Worcestershire LPC as our neighbouring STP footprint. The STP pharmacy cells across the two geographies already work closely and there may be closer working in the future, and we will keep this under review to ensure best advantage for Contractors.

The recent publication of the Pharmacy Review of national and local representation by Professor David Wright highlights LPC mergers and recommends that the minimum size of an LPC should be 200 contractor premises. Whilst our proposal would satisfy this recommendation in the Pharmacy Review it is not our impetus for change and our reasons are set out above.

We are writing formally to you all to set out the next steps in the process. The outline timeline is below and is set to coincide with the new term of the LPCs April 2022- March 2026:

Activity	Autumn 2020	Winter 2021	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Winter 2022	Spring 2022	April 2022
AGM and advanced notice of intentions to Contractors								
Contractor events to discuss topical issues and merger proposals								
Contractors sent full information on the merger and invited to vote								
Result declared (> 2/3 of vote must be in favour)								
AGMs of outgoing LPCs								
End October – confirmation of contractor numbers and places on LPC								
Financial alignment of LPCs								
Voting for new merged LPC								
New CP Arden Committee confirmed								
Community Pharmacy Arden term of office commences								

Note we will continue to work closely with Herefordshire & Worcestershire LPC as an informal federated model across Community Pharmacy AHW, sharing resources and expertise as appropriate. We may seek to formalise this at a later stage, but we would, of course, seek the opinion of contractors first.

We hope that you agree that this is a sensible way forward and will support our proposal to merge Coventry and Warwickshire LPCs.

Enclosed:

- **Proposed Constitution for the new combined LPC – with a new name Community Pharmacy Arden in line with proposed nomenclature to be used nationally for LPCs. This is based on the current PSNC constitution for LPCs with amendments highlighted in yellow. These take account of the merger, ensuring fair representation, some suggestions from the Wright Review around terms of office and officer employed versus member status.**
- **Invitation to Contractor Meeting ahead of the Vote which will be held on 4th March for both Coventry and Warwickshire Contractors**

To Follow:

- **Invitation to vote at or in advance of the Special General Meetings of the LPC will be made available on the 5th March.**
 - **Coventry LPC SGM will be on 15th April**
 - **Warwickshire LPC SGM will be on 14th April**
 - **Remote Voting Forms return window of 5th March – 14th April 12 noon.**
 - **Contractors or designated representatives will be able to vote by emailing their vote within the agreed timeframe OR 'in person' at the virtual SGM.**

In the meantime, we would be happy to discuss our proposals with any of our contractors.

If you have any queries please contact Fiona Lowe, Chief Officer on 07792970382 or ahwipc@gmail.com

As of 1st January 2021 the following statistics apply: this will be rechecked in October 2021 ahead of new committee appointments for April 2022

Current LPC	Number contractors	CCA	AIMp	Independents	No PCNs	No PLACEs	No scripts dispensed year 19-20
Coventry	92	34	6	52	7	1	7,304,540
Warwickshire	108	48	7	53	13	3	10,443,698
Combined	200	82 (41%)	13 (6.5%)	105 (52.5%)	20	4	17,748,238

Combined Committee make up	Total	CCA	AIMp	Independents
Number of seats	10	4	1	5