

RPSGB Branch Structure in Scotland: Proposals for the Future

Background

At the Scottish Pharmacy Board meeting in January 2008 the Board agreed on a set of proposals as a way forward to supporting and working more closely with the Branches. The proposals were then circulated to the Branches for comment.

Outcome

The lack of feedback from the Branches was disappointing. Below is an accumulation of the feedback received at the joint meeting of Branch representatives and Scottish Pharmacy Board members along with more recent feedback.

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Comment from Branches</i>
Virtual network for Branch members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch representatives at the joint meeting in November 2007 agreed that numbers of attendees at Branch Meetings were falling because of increasing family commitments etc and that to get members to meetings you had to offer something them, for example, training & development. • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Website redesign to include more Branch information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray & Banff Branch submitted a paper for the joint meeting in November <i>Enabled Pharmacy Web-Site</i> recommending an up-to-date website with material submitted by the Branch and maintained by the Scottish Office. • At November meeting Branch representatives welcomed the idea of an up-to-date website as a great communication tool with Branch members. • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Rename - Scottish pharmacy network – local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Retain ability to organise meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Devolved budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the November meeting the Branch representatives stated felt it would be

	<p>more feasible to have the budgets distributed and controlled by the Scottish Office as opposed to Lambeth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Devolved secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Professional and (local) support from the Scottish directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Single point of contact – local knowledge, connections etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.
Increased Scottish Pharmacy Board involvement and presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At meeting in November Branch representatives welcomed the twinning arrangements and encouraged further involvement of Board members at Branch meetings.
Addition of a "Branch" page in quarterly SPB Bulletin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is supported by the Edinburgh & Lothian's Branch.

Next Steps

The proposals can be categorised under three headings.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Proposed Action</i>	<i>Next Step</i>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual network for Branch members • Website redesign to include more Branch information 	To assess the feasibility and associated costs including staffing requirements to create and maintain a website for the Branches.	Detailed proposal to be submitted to Andy Langler, Head of Information Management and Information Technology.
Administration functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rename – Scottish pharmacy network – local • Retain ability to organise meetings • Devolved secretariat 	To rename the Branch network. To review the resource required to undertake a support function for organising Branch meetings, finding	To assess capability and align staffing requirements to provide support to the Branches.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional and (local) support from the Scottish directorate • Single point of contact – local, knowledge, connections etc • Increased Scottish Pharmacy Board involvement and presence • Addition of a “Branch” page in quarterly SPB Bulletin 	<p>guest speakers, dealing with expenses, travel arrangements and accommodation.</p> <p>To take responsibility for the distribution of Branch material.</p> <p>To advertise more fully the SPB Bulletin reiterating the opportunity for Branch coverage, depending on demand, possibly leading to a Branch page.</p>	
<p>Budgetary Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolved budget 	<p>To get the Branches budgets redirected to the Scottish Office for distribution.</p> <p>To ensure there is adequate surplus fund available for any extra funding requests from Branches.</p>	<p>To discuss this proposal with Amanda King, Head of Membership.</p>

Moving Forward:

- Board to agree to the proposed actions and next steps.
- To discuss proposals at the Branch Secretaries meeting in June.

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