

Dr Martin Kerr
CPNI Board Member



Why did you decide to become a CPNI Board member?

I decided to stand for election to the CPNI board for a number of reasons. Primarily I was interested in helping to drive forward the introduction of the new contract. Pharmacy needs a new structure where we can apply our pharmaceutical knowledge and skills for the benefit of patients and also to the benefit of the Health Service. I am a firm believer that community pharmacy has a much greater role to play in the provision of healthcare in the primary care sector.

Along with this belief was the realisation that the new contract needs to be well resourced and financed so that it will provide a secure and viable future for the whole community pharmacy network. As an independent Contractor I felt it was important that the views of this sector of the Contractor base were fully represented.

Other reasons for becoming a CPNI Board member included the concern over the decreasing return obtained on the main core dispensing business by the reduced dispensing fees especially those associated with multiple dispensing, the lack of introduction of new services to allow community pharmacists to develop their skills and improve patient outcomes while providing a sustainable revenue for service delivery, the need for a fresh approach to the negotiations with the DHSS&PS and the HSCB. Having previously worked in the HSCB I felt that I could contribute an understanding of their position and thought process to the CPNI Board and facilitate meaningful negotiations on the way forward.

Which areas do you represent?

I represent the Belfast/South Eastern LCG area.

Do you have any pharmacy specialist interests?

I have a number of special interests including developing new services and training. I am particularly interested in developing new medicines management services in relation to the MYM service and

MURs as well as service around the new medicines use service and hospital discharge services. I represent CPNI on a number of committees such as those dealing with a review of Out of hours services, Palliative care, MURs and the committee responsible to monitoring the performance of NICPLD.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have many interest outside pharmacy mainly revolving around the family and sport. I am keen on any sport involving a ball of any shape and follow rugby, football and golf closely. I play the latter poorly but with great enthusiasm.

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