60-Second Interview with Nick Hunter, Chief Officer, Doncaster, Rotherham and Nottinghamshire LPCs

Please provide a short biography

After registering as a pharmacist Nick worked for Boots as a store manager in a number of stores, then moved to a professional development role. In 2005 Nick moved to Lloyds pharmacy as Professional Development Manager.

He has been an active member of local branches and LPFs of the Pharmaceutical Society, Pharmacy Development Groups and PEC Pharmacist for PCTs and currently a member of South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw LNP and Nottinghamshire / Derbyshire LPN.

He is currently Chief Officer for Doncaster, Rotherham and Nottinghamshire LPCs taking responsibility for representing and protecting the interests for 400 community pharmacy contractors.

Outside of work he coaches and plays for Hinckley Water Polo Club.

What inspired you to build a career in pharmacy?

I was always interested in chemistry at school and at college while studying for A-levels I heard a talk from a local community pharmacist which inspired me to do a pharmacy degree instead of a chemistry degree.

What is your favourite part of the work you do?

I miss the patient contact I used to have as a front-line community pharmacist – that getting to know your regulars and making a difference to their health, but I really enjoy the variety and flexibility that comes with the LPC work I do now, especially as I work across three LPCs and they are so different.
What are the biggest changes you have seen in community pharmacy over the last five years?

Where do you start? – the funding cuts, the quality scheme recently, and before that the changes in the NHS from PCTs to NHSE and CCGs – community pharmacy teams must be far more self-sufficient now and much more aware of the external environment than ever before.

What is the most exciting thing about community pharmacy for you?

Supporting local communities and making a difference to the people that live and work there – where that is at a front-line level or an LPC level – it’s the little things that matter most.

What do you think are the three biggest challenges facing community pharmacies right now?

Understanding the wider environment and external influences, such as commissioning changes and making best use of the HLP concept as part of the Quality Scheme.

Which sessions are you most looking forward to at Pharmacy Forward 2017?

I think the scene setting in the keynote from Stephen Dorrell will be really good, because community pharmacy needs to adapt and transform. Also, the successful team sessions will be useful for pharmacists who feel under time pressure to help them get the most out of their team – community pharmacy is all about the team and not any one individual.

And finally, if you could choose any other job to have, what would it be?

Marine biologist – I love the sea and being out in the open, and am fascinated by the impact and influence different ecological systems have on each other.

Nick is part of the Advisory Board for Pharmacy Forward 2017