

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1176132**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2021  
for  
The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA)**

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The trustees submit their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### Objectives and Activities

The CPA's charitable objectives are:

1. To advance health for the public benefit by collaborating (network) with other health-related organisations and institutions within and outside the Commonwealth and providing administrative and financial support where possible.
2. To advance education for the public benefit (and particularly amongst pharmaceutical staff) by facilitating the dissemination (sharing) of knowledge about the pharmaceutical sciences and the professional practice of pharmacy through meetings, literature distribution, electronic media and fellowship or exchange programmes.
3. To advance health for the public benefit through quality improvement of pharmacy practice, particularly in relation to the promotion of safe and effective systems of medicines management, the promotion of healthier lifestyles and supporting measures to reduce health inequalities.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

An accredited organisation of the Commonwealth, the CPA is a registered charity, leading and developing the pharmacy profession for the benefit the people of the Commonwealth. The CPA works collaboratively across the Commonwealth to develop the pharmacy workforce and build capacity through education and training; strengthen healthcare systems and ensure the safe and effective use of medicines, prevention of disease and promotion of healthier lifestyles; and advocate for improved access and quality of medicines and vaccines, by supporting and embedding pharmacists at all levels of medicines management. The CPA has a growing collaboration plan with WHO and is in special relations, ensuring the strategic alignment of the CPA's work to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The CPA has developed its strategy around three core areas of work:

1. **Capacity Development and Health Systems Strengthening, improving the quality of health systems and pharmaceutical care, for the benefit of the public:**
  - Online continuing professional development (CPD) platform – launched in November 2020 with initial courses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) – funded by a grant from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust and the UK's Fleming Fund
  - Global health partnerships – Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) – funded by the UK's Fleming Fund
  - Global Health Fellowships – Chief Pharmaceutical Officers Global Health Fellows (ChPOGHF) – funded by Health Education England (HEE)
2. **Practice Resources, supporting the safer and more effective use of medicines for the benefit of the public:**
  - PharmAid – the redistribution of recent editions of pharmaceutical texts to support prescribing in lower resource settings (funded through the CPA's unrestricted income, including membership fees, and a grant from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society)

- Toolkits – e.g. COVID19 (recently developed as part of our website overhaul funded by a grant from Sir Halley Stewart Trust) and CwPAMS (funded by the UK's Fleming Fund)
  - Prescribing support – e.g. antimicrobial prescribing App (funded by the UK's Fleming Fund)
3. **Advocacy and Campaigns, improving the access to, use of medicines and reducing health inequalities for the public benefit** (funded through the CPA's unrestricted income, including membership fees, and a grant from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society):
- Representation of pharmacists and priority areas related to medicines and vaccines at annual forums and high-level meetings – e.g. Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.
  - Activity promoting world health days and around two key policy areas focusing on:
    - Tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through providing tools and training resources, running surveys, and engaging members to take part in activities for World Antibiotic Awareness Week and the Antibiotic Guardian Awards.
    - Raising awareness and creating discussion around the issue of falsified and substandard medicines as active partners of the Fight the Fakes Campaign. advocacy activities.

In addition to this, in recent times the Charity has also diverted some resources to support the COVID19 response around the Commonwealth for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth. In a recent dialogue with the Commonwealth's Secretary General, the charity and its extended network of pharmacists were commended for the action they took and the key services that they provided to the public during COVID19 (see table below for more details).

For more information [www.commonwealthpharmacy.org](http://www.commonwealthpharmacy.org)

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Upon appointment, all trustees have to sign a Code of Conduct that outlines the commitment to CPA's charitable objectives and working for the benefit of the public. Trustees are formally briefed on and sent the constitution and links to the Charities Commission Guide on the Responsibilities of Trustees on appointment and asked to familiarise themselves with these documents.

As the charity has grown significantly over the last few years, formal trustee training will be introduced following our AGM on 8th December 2021, which will include further emphasis on all Charities Commission's Guidance, including that relating to public benefit.

Contribution made by volunteers

Volunteer HR and governance/risk advisors have been appointed to support the work of the charity.



## Major activities carried out in the reporting period 1st July 2020 – 30th June 2021

1. COVID19 Response	
<b>1.1 COVID19 Survey and Response to Needs</b>	
<p>On 25th March 2020, the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) launched an invite to pharmacy professionals and pharmacy professional bodies across the Commonwealth to complete a short survey to identify the needs of the pharmacy workforce during the COVID19 pandemic.</p> <p>Objectives of the survey were to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* what issues are affecting pharmacy professionals' ability to respond to the COVID19 pandemic</li> <li>* how pharmacy professionals and professional bodies are responding to the pandemic</li> <li>* what support would be helpful from the CPA or other pharmacy bodies</li> </ul> <p>It took approximately 10 minutes to complete and was promoted on social media and via CPA councillors.</p> <p>Results: We received 545 responses from across the Commonwealth (countries as listed above), with a roughly equal split between male and female and a good distribution across different sectors of practice. Respondents were generally worried about the current pandemic, with around 1/3 of respondents saying that they were 'extremely worried' and close to 50% said it was 'somewhat difficult' to work effectively at the current time.</p> <p>The most frequently requested support was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to COVID19 community of support</li> <li>- COVID19 webinars</li> <li>- Signposting to COVID19 information</li> </ul> <p>Other needs highlighted were training on preparedness, support communicating key messages and advocacy.</p> <p>These results were presented in a Webinar on 7th May 2020 and were published in a peer reviewed journal in October 2020. <a href="https://rdcu.be/cyeTG">https://rdcu.be/cyeTG</a></p> <p>In response to these needs identified, the CPA did the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Created a mobile based community of practice using the Telegram platform</li> <li>2. Ran a Webinar series on COVID19 (see item 2 for more details)</li> <li>3. Created a COVID19 resource repository on our website, including pulling together a tool kit for pharmacy professionals to support quick and easy access to relevant information</li> </ol>	<p>Those taking part in survey:</p> <p>Australia Bangladesh Cameroon Canada Dominica eSwatini Fiji Ghana Grenada Guyana India Kenya Malawi Malaysia Malta Mauritius New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Rwanda Saint Lucia Samoa Singapore South Africa Sri Lanka St Vincent and The Grenadines Tanzania Trinidad and Tobago Uganda United Kingdom</p>

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For The Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

<p>and resources. We also gathered resources from other pharmacy associations around the Commonwealth and successfully sought a grant to develop the COVID19 resources page on our website.</p> <p>4. Added a COVID19 section to our antimicrobial prescribing App to allow easy access to treatment and prevention resources for healthcare professionals offline.</p>	
<p><b>1.2 COVID19 Webinars</b></p> <p>In response to the COVID19 survey disseminated to pharmacists round the Commonwealth the CPA have to date run 3 Webinars to help support the profession.</p> <p>The topics covered have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Webinar 1, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020: Resources for pharmacists (412 attendees)</li> <li>- Webinar 2, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Experiences from around the Commonwealth and launch of WHO-formula hand sanitiser animation (376 attendees)</li> <li>- Webinar 3, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020: Response to COVID19 response via the Commonwealth Partnerships in Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme (244 attendees)</li> </ul>	<p>Attendance by country:</p> <p>Antigua and Barbuda Australia Barbados Cameroon Dominica eSwatini Fiji Gambia Ghana Grenada India Kenya Malaysia Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Rwanda Saint Lucia Sierra Leone Singapore South Africa Sri Lanka Tanzania Trinidad and Tobago Uganda United Kingdom Zambia</p>
<p><b>1.3 Clinical COVID19 Webinars – collaborative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resource initiative</b></p> <p>The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has developed a range of clinical webinars to support pharmacists during the COVID19 pandemic. All of the webinars follow a Q&amp;A format focusing on practical tips and sharing good practice.</p> <p>The CPA developed a partnership agreement with the RPS to provide these webinars as a free CPD package for CPA members.</p> <p>Once registered (for FREE) as a user on the RPS website, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals accessing this resource via the CPA can watch these recordings at any time and obtain a CPD certificate for their records.</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda Australia Barbados Cameroon Dominica eSwatini Fiji Gambia Ghana Grenada India Kenya Malaysia Malta Mauritius Mozambique Namibia New Zealand Nigeria Pakistan Rwanda</p>

	Saint Lucia Sierra Leone Singapore South Africa Sri Lanka Tanzania Trinidad and Tobago Uganda United Kingdom Zambia
<b>2. Practice and Educational Resources</b>	
<b>2.1 PharmAid</b>	Botswana Dominica eSwatini Ghana Grenada Lesotho Malaysia Mauritius Nigeria Sierra Leone Sri Lanka St Vincent and The Grenadines Uganda Zambia
<p>PharmAid is our annual scheme that has been running since the establishment of the CPA in the 1970s that supports the collection of recent copies of pharmaceutical text from the NHS and redistribution to national pharmacy associations throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p>In 2018/2019 we collected and redistributed over 5500 recent editions of pharmaceutical texts (including British National Formulaires - BNFs) to those national pharmacy associations in member countries that had requested the books. PharmAid 2018/2019 concluded in May 2019. Donations had begun for PharmAid 2019/2020, but distribution had to be postponed to 2021 due to the current pandemic. Countries listed are those that are expected to receive books in 2021 from the postponed PharmAid 2019/20. NICE and the Pharmaceutical press both donated significant amounts of books for this round of PharmAid.</p> <p>The feedback from recipients continues to emphasise the impact these books have on enhancing the better use of medicines and strengthening the pharmacy profession in LMICs, where credible and reliable resources of medicines information are not as readily available – something taken for granted in many high income countries.</p> <p>In a recent survey we learnt that 80% of recipients of our PharmAid books believed that these books were either 'very influential' or that 'their practice would not be the same without them'. The books are distributed by national pharmacy associations to pharmacists working in medicines information, clinical practice, and training environments. The most frequently cited use of the books is to check dosages for children and safety in pregnancy and lactation.</p> <p>The CPA also conducted in-depth case studies with three pharmacists in Rwanda to understand how the resources are used over a weekly period. This highlighted how the resource allows pharmacists to check critical information through a reliable source to ensure quality care for patients.</p>	

**3. Capacity Building and Health Systems Strengthening****3.1 Online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) platform**

After securing a grant in October 2019 to develop an online continuing professional development (CPD) platform we have now established the platform, and created and uploaded the first programme in consultation with National Pharmacy Associations. Following a soft launch of the platform with pilot users in November 2020, the project has developed and during the past year we have delivered the following:

A fully developed mobile first and intuitive CPD Platform, to host the CPD programmes <https://commonwealthpharmacypcd.org/>

A full Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme, consisting of 4 courses and 2 AMS toolkit resources all aimed for LMIC pharmacists practicing in community and hospital pharmacy.

The content followed a co-creation process and each course measures baseline knowledge and a quiz on completion. The certificates are co-branded between the CPA and the national pharmacy association.

Strengthened relationships and increased engagement whilst working with the following countries to enable access to the CPD platform for pharmacists that are members of the NPA. Countries in bold have completed the onboarding process to provide access to pharmacists, the others are part way through the process.

Eswatini

**The Gambia**

Ghana (CwPAMS)

**Kenya (CwPAMS)**

**Malawi (CwPAMS)**

**Nigeria (CwPAMS)**

**Sierra Leone (CwPAMS)**

Tanzania (CwPAMS)

Uganda (CwPAMS)

**Zambia (CwPAMS)**

**St Vincent and The Grenadines**

**Fiji**

Full technical support has been set up and implemented using Live Agent to manage and offer support to members

eSwatini  
Fiji  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Nigeria  
Sierra Leone  
St Vincent and The  
Grenadines  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

**3.2 Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS)**

Ghana  
Kenya  
Malawi  
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Sierra Leone  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
United Kingdom  
Zambia

In September 2018 the CPA, in partnership with the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), received funding from the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund to develop the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme. This scheme is delivered via THET's very successful Health Partnerships Scheme (HPS). The CPA provides key technical support to the partnerships on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and clinical pharmacy. The programme was originally due to finish in May 2020 but has been granted an extension to June 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The aims of the programme were to strengthen workforce in:

- Antimicrobial prescribing (including informed by clinical data and using decision tools)
- Antimicrobial stewardship practices (including surveillance of use)
- Infection prevention and control.

Prior to COVID19, CwPAMS involved volunteer NHS pharmacists, specialist nurses, medics and health psychologists travelling to participating Commonwealth nations to work in partnership with local health workers, sharing expertise and jointly tackling the growing challenge of AMR. Originally, 12 partnerships were awarded grants across 4 countries: Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, with the intention of sharing skills and knowledge, and to co-create innovation in AMS. Participating teams from the NHS undertook 1-2 annual placements of 1-2 weeks at hospital sites in Commonwealth countries. Between visits, teams kept in touch through online mentoring arrangements. This programme of work has the aim of supporting countries to deliver on their national AMR action plans through facilitating better stewardship of antimicrobials and infection prevention control processes.

By Q3, 50% of objectives were achieved, and the original programme achieved all of its planned objectives.

Intermediate outcomes include:

**OUTCOME 1: LMIC healthcare institutions and workforce improved practice related to AMS**

- 1500 LMIC healthcare workers trained, including 253 pharmacists in AMS – up-skilling & role creation across projects
- Monitoring of behavioural change has been conducted (full results pending)
- Improved prescribing practice and collaboration between prescribers & lab – expected in all by end of programme

**OUTCOME 2: AMS strategies, guidelines and tools in place and being used**

- Antimicrobial Stewardship checklist & behavioural tools
- 15 new or revised documents relating to AMS and Antibiotic/Abx prescribing practices (zero before)
- CwPAMS app (including national treatment guidelines, WHO guidelines, IPC & surveillance)
- Medicines & Therapeutics Committees
- AMS champions
- Global Point Prevalence Surveys (GPPS) in 10 hospitals (previously only 1) e.g. Korle Bu 2000+ bed PPS (pooled national results being used to guide national strategy, as well as local intervention).



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- Global Point Prevalence Surveys (GPPS) in 10 hospitals (previously only 1) e.g. Korle Bu 2000+ bed PPS (pooled national results being used to guide national strategy, as well as local intervention).

**3.2 Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS)**

Ghana  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Nigeria  
Sierra Leone  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
United Kingdom  
Zambia

In September 2018 the CPA, in partnership with the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), received funding from the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund to develop the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme. This scheme is delivered via THET's very successful Health Partnerships Scheme (HPS). The CPA provides key technical support to the partnerships on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and clinical pharmacy. The programme was originally due to finish in May 2020 but has been granted an extension to June 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The aims of the programme were to strengthen workforce in:

- Antimicrobial prescribing (including informed by clinical data and using decision tools)
- Antimicrobial stewardship practices (including surveillance of use)
- Infection prevention and control.

Prior to COVID19, CwPAMS involved volunteer NHS pharmacists, specialist nurses, medics and health psychologists travelling to participating Commonwealth nations to work in partnership with local health workers, sharing expertise and jointly tackling the growing challenge of AMR. Originally, 12 partnerships were awarded grants across 4 countries: Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, with the intention of sharing skills and knowledge, and to co-create innovation in AMS. Participating teams from the NHS undertook 1-2 annual placements of 1-2 weeks at hospital sites in Commonwealth countries. Between visits, teams kept in touch through online mentoring arrangements. This programme of work has the aim of supporting countries to deliver on their national AMR action plans through facilitating better stewardship of antimicrobials and infection prevention control processes.

By Q3, 50% of objectives were achieved, and the original programme achieved all of its planned objectives.

Intermediate outcomes include:

**OUTCOME 1: LMIC healthcare institutions and workforce improved practice related to AMS**

- 1500 LMIC healthcare workers trained, including 253 pharmacists in AMS – up-skilling & role creation across projects
- Monitoring of behavioural change has been conducted (full results pending)
- Improved prescribing practice and collaboration between prescribers & lab – expected in all by end of programme

**OUTCOME 2: AMS strategies, guidelines and tools in place and being used**

- Antimicrobial Stewardship checklist & behavioural tools
- 15 new or revised documents relating to AMS and Antibiotic/Abx prescribing practices (zero before)
- CwPAMS app (including national treatment guidelines, WHO guidelines, IPC & surveillance)
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