

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Pharmacy Funding Cuts Impact

Today, pharmacy's negotiator, PSNC, has rejected the Department of Health's damaging funding proposals for community pharmacy: <http://psnc.org.uk/our-news/contractor-announcement-psnc-rejects-dh-proposed-funding-package/>

Yesterday, the national pharmacy organisations issued a statement in response to an announcement regarding pharmacy's role in urgent care: <http://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-statement-response-to-ministers-announcement-on-urgent-care-role/>

As the representative of local community pharmacies, we share the concerns of the national organisations and we do not understand how the proposals are compatible with the stated aims of the NHS and Government to provide higher quality and more accessible care for patients.

North Yorkshire Pharmacist Matthew Roberts from Roberts Chemist, York said, "I am very worried what impact these cut will have on my patients, the community and my pharmacy. The government has not thought this through and don't understand the impact these cuts will have. They need to discuss this further with our national negotiators before they go ahead with these cuts."

Over 2 million people signed a petition during May and June; the biggest ever healthcare petition...

We, the undersigned, believe that local pharmacies are a vital frontline health service and part of the fabric of communities across England. Under new Government proposals, many pharmacies could be forced to close – depriving people of accessible medicines advice and other valuable support from trusted professionals. It would also put more pressure on GPs and hospital services. In the interests of patient care, we urge the Prime Minister and the Health Secretary to abandon plans that put pharmacy services at risk.

The government cannot ignore the concerns of the public on this matter and must address their concerns.

The Government's proposals for changes to pharmacy's role in urgent care do not go far enough and are a long way from the services we have been calling for to enable us to really improve care for patients. The proposed cuts to community pharmacy funding are deeply concerning and will most likely lead to pharmacies in North Yorkshire having to reduce staffing, cut opening hours and reduce

the services offered. All of which will also, of course, add to the pressure already on GP practices and hospitals.

Community pharmacy has offered the Department costed alternative proposals to reduce the NHS medicines bill, which would save the NHS money equivalent to the cuts demanded. Community pharmacy also proposed new community pharmacy services that would save the NHS money by reducing demand in A&E and GP surgeries. All of these proposals were rejected out of hand.

We have today contacted all 8 North Yorkshire MPs, asking them to raise our concerns with the Minister and Secretary of State, as a matter of urgency, at this crucial time for our local community pharmacies and the communities and patients they serve.

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