

# Media Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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17<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **MEP RICHARD CORBETT VISITS VALUED COMMUNITY ASSETS: HIS LOCAL PHARMACIES**

Richard Corbett, MEP for Yorkshire and Humber visits both Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, 25 High Street, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5AL at 10.30am, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and Dunnington Pharmacy, 5 York St, Dunnington, York YO19 5PN at 1.30pm, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



*(Richard Corbett MEP with Samina Khan, Pharmacist Pateley Bridge Pharmacy)*



*(Richard Corbett MEP with Elliot Goran, Pharmacist Dunnington Pharmacy, York)*

During the visits, Richard Corbett had a tour of the pharmacies and saw all the different aspects to dispensing, compliance aids and interactions with the nursing homes that they serve. He also witnessed some examples of best practice plus the care and support that they provide for the community.

**Samina Khan**, Pharmacist at Pateley Bridge Pharmacy said, “This pharmacy is at the heart of the community and is a valuable community asset. Our patients rely on the service we provide. We have built a strong relationship with them by supporting them in times of need”.

**Elliot Goran**, the Pharmacist at Dunnington Pharmacy said: “We are more than a great value dispensing service – we provide health information, advice and interventions. We do far more and the general public recognise and value it.

We are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. Community pharmacies are the closest point of access for many patients and build a strong relationship with their regular patients and the wider community.”

**Richard Corbett MEP** said, "I've been extremely impressed by the central role of these pharmacies in their local communities -- not only as a crucial health service for local populations, but as a hub for community activities of all kinds”.

The threatened cuts will inflict real damage on these vital community resources. And worse still, they are false savings. Community pharmacies provide services which will simply be diverted to GPs and hospitals if they close.

The suggestion that the NHS would be safe in the hands of this government is clearly a big mistake -- and that's before we factor in likely further damage inflicted on the public purse if we were to leave the EU."

### **About your local pharmacies**

Community pharmacies are an integral part of the social fabric of the community and the immense social value they bring aside from dispensing medicines is often overlooked.

Your local pharmacy is more than just a place to get medicines. It provides a range of NHS services and ensures people can get face-to-face, healthcare professional advice without an appointment.

There are around 14,000 community pharmacies across the UK, so for most of us, there's one very close by. In fact, 96% of people can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes by walking or using public transport. Community pharmacists provide rapid access, without appointment, to a healthcare professional and offer a range of clinical and public health services. Most pharmacies now have consultation rooms, where you can talk with your pharmacist without being overheard.

You might be surprised at what pharmacies now offer: personalised medicines advice, help to quit smoking and to maintain good sexual health, treatment for common ailments, advice on preventing disease. And more. It's a package of care...not just packets of pills!

What's more, pharmacies are part of the fabric of local communities. They provide local employment and are a health and social care asset close to where people live, work and shop.

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**For further information contact:**

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