

Media Release

For Immediate Release

23rd September 2016

ALL NORTH YORKSHIRE MPs HEAR HOW VALUABLE LOCAL PHARMACIES ARE

During visits to their local pharmacies, by all 8 of North Yorkshire's MPs to promote the free NHS Community Pharmacy national flu vaccination service, the pharmacists have and will take the opportunity to show the MPs just how much their services are contributing to patients and wider society.

Although pharmacies are perhaps best known for dispensing medicines and offering advice on medicines and health, they also offer a range of services including advice on new medicines, minor ailments, MOT health checks and provision of emergency contraception to name but a few.

The value of pharmacy services was recently analysed; with a study finding that nationally pharmacies contribute £3 billion to the NHS, the public sector and wider society in England through just 12 services.

This means that pharmacies deliver substantially more in benefits than they receive in compensation; providing excellent value to their local communities.

The study, which was carried out by accountancy company PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), looked at 12 key pharmacy services including managing drug shortages, managing prescribing errors and offering advice on minor ailments. The benefits of other pharmacy services were not covered by the analysis. These services, such as the NHS prescription service, can be seen as an additional net benefit of community pharmacy.

The study demonstrates the value of community pharmacies, at a crucial time, as the Department of Health considers proposals that could see substantially reduced investment in community pharmacies in the future.

Neil Withycombe, Pharmacist at Monkbar Pharmacy, York said, “This research sheds light on the importance of the work that pharmacists and their teams do for their patients, their neighbourhoods and the NHS on a day to day basis.

Pharmacies in North Yorkshire provide key healthcare services which local people rely on, and now we know just how vital those services really are.”

CPNY Committee Member Samina Khan, a pharmacist at Pateley Bridge Pharmacy said, “Local pharmacies have finally been able to prove their value with the publication of PwC’s research. People using pharmacies in North Yorkshire were already aware of the benefits to their own lives, but now we can also clearly see the wider benefits and put a value on them.

We were really pleased to be able to share this report with our MPs and to talk to them about community pharmacy and what we do. We hope the Department of Health will see the true value of community pharmacy and rethink their plans to reduce funding for these vital services.”

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For further information contact...

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Editor Notes

Copies of the report are available at psnc.org.uk/valueofpharmacy.

CPNY is the representative body for all 152 Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire

MPs visiting their local Community Pharmacy to promote the FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service for vulnerable patients.

- Rachael Maskell MP - Whitworth Chemists, York, Friday 2nd September 2016
- Andrew Jones MP - Lloyds Harrogate, Friday 16th September 2016
- Rishi Sunak MP - Village Pharmacy, Catterick, Friday 16th September 2016
- Julian Sturdy MP - Boots, Haxby, York, Friday 23rd September 2016
- Kevin Hollinrake MP - Beckside Pharmacy, Pickering, Friday 30th September 2016
- Julian Smith MP - Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, 25 High Street, Pateley Bridge, Friday 30th September 2016
- Nigel Adams MP - Milford Pharmacy, South Milford, Friday 7th October 2016
- Robert Goodwill MP - Boots Pharmacy, 64 Baxtergate, Whitby, Friday 14th October 2016