



Community
Pharmacy
North
Yorkshire

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Funding Cut to Hit Pharmacies in North Yorkshire

Community pharmacies in North Yorkshire face an uncertain future, as they learned today that the Department of Health is to impose funding cuts worth £113 million for this year. This will be followed by further cuts that will reduce funding for pharmacies by more than 7% in 2017/18.

Earlier this year the Government said this may mean that some pharmacies have to close, but recently it has not been able to confirm how many or which pharmacies could be affected.

PSNC, which is the national negotiator for community pharmacy, says the reckless funding cuts are likely to see patients suffer as pharmacies are forced to find ways to reduce their costs to cope with the cuts. They say pharmacy owners may have to consider measures such as reducing staffing or opening hours, and even stopping certain services that have previously been available for free.

Local pharmacy owners and their representatives are very concerned about the cuts.

Paul Gale the pharmacist at The Village Pharmacy, Catterick said: "This news is extremely disappointing and I'm really worried about the impact it is going to have on my patients and the local community in Catterick. We work very hard to ensure that all our patients have the medicines they need, when they need them and that they understand how to use them and are leading the healthiest lives that they can. With these funding cuts we are going to struggle to manage and to continue to provide all of the services that we want to."

Jack Davies at Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire said: "We are very concerned about these funding cuts and we don't understand how they are compatible with the stated aims of the NHS and Government to provide higher quality and more accessible care for patients. Although we are unlikely to see pharmacies closing immediately, the cuts are likely to lead to pharmacies in North Yorkshire having to reduce staffing, cut opening hours and reduce some of the services offered, such as home delivery of medicines and the supply of medicines in compliance aids. All of which affect patients and will also of course add to the pressure already being placed on local GP practices and hospitals."

PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said: "This funding imposition is a short-sighted and ill-judged approach to take, particularly when alternative constructive proposals that would address the need for the NHS to make cash savings have been put forward by PSNC. Pharmacies have always met demands for help from their patients, particularly in the winter, acting to relieve pressure on general

practices and other NHS providers. They have done this readily and willingly, but as they are forced to review their operating costs and consider staff cuts, patients may find that they have to wait longer to receive advice that would previously have been readily available. The NHS must recognise this as winter pressures set in and it turns, as usual, to pharmacy for help."

Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire 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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