

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

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LOCAL MP PAULA SHERRIFF TRIES LOCAL PHARMACY OUT FOR SIZE



MP Paula Sherriff (centre) with Iftikhar Gulfranz (pharmacist owner - right) and Ruth Buchan (CEO, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire – left) in Eye Pharmacy, Ravensthorpe

Paula Sherriff has visited Eye Pharmacy, Ravensthorpe to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in the Ravensthorpe area of Dewsbury. Paula Sherriff also heard about some of the challenges that pharmacies are facing following recent NHS funding squeezes.

In particular, pharmacist Iftikhar Gulfraz was keen to tell Paula about the wide range of support the pharmacy provides to patients including NHS Flu vaccinations, advice about healthy living and Medicines Use Reviews. Iftikhar outlined that the pharmacy is open 7-days a week until 10:00pm (10:30pm Mon – Sat) so they see patients from across the district including at times when their GP is closed. They also discussed the impact of NHS funding cuts to pharmacies, and the wider impacts this could have on health and care services.

Iftikhar Gulfraz commented: “Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. We are the first port of call for healthcare for many people and our regular patients and the wider community really rely on us.

We provide much more than a great value dispensing service – we give people information, advice and interventions without the need to wait for an appointment. Many of the services we offer, such as home delivery, are a real help to some of the most vulnerable people in Ravensthorpe.”

Ruth Buchan, Chief Executive Officer of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire said: “Community pharmacies are much more than just places to get medicines. They provide a range of NHS services and ensure local people can get face-to-face professional healthcare advice without an appointment.

We believe the Government should be making better use of this network of healthcare locations in the heart of local communities, allowing them to offer a range of additional services that would both suit patients and reduce pressure on other healthcare services.”

MP Paula Sherriff said: “It was a pleasure to meet the team at Eye Pharmacy in Ravensthorpe. Community pharmacies play an important role in relieving the growing pressure on GP and A&E services. Embedded in local communities, they provide local jobs and are easily accessible – often the first place people go for health advice.

Listening to the valuable work they do and the challenges they face, my determination is renewed to fight the short-sighted Government cuts which threaten these essential community services.”

About community pharmacy

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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Notes to editors

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire is the Local Pharmaceutical Committee for pharmacies in West Yorkshire.

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