

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

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LOCAL MP HOLLY LYNCH LEARNS HOW PHARMACIES ARE HELPING RESIDENTS THIS WINTER



MP Holly Lynch (centre) with Hammad Ashraf (pharmacist manager - left) and Amanda Smith (local Pharmacist and committee member of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire- right) in Tesco Pharmacy, Halifax.

Holly Lynch has visited Tesco Pharmacy, Halifax to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in Halifax this winter. Holly heard how local pharmacies are helping to get residents vaccinated against flu, and about the advice and support they can give people when they have coughs, colds or other symptoms.

During the visit Holly heard about the wide range of support the pharmacy provides to patients including NHS Flu vaccinations, advice about healthy living and Stop Smoking advice. Holly also heard about how community pharmacies are aiming for a record year for NHS flu vaccinations, with over 23,000 jabs given by pharmacies during September in the West Yorkshire.

Pharmacist Hammad Ashraf was keen to tell Holly about how the pharmacy is offering flu vaccinations via the NHS service and also as a private service for those not eligible for NHS flu vaccinations. This includes working with local businesses to offer flu vaccinations to their staff. Hammad also outlined the pharmacy's contribution to helping people to stop smoking. The pharmacy team, led by pharmacy assistant Jane, have over the past 5 years helped hundreds of people to stop smoking and in the last year alone they have helped 27 people to stop smoking. They discussed that the pharmacy is open 7-days a week and is open until 10:30pm Mon – Fri and 10:00pm Sat, so the pharmacy sees patients from across Calderdale including at times when their GP is closed. They also discussed the impact that pharmacy services can have on the NHS, helping to reduce pressure on local GPs and hospitals.

Hammad comments: "This winter community pharmacies are going to be needed more than ever. We are the first port of call for many local people on healthcare matters and our regular patients and the wider community really rely on us. This is particularly the case over the winter months with coughs, colds and flu all becoming more common, and GP practices and hospitals already working flat out.

As well as making sure everyone has the medicines they need this winter we'll be helping people to understand and make the most of those medicines, and offering them advice on common ailments. We can also vaccinate people against flu. And all of this without the need to wait for an appointment."

Amanda Smith, committee member of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire said: "As many patients in Halifax and the surrounding areas will know, our local community pharmacies are doing far more than just dispensing medicines this winter. They are offering a whole range of services and can be particularly helpful as we move into the winter season and GPs and hospitals become busier.

We're really proud of how our local pharmacies have been doing with the NHS flu vaccination service, helping to make sure that everyone who needs the vaccine, gets it. But we believe the Government should be making even better use of pharmacies; we would love to offer even more services to help local people to stay healthy, and reduce pressure on other local healthcare services."

MP Holly Lynch commented: "As we approach the winter months, all NHS services are working harder than ever to manage the increasing demand for healthcare. Having worked in a local pharmacy whilst still at school, it's always good to see how community pharmacies are playing their part in these efforts, helping people when they are feeling unwell or need healthcare advice. I also had the chance to learn about the important work they are doing providing flu vaccinations that can help people avoid getting ill in the first place. I am keen to ensure that both the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group do all that it can to develop community pharmacy services that meet the needs of both local patients and health and care 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 pharmacies 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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