

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

12th January 2018

LOCAL MP ANDREA JENKYNS TRIES LOCAL PHARMACY OUT FOR SIZE



From left to right, Ruth Buchan (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire), MP Andrea Jenkyns, Susan Bargh (pharmacist owner) and Amy Cooper (Superintendent pharmacist) in Carlton Lane Pharmacy, Lofthouse.

Andrea Jenkyns has visited Carlton Lane Pharmacy to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in Lofthouse. During the visit Andrea met the pharmacy team and was shown the processes followed when a prescription is dispensed. Andrea heard about the wide range of support the pharmacy provides to patients, such as home delivery which helps some of the most vulnerable people

in Lofthouse. Andrea discussed with the Pharmacy Manager, Owner and CPWY Chief Executive Ruth Buchan how changes in NHS funding of pharmacies are having effects on the services they offer customers.

Pharmacist Susan Bargh was keen to tell Andrea about how Carlton Lane pharmacy is offering flu vaccinations via the NHS service and as a private service for those not eligible for NHS flu vaccinations. Andrea heard about how community pharmacies are aiming for a record year for NHS flu vaccinations, with over 300 jabs given by Carlton Lane pharmacy alone.

Susan outlined how Carlton Lane pharmacy is working hard to maintain the same quality of advice and care while adapting to changes in funding. This includes free advice on minor ailments to all patients which in turn helps to reduce pressure on the local GP practices and hospitals.

Susan comments: "Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. 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. And all of this without the need to wait for an appointment."

Ruth Buchan, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire said: "As many patients 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 during the winter season as 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. In West Yorkshire community pharmacies have vaccinated over 42,000 NHS patients against flu in September and October. 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 Andrea Jenkyns commented: "It was great to visit Carlton Lane pharmacy to see how community pharmacy plays an active part in promoting health and wellbeing here in Lofthouse and across West Yorkshire."

"Having previously sat on the Health Select Committee, it's interesting for me personally to see how community pharmacy's work reduces demand for GP appointments, prevents unnecessary A&E attendances, and helps people manage their long-term conditions."

"The work of community pharmacy is so important and they are doing a fantastic job"

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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