

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

26th January 2018

LOCAL MP RICHARD BURGON LEARNS HOW PHARMACIES ARE HELPING RESIDENTS THIS WINTER



MP Richard Burgon (centre) with Adeel Sarwar (pharmacist owner - right) and Ruth Buchan (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire- left) in Roundhay Pharmacy, Leeds.

Richard Burgon has visited Roundhay Pharmacy, Leeds to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in Harehills and surrounding areas this winter. Richard 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. Richard also heard about some of the challenges that pharmacies are facing following NHS funding cuts to pharmacies, and the wider impacts this could have on health and care services.

During the visit Richard learned about the wide range of support the pharmacy provides to patients including NHS Flu vaccinations, advice about healthy living and Emergency Contraception advice. Richard also heard about how community pharmacies are aiming for a record year for NHS flu vaccinations, with over 14,500 jabs given by pharmacies during September and October in Leeds.

Adeel outlined how Roundhay Pharmacy is working hard to maintain the same quality of service and care despite funding cuts. This includes free advice on minor ailments to all patients which in turn helps to reduce pressure on the local GP practices and hospitals.

Adeel 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. 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 as we move into the winter season and GPs and hospitals become busier.

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 Richard Burgon commented: "All NHS services are working harder than ever to manage the increasing demand for healthcare, especially within this busy winter period. I have learnt today about how community pharmacies are playing their part in these efforts, helping people when they are feeling unwell or need healthcare advice. Community pharmacies play an important role in relieving the growing pressure on GP and A&E services.

I also heard about all the incredible work they are doing to provide flu vaccinations that can help people avoid getting ill in the first place.

I am keen to ensure the government does all that it can to develop community pharmacy services that meet the needs of both local patients and health and care services and 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.

-ends-

Notes to editors

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

For enquiries and further details please contact Ruth Buchan, Chief Executive, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560 or 07718 192 287. Alternatively, email ruth@cpwy.org