

Media Release

For Immediate Release

MP for Leeds Central visits his local pharmacy to hear about Healthy Living Pharmacy

Friday 29th June 2018, Leeds Trinity Boots, 1 Bond Street, Leeds

Hilary Benn has visited Leeds Trinity Boots to hear about the work the team are doing to help people who live, work and shop in Leeds city centre. During Hilary's visit, he learned more about how community pharmacies in Leeds are supporting the Healthy Living Pharmacy initiative and how 80% of all community pharmacies in Leeds have achieved Healthy Living Pharmacy status.

A Healthy Living Pharmacy is one that has been recognised for consistently demonstrating a healthy living ethos and a proactive approach to health improvement. They have a consultation room to offer a space for private consultations where patients can discuss issues with pharmacy staff without being overheard. The pharmacy will signpost to other services and offer health advice.



Photo – From left to right Tosin Abby-Philip (Assistant Manager), Bali Kaila (Regional Pharmacy Experience Manager) Hilary Benn MP, Emma Pursglove (General Manager) and Darren De Souza (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire) in Leeds Trinity Boots.

During the visit Hilary heard about how Leeds Trinity Boots is a Healthy Living Pharmacy and offers free NHS flu vaccinations as well as advice on minor ailments to patients, which in turn helps to reduce pressure on the local GP practices and hospitals. Hilary 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. Bali Kaila,

Regional Pharmacy Experience Manager, Boots UK, outlined how the pharmacy is working hard to maintain the same quality of advice and care while adapting to changes in funding.

Bali commented: “Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and 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. We work hard to support people, providing a variety of healthcare solutions and services so that they can often receive the care they need from us rather than needing to go to their GP or hospital clinic.

Whilst a lot of our work is around supporting people to use their medicines correctly, we also help many people to make positive lifestyle changes, providing advice and guidance on topics such as healthy eating and smoking cessation.”

MP Hilary Benn commented “The NHS is working harder than ever to manage the increasing demand for healthcare. I learnt today about the important work that community pharmacies are doing to help people when they are feeling unwell or need healthcare advice. Community pharmacies assist in relieving the growing pressure on other parts of the NHS like GP and A & E services.

I also heard about all the work they are doing as a Healthy Living Pharmacy to provide additional services such as blood pressure checking which can help people to improve their lifestyle. Having 80% of pharmacies as Healthy Living Pharmacies is a great asset to health and wellbeing services in Leeds.

I hope the NHS will continue to develop community pharmacy services that meet the needs of both patients and health services.”

Emma Pursglove, General Manager at Leeds Trinity Boots, was keen to outline to Hilary that all pharmacists have trained for five years and can offer expert advice on minor ailments. Most pharmacies in West Yorkshire offer confidential consultation rooms and can help with common problems such as sore throats, coughs, colds and tummy troubles.

Darren De Souza, Public Health and Engagement Lead at Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire said: “As many patients will know, our local community pharmacies are doing far more than just dispensing medicines. They are offering a whole range of services and can be particularly helpful in managing demand in other parts of the NHS. 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.”

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.

For enquiries and further details please contact Ruth Buchan, Chief Executive Officer, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 272 7560 or 07718 192 287. Alternatively, email ruth@cpwy.org

Community Pharmacists are regulated healthcare professionals. To qualify as a pharmacist takes a minimum of five years and includes a four-year master's level degree along with a year working in practice followed by examinations. Pharmacists are experts in medicines and are regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

What is a Healthy Living Pharmacy?

The Healthy Living Pharmacy (HLP) is a framework aimed at achieving consistent delivery of a broad range of health improvement interventions through community pharmacies to meet local needs, improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and help to reduce health inequalities.

A Healthy Living Pharmacy has a health and wellbeing ethos, where everyone in the team works together to proactively engage their customers in health promotion activities and consistently provide high quality public health services.

A Healthy Living Pharmacy has a health promoting environment in the pharmacy (known as the 'health promotion zone') and at least one full-time equivalent health champion, who has qualified for a Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) [level two award in understanding health improvement](#).

Each Healthy Living Pharmacy's health and wellbeing ethos is enabled by a Healthy Living Pharmacy leader, who develops and motivates the team to be the best they can be: friendly; welcoming; and working together in a way that is connected and efficient.