

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

MP for Dewsbury visits local pharmacy to hear about how pharmacies are helping residents this winter

Friday 16th November 2018

Boots Pharmacy, Princess of Wales Precinct, Long Causeway Dewsbury WF13 1NH



MP Paula Sherriff (centre) with from the left Stuart Abbot (NHS Digital), Matthew Armstrong (Boots), Paula Sherriff, Adwoa Hayford (Boots pharmacist manager) and Ruth Buchan (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire) in Boots Pharmacy, Dewsbury.

MP Paula Sherriff has visited Boots Pharmacy, Dewsbury to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in Dewsbury and surrounding areas this winter. Paula 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. Paula also heard that there is more need than ever to make better use of community pharmacies to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations, and to ease pressure on other parts of the NHS.

During the visit Paula learned about how pharmacies use technology and information to best support patients. Pharmacist manager Adwoa demonstrated how pharmacies access the Summary Care Record, an electronic summary of key clinical information (including medicines, allergies and adverse reactions) to assist them in supporting patients with their medicines. Paula also heard that community pharmacy could better support patients in managing their both their acute and long-term conditions if community pharmacy were to have better digital connectivity and referral mechanisms with other health services.

Zak Laher, Area Manager, comments: "Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and very accessible part of the local community and we work hard to support people and provide a variety of healthcare solutions and services both online and in-store.

"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. We offer many other services in-store, such as the NHS flu vaccination service and medicines use reviews, as well as a number of online clinics including erectile dysfunction, acne and hair loss."

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, supporting better digital integration to enable community pharmacy to offer a range of additional services that would both suit patients and reduce pressure on other healthcare services."

MP Paula Sherriff commented: "

"I was glad to have the chance to visit Boots Pharmacy in Dewsbury to hear about their work supporting local residents with their health needs.

Pharmacies certainly play an important role in easing the burden on the NHS and it's important that government policy is shaped around making the best use of their services.

Pharmacists and pharmacies should be used in a much more practical and progressive way, particularly with the current challenges facing Primary Care. Health monitoring, prescribing and minor illness clinics are all viable but this would mean changes to the current contract and funding arrangements. These are all issues I've raised in writing to Minister responsible."

Further information about community pharmacy

Community pharmacists are regulated healthcare professionals. Their training includes a four-year 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). There are around 11,700 community pharmacies in England and in 2017/18 8,987 (77.1%) signed up to provide the national Flu Vaccination Service after their pharmacists undertook the required training.

More than 99% of people living in areas of the highest deprivation are within a 20-minute walk of a community pharmacy. Around 99% of community pharmacies in England now have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use these to provide a range of public health and other services including services to help people to get the most benefit from their medicines and to lead healthier lives.

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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, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560 or 07718 192 287. Alternatively, email ruth@cpwy.org