

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

Community Pharmacy urges over 6000 men to ‘take ownership’ of their medicines and wellbeing.

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire enlisted the support of a number of organisations to get men to take a more active interest in their medicines and wellbeing as part of Ask Your Pharmacist Week (5-12 November).

Community Pharmacy staff & pharmacists attended a number of venues during the week that were known to have high numbers of males attending. A credit card size leaflet describing the services available in community pharmacy and some examples of questions men could ask their pharmacist were given to over 6000 men at the events.

The venues included the Leeds Makkah Masjid Mosque during Friday prayers, the Leeds United’s ground at Elland Road for the team’s game against Watford, University of Huddersfield where male students and staff were encouraged to step inside a community pharmacy and the Shay Stadium the home of Halifax Town and Halifax Rugby League. The events were staffed by community pharmacy staff and pharmacy students from the University of Huddersfield.

The events were well received by the men with many asking for more information on healthy lifestyles with many wanting more information about stopping smoking, safe amounts of alcohol consumption and diet and activity.

Nigel Hughes (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire) said:

“The week was a tremendous success with great enthusiasm from community pharmacy to raise awareness as to the wide range of services pharmacy have to offer. We wanted men to take control of their medicines and their wellbeing. Fewer men than women take advantage of the free professional advice available from pharmacies. During “Ask Your Pharmacist” week, we encouraged men to pop into the pharmacy themselves, to either collect a prescription or to enquire about the NHS medicines advice services available there”

Makkah Masjid Mosque Imaan, Qari Muhammad Asim, MBE said: “Makkah Masjid is pleased to support the “Ask your Pharmacist” week co-ordinated locally by Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire and hopes that the Asian communities will use the wide range of support services available at their local pharmacies, such as stopping smoking advice and tips on weight management. Due to lifestyle choices, there are certain health risks that are prevalent amongst the Asian communities such as diabetes. Makkah Masjid Mosque encourages people to step inside their local pharmacies to enquire about NHS

medicines or to discuss face-to-face their health concerns, to make sure they are making the most of their treatment."

Dr Gillian Hawksworth (University of Huddersfield) said "The Pharmacy students at the University of Huddersfield are building their Public Health skills throughout the course to prepare them for future practice in Healthy Living pharmacies where patients can get advice on many aspects of healthy living as well as medicines. Collaborative working between the University pharmacy students and local community pharmacies will benefit both staff and students at this event".

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire is the local organisation that represents and promotes community pharmacy as an integral part of the local NHS. We represent all community pharmacies in the area and support them in providing high quality services to patients and the public.

For enquiries and further details please contact **Nigel Hughes** (Public Health Specialist), Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560 or Mobile: 07702 506 376 E-mail nigel@cpwy.org