

CPWY

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

Press Release

25th January 2019

LOCAL MP CRAIG WHITTAKER VISITS LUDDENDENFOOT COMMUNITY PHARMACY



MP Craig Whittaker (left) with Ian Marsland (pharmacist - right) and Ruth Buchan (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire) outside Luddendenfoot Pharmacy.

Craig Whittaker has visited Luddendenfoot Pharmacy to hear about the work the pharmacy team are doing to help the communities of Luddendenfoot and surrounding areas. Craig heard about the essential services the pharmacy provides for its community, including providing advice for patients with minor ailments, supporting and advising patients with their medicines for long-term conditions such as asthma and diabetes and offering NHS flu vaccinations.

Pharmacist Ian comments: “Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and very accessible part of the NHS. 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 we help 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.”

During the visit Craig also discussed the NHS Long Term plan and heard how community pharmacy is eager that the Government and NHS make greater use of community pharmacists’ skills to support patients and the NHS. Craig also heard about some of the challenges that pharmacies are facing following NHS funding cuts to pharmacies, the wider impacts this could have on health and care services and the impact community pharmacy closures could have within local communities.

MP Craig Whittaker commented: “All NHS services are working harder than ever to manage the increasing demand for healthcare. 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. I have also heard the sector’s ambitions to radically enhance and expand the personalised care, support and wellbeing services that community pharmacies provide.

I am keen to ensure the Government works to develop community pharmacy services that meet the needs of both patients and health and social care services.”

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. They are offering a whole range of services and are keen to offer so much more.

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.”

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 11,000 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, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560 or 07718 192 287. Alternatively, email ruth@cpwy.org