**Local MP hears how valuable local pharmacies are**

Local pharmacists met this week with [insert MP/local councillors/other] to show them just how much their services are contributing to patients and wider society.

Although pharmacies are perhaps best known for dispensing medicines and offering advice on medicines and health, they also offer a range of services including advice on new medicines and provision of emergency contraception.

[possibly insert line on locally commissioned services]

The value of pharmacy services was recently analysed, with a study finding that nationally pharmacies contribute £3 billion to the NHS, public sector and wider society in England in 2015 through just 12 services.

This means that pharmacies deliver substantially more in benefits than they receive in compensation, providing excellent value to their local communities.

The study, which was carried out by accountancy company PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), looked at 12 key pharmacy services including managing drug shortages, managing prescribing errors and offering advice on minor ailments. The benefits of other pharmacy services not covered by the analysis, such as the NHS prescription service, can be seen as additional net benefits of community pharmacy.

The study demonstrates the value of community pharmacies at a crucial time, as the Department of Health considers proposals that could see substantially reduced investment in community pharmacies in the future.

**xxx, a local pharmacist, said** “This research sheds light on the importance of the work that pharmacists and their teams do for their patients, their neighbourhoods and the NHS on a day to day basis.

“Pharmacies in xxx provide key healthcare services which local people rely on, and now we know just how vital those services really are.”

**xxx, LPC representative, said** “Local pharmacies have finally been able to prove their value with the publication of PwC’s research. People using pharmacies in xxx were already aware of the benefits to their own lives, but now we can also clearly see the wider benefits and put a value on them.

We were really pleased to be able to share this report with xxx and to talk to them about community pharmacy and what we do. We hope the Department of Health will see the true value of community pharmacy and rethink their plans to reduce funding for these vital services.”

**Notes to Editor:**

* Copies of the report are available at [psnc.org.uk/valueofpharmacy](http://psnc.org.uk/valueofpharmacy).
* For further information or interviews please contact LPC representative (email address, phone number).

xxx Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) represents community pharmacy contractors (owners) in xxx.