

5. Write to your local MP about what your local community pharmacies mean to you

If you believe, like us, that community pharmacy offers an opportunity to not only improve standards of care for your residents but also relieve pressure on hard pressed local GPs and A&E departments, then we need your help to convince your MP.

We need Government to recognise that we are an ally and that what we have to offer is a sustainable and affordable solution to a growing problem.



For more information please contact: zoe.smeaton@psnc.org.uk

References

¹BMJ Open, *The positive pharmacy care law: an area-level analysis of the relationship between community pharmacy distribution, urbanity and social deprivation in England* (August 2014)

²Local Government Association, *The community pharmacy offer for improving the public's health: a briefing for local government and health and wellbeing boards* (March 2016)

³Department of Health, *Pharmacy in England Building on strengths- delivering the future* (April 2008)

⁴PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), *The value of community pharmacy* (September 2016)

⁵The NHS Information Centre's *Trends in Consultation Rates in General Practice* (2008) states the average patient has 5.5 GP consultations each year. However, reference 3 states that the average adult visits a pharmacy 13 times a year for health-related reasons.

⁶According to figures from reference 3 and NHS payment data, divided by the total number of community pharmacies in England (currently 11,650 according to PSNC records).

⁷IMS data showed there were 51.4m GP consultations for minor ailments alone in 2006-2007. PSNC modelling then assumed a 40% transfer rate after five years of such a service.

PSNC (the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) promotes and supports the interests of all NHS community pharmacies in England. We are recognised by the Secretary of State for Health as the body that represents NHS pharmacy contractors. We work with Local Pharmaceutical Committees to support their role as local NHS representative organisations.

To learn more about community pharmacy services and how they can help your local community, please visit: psnc.org.uk/councillors

Support Your Local Pharmacy Services: Ways you can support your local pharmacy



Community pharmacy teams work at the heart of the communities that Local Authorities serve. They interact with local people on a daily basis, offering advice and providing crucial health services and support to residents.

As a sector we are keen to do more by providing a wider range of clinical and public health services and helping to relieve pressure on GPs and A&E departments. Like Local Authorities, we face pressures on our funding, but we hope that we can work together to expand the services we offer for the benefit of local communities, patients and other healthcare providers.



89.2% of the population in England can walk to a community pharmacy within 20 minutes¹

Over 90% of pharmacies now have a private consultation room²



An estimated 1.6 million visits to community pharmacies take place daily³

Building better relationships between local community leaders and healthcare providers is essential if we are to make progress and to develop community pharmacy services for patients and local communities. The benefits of community pharmacy services could be significant.

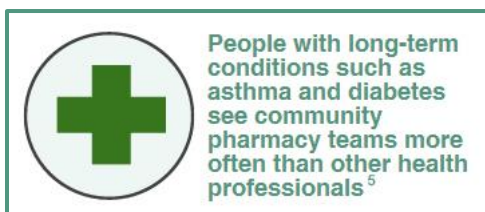


But we need your help to realise this potential. This help could come in a variety of different ways:

1. Learn more about what community pharmacy has to offer and share this knowledge

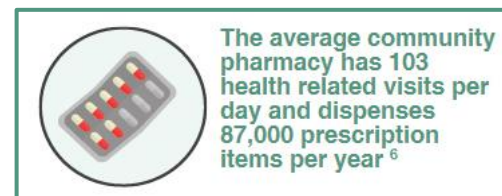
We have lots of information about what community pharmacy does in your community – email zoe.smeaton@psnc.org.uk for your copy. You can also sign up to our monthly 'Pharmacy in your community' emails at: psnc.org.uk/councillors

We also have information about our plans for the future, and how this might benefit your local community – you can find out more in the community pharmacy forward view – cpfv.info



2. Visit a local community pharmacy

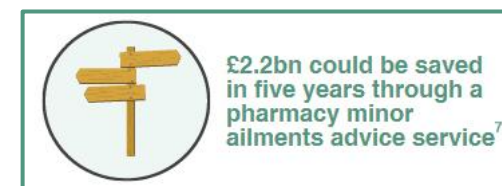
Your local pharmacy will usually welcome a visit from their local councillor. Contact your Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) if you would like to set this up. Find your nearest LPC by visiting lpc-online.org.uk



3. Build a relationship with your Local Pharmaceutical Committee

The LPC is your gateway to all the information you need about specific initiatives going on in your area. They should be your first point-of-call and are an amazing resource to tap if you want to find out more about what is going on in the wider primary care and public health agenda in your area.

If you leave your details with us at the stand, we'll pass these on to your local LPC, or you can find your nearest LPC by visiting: lpc-online.org.uk



4. Invite your LPC to speak to your next council meeting

We are eager to talk to councils about what pharmacy has to offer and we have found that presentations before the main council provide a good way of ensuring every local representative is equipped to signpost their residents to the wide range of services we have to offer.