DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING LOCAL COUNCILLOR VISIT

[insert date]

COUNCILLOR [insert name] TRIES

LOCAL PHARMACY [XX SERVICE] OUT FOR SIZE

[Add photograph if possible. Provide caption with names of those included]

[Insert Councillor name] has visited [insert pharmacy name] to hear about the work the team are doing to help residents in [location]. [insert Councillor name] also heard about some of the ways pharmacies are helping local residents to stay well.

During the visit [insert Councillor name] [insert activity as it took place e.g. discussed various services with the pharmacy team/ spoke to patients.]

In particular, pharmacist [insert name] was keen to tell them about how the pharmacy is [insert local text e.g. managing supply issues for patients/adapting to continue helping patients despite funding cuts/helping people who smoke to quit/other]. They also discussed the role of community pharmacy in taking pressure off other healthcare providers such as GPs and hospitals.

[Insert pharmacist name] comments: “Community pharmacy teams are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. We are the first port of call for healthcare for many people and our regular patients and the wider community really rely on us.

We provide much more than a great value dispensing service – we give people information, advice and interventions without the need to wait for an appointment. Many of the services we offer, such as home delivery, are a real help to some of the most vulnerable people in [insert location].”

[Insert LPC representative name] said: “[insert location] community pharmacies are much more than just places to get medicines. They provide a range of NHS services and ensure local people can get face-to-face professional healthcare advice without an appointment”

[request quote from Councillor – do not use a quote unless permission granted. Some will prefer a draft quote for them to sign off. If so suggested wording follows.]

[Name of Councillor] commented: “As the pressure on GP practices grows, more people are turning to pharmacies when they are feeling unwell or need healthcare advice. Community pharmacies are well placed to take on other roles, such as providing flu vaccinations and supporting people with long-term conditions like asthma and diabetes. I am keen to ensure the Council works to support pharmacies and the residents they serve.”

**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 14,000 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.

-ends-

[insert contact email and telephone number]