

## A BRIEFING ON PROPOSED CUTS TO PHARMACY IN DERBYSHIRE

Dear

Last December the Government announced proposals for community pharmacy, which include a national £170m reduction in funding in 2016/17. If the proposals go ahead as planned, a significant number of Derbyshire's 217 pharmacies may possibly withdraw some services or even close – something which would be likely to prove highly unpopular with the local population.

Under the proposals, key payments for pharmacies will be phased out, and there will be a drive towards a commoditised medicines supply service with an increased focus on warehouse dispensing and online services – a type of 'Amazon' operation which would remove the need for the local community pharmacy.

The national pharmacy organisations believe the proposals pose significant threats to patient care and the community pharmacy network, and have put forward constructive counter proposals. You may well have heard from constituents or been asked to sign a petition in support of community pharmacy. The petition reached 1 million signatures earlier this month and will be delivered to Downing Street later this month by patient representatives.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the national negotiating committee for community pharmacy contractors; unlike the BMA, it is not trade union. PSNC is in negotiations with the Department of Health and NHS England. It has now issued two sets of plans which would help the NHS to make savings and reduce pressure on other healthcare providers, as well as ensuring that public access to pharmacy services continues.

In March the Department of Health agreed to PSNC's request for it to extend the consultation on the proposals for community pharmacy until 24th May 2016.

Pharmacies, like GP practices, are businesses which are independent contractors to the NHS. If income falls, they can only survive by cutting costs. That could mean job losses, opening for fewer hours or cutting some services. If pharmacies still remain unviable, they will face closure. Attached is a brief factsheet about the community pharmacy network in Derbyshire, which I hope you will find informative. If you would like to visit a pharmacy in your constituency, I will be happy to facilitate this – just drop me an email.

I should also like to extend an invitation to you to a **Drop-in 'Speed Briefing' on the Future of Community Pharmacy for members, peers and their research staff, in the Wilson Room, Portcullis House on May 24<sup>th</sup> between 12.30pm and 3.00pm, hosted by Sir Kevin Barron MP and Michael Dugher MP.**

There will be an opportunity to have a health check from a qualified, front-line pharmacist and find out what is happening in pharmacy in your constituency. Pharmacists will also be demonstrating blood pressure and life style risk checks for Parliamentarians and their staff.

**Please contact [psnc@luther.co.uk](mailto:psnc@luther.co.uk) or 020 7618 9100 to register your interest or to find out more.**

Yours sincerely

*Graham Archer*

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