

# #VotePharmacy

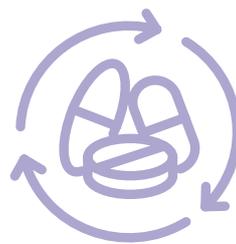


## A manifesto for community pharmacy

### *Making the most of pharmacies in the NHS - a local lifeline for patients*

Often the first port of call for advice and treatment, local pharmacies are a key part of community based health & social care. Pharmacies provide a range of NHS services and rely on the NHS for the vast majority of their income. With 1.6 million visits every day, local pharmacies play a vital role in taking pressure off GPs and hospitals. Community pharmacies have delivered billions of pounds worth of value to the NHS, public sector, patients and wider society by providing a variety of crucial services and interventions to support people's health and wellbeing.

We want greater recognition that community pharmacy is a solution to many longstanding problems in the NHS and for the new Government to act decisively to unlock the sector's huge potential. Investment in community pharmacy needs to be fair, adequate, secure and sustainable. The next Government must ensure that patients and the public continue to have safe access to medicines alongside professional advice from their local pharmacies.



**With the right support from Government, community pharmacies can do so much more to:**

#### Take pressure off GPs and hospitals

- By diverting millions of consultations to pharmacies.
- By making pharmacies fully integrated with other parts of the NHS, especially with emerging local healthcare networks.
- Pharmacies need to have full access to patient care records, with the patient's consent.

#### Tackle medicines waste and save the NHS money

- By making sure people get best use from their medicines - community pharmacists are experts in medicines and the most accessible healthcare professionals for the public.



## Help people with long term conditions

- Community pharmacists are ideally placed to play a leading role in identifying people with undiagnosed conditions, such as high blood pressure and diabetes.
- The Government needs to make greater use of community pharmacists' skills in managing patients with long term conditions.
- The Kings Fund called for full clinical medication reviews to take place in local pharmacies, utilising pharmacist prescribing.

## Make access to NHS care more convenient

- By commissioning more national public health services from pharmacies, such as a national stop smoking service.
- The NHS Health Check should be available from all pharmacies.
- Expand the range of vaccination services available from pharmacies.
- Pharmacies are already the most accessible part of the health service; your local pharmacy is one of the few places where you can simply walk in off the street and see a healthcare professional without an appointment.

## Help vulnerable people in deprived communities and reduce health inequalities

- No other part of the health service has such a high presence in poorer neighbourhoods. Pharmacies provide face-to-face contact with a healthcare professional in areas of high deprivation, where other health services may be unavailable.
- A national minor ailments service needs to be commissioned so everyone has access to the treatments they need from their local pharmacy.
- Removing prescription charges in England, in line with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, would help with this aim.

## Help people to stay healthy and reduce the burden of disease on our population and health services

- All this can only be achieved with the full support of the Government.

## Be the front door to health

- By providing easier access to lifestyle advice and support.
- The role of community pharmacies needs to be expanded so they become neighbourhood health and wellbeing centres.

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