

Media Release

For Immediate Release

4th March 2016

LOCAL MP RACHAEL MASKELL VISITS VALUED COMMUNITY ASSET: HER LOCAL PHARMACY



(Rachael Maskell MP for York Central with Martina Khan, Superintendent Pharmacist and Manager of the Priory Pharmacy, York)

Rachael Maskell, MP for York Central, visited the Priory Pharmacy, York, 11am, Friday 4th March 2016 to see the excellent work that community pharmacies do every day, and learn more about the tremendous social value they add to the community.

During the visit, Rachael Maskell had a tour of the pharmacy and saw all the different aspects to dispensing, compliance aids and interactions with the nursing homes that they serve. She also witnessed some examples of best practice plus the care and support that they provide for the community.

Martina Khan, the Superintendent Pharmacist and Manager at the Priory Pharmacy, said: “We are more than a great value dispensing service – we provide health information, advice and interventions. We do far more and the general public recognise and value it.

We are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. Community pharmacies are the closest point of access for many patients and build a strong relationship with their regular patients and the wider community.

As the examples below demonstrate, we are a trusted and very accessible part of primary care. Community pharmacies are the closest point of access for many patients and build a strong relationship with their regular patients and the wider community.”

Pharmacy case studies

1. One of our regular customers with special needs was noted by one of our staff to look ‘off colour’. One of our pharmacists spoke to him and realising that he looked jaundiced immediately contacted the surgery and arranged for a consultation. Within a few hours this customer was undergoing hospital investigations and subsequently he was successfully treated for cholestatic jaundice.
2. A gentleman came into the pharmacy asking for clotrimazole, a treatment used for thrush. After taking him into the consultation room he advised me that he had been suffering from this very regularly. On further investigation, we found out that he was type 1 diabetic. I advised him that his diabetes might not be well controlled if he is suffering from thrush, due to high sugar levels which prove favourable for bacteria to thrive. I referred him to his GP who then reviewed his treatment. Later on, the patient presented in the pharmacy with a new prescription for diabetic medication.

Rachael Maskell MP fully understands the added value that community pharmacies bring to the health service and the communities they serve. She commented: “Community pharmacies are the place many people turn to when feeling unwell or need advice, and we must encourage people to do so more as the pressure on GP appointments grows”. She further said “the role that community pharmacy plays in supporting patients is invaluable. Proposed government cuts to pharmacy services, will be deeply damaging. Instead, ministers should talk to pharmacists about how they can best make savings with schemes such as the medicine reviews, which have the potential to make huge savings and are safer for patients. The examples above clearly detail the valuable role they play within communities in my constituency York Central.”

About your local pharmacies

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-

Contact

Jack Davies, Chief Executive Officer of Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire

Tel: 01482 840749

Mob: 07813 135433

Email: jack.davies@cpny.co.uk