**PSNC’s template Call to Action press release for LPCs**

**People of xxxx asked for thoughts on their health service**

People in xxxx have been asked to tell the National Health Service (NHS) what health and wellbeing services they would like their local community pharmacies to offer in the future.

Across England, nearly one billion prescription medicines are dispensed for patients in pharmacies every year, but people in xxxx may also have had services such as advice on stopping smoking, access to emergency hormonal contraception, or help to take their medicines properly from their local pharmacies.

Pharmacies can also give advice on a whole range of non-serious health conditions and in some areas of England they can provide NHS health checks, flu vaccinations, advice on alcohol consumption and weight loss, all on the NHS, and generally without an appointment.

NHS England, the organisation who oversees health services including those provided by GP practices and local pharmacies, is now planning its strategy for the future of the health service and it is asking patients and others for their views on the services they would like to see in pharmacies.

People in xxxx can help by talking to their local pharmacy about the services they like and would support in the future, or they can email the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), which represents all pharmacies in the area on xxxx@xxxx. The Committee is interested in any good experiences patients have had in pharmacies and in any services you would like to see available in your local pharmacy.

You could also come along on xxxx when NHS England will be holding an event to listen to local people’s views on how the services that local pharmacies provide could be improved.

Xxxx , Chair of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) and a pharmacist in xxxx, said:

“People in xxxx may well know that their local pharmacy can give advice on medicines and non-serious health problems as well as dispensing prescriptions, but actually this is just the tip of the iceberg. Pharmacies could also advise you on matters such as stopping smoking or losing weight; they can help people to look after their health correctly; and in some areas they can even give NHS flu vaccinations to patients who find it difficult to get to their GP practice.

We believe that all of this could make a huge difference in xxxx, giving people easier access to more health services, right on their doorsteps.

If you agree, and you would like to see your local pharmacy offering you more healthcare without an appointment, then please do contact us so we can make sure NHS England gets your message and makes it happen.”