

PSNC WELCOMES MINISTER’S DIRECTION TO PROGRESS NEGOTIATIONS ON SAVING MILLIONS FOR THE NHS

26 July - Earl Howe cautioned that pharmacy will be asked to do “more for the same, or less” at the All-Party Pharmacy Group’s first meeting of this parliamentary term, whilst reiterating his commitment to driving forward an expansion of pharmacy services. With a mind to capitalising on pharmacy’s full potential, the Minister announced that he is asking PSNC to continue its talks with NHS Employers around developing pharmacy services, such as support for people with a long-term condition newly prescribed a medicine. The minister also spoke of the need to pay for performance, and his long-held recognition that pharmacy could do much more, a view echoed by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley in a live Q+A session last Friday.

Responding to the announcement, PSNC Chief Executive Sue Sharpe said:

“Every section of the NHS is being asked to deliver more with less –and pharmacy is not being exempted from the need to find economies. But whilst this is undoubtedly a challenge, the government’s policy provides a tremendous opportunity to prove that we can offer high quality, patient-centred services at a lower cost than other providers.

“Earl Howe’s words this week confirm the need for pharmacy to find cost efficiencies, but he also demonstrated the Government’s recognition that better use of pharmacy can do much to address the financial challenges that the NHS faces. We welcome the Minister’s acknowledgement that by supporting more effective use of medicines pharmacies can simultaneously deliver value and improve outcomes. The First Prescription Service is one way pharmacy can provide the sustained support patients need to make effective use of their medicines - ensuring they achieve their intended clinical outcomes and do not add to the hundreds of millions a year that medicine wastage currently costs the Health Service.

“PSNC will progress negotiations with NHSE as swiftly and productively as possible. In this climate, a sustained and concerted effort will be required to make the case for investment, but we will fight to ensure that community pharmacy is sufficiently resourced to realise its full cost-saving potential.”

~Ends~

Notes to Editor

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.

*For further information please contact the PSNC press office
on 0207 618 9187 or at psnc@luther.co.uk.*