

**PSNC WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF EARL HOWE AS MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PHARMACY**

**May 21** – Medicines and pharmacy will fall under the Ministerial portfolio of Earl Howe, the Department of Health announced yesterday. In his position as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Quality, Earl Howe will also take responsibility for primary care and NHS commissioning reform.

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

“On behalf of PSNC, I would like to congratulate Earl Howe on his appointment. We have worked with him on a number of issues in recent years, and are confident that he will be a strong advocate for community pharmacy within the Department of Health. He has lengthy experience in the health sector, and fully recognises pharmacy’s capacity to expand the range of services it provides. As the NHS adapts to cope with significant funding pressure, community pharmacy has huge potential to help NHS organisations deliver more with less. We look forward to working with Earl Howe to ensure this potential is effectively harnessed.”

**~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  
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