

PSNC RESPONDS TO ANDY BURNHAM'S SPEECH ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

05 February – On the 2 February, Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham made a speech on health and wellbeing at the Demos think tank.

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

“I was delighted to see Andy Burnham so strongly endorse a preventive approach to improving public health. As trusted, accessible health professionals working at the heart of their communities, pharmacists have huge potential to improve public health and wellbeing. They are capable of providing stop smoking and weight management programmes, sexual-health screening, and substance misuse services. They are also an ideal provider of NHS Health Checks, with middle aged men being far more likely to visit a pharmacy than other NHS service providers. In some areas, they are already providing these services.

“At PSNC’s recent question time event, Mike O’Brien, the minister for pharmacy, strongly endorsed an expansion of pharmacy’s role in improving public health. However, community pharmacists in many areas of the country are being held back by inadequate PCT commissioning. All three parties have work to do in setting out practical, realistic steps to improve pharmacy service commissioning. Patients should no longer be deprived of access to services with indisputable benefit to all communities”.

~Ends~

1. The full text of Andy Burnham’s speech on the 2 February can be found here: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Speeches/DH_111794.
2. 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.*