

Notice of Motion to Council

Title: Support for Community Pharmacies

Background Text / Context: Community Pharmacies perform a vital, cost effective role in the health of areas like Havant. There are now just 11,000 community chemists operating in England – the lowest number since 2015.

Millions of people and families rely on their local pharmacies for over-the-counter everyday medicines, regular prescriptions and reassuring advice on a walk-in basis. For those with especially busy or difficult lives, pharmacies are often the closest and most accessible place to get health advice. For those who may struggle to engage with appointment-only services, a chance pop-in can save lives.

Community pharmacies in Havant are a vital part of our local health services and our high streets. Community pharmacies can improve people's health and reduce pressure on NHS hospitals and GPs. With many local residents finding it more difficult to get face to face GP appointments, and other health services stretched beyond breaking point, it is more important than ever that the Government supports community pharmacies to ensure medicines, clinical services and medical advice can be accessed locally.

The most recent data for Havant shows that every month community pharmacies process 131,310 prescriptions for local people in the Havant constituency. However, since 2016, 3 pharmacies have been closed in Havant Constituency and 4 in the area of Meon Valley that falls within our Borough. That is a 20% reduction, putting immense pressure on pharmacies that are already stretched with increased patient demand, rising operational costs and reduced Government support.

The Motion:

Members are requested to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to;

- a) Request urgent emergency funding to keep pharmacies in Havant open, and reverse closures where they are needed.
- b) Empower local fully qualified pharmacists with greater prescribing rights and public health advisory responsibilities, to prevent costly and avoidable hospital admissions and free up GP time to focus on more urgent requests.
- c) Develop a long-term plan for pharmacy services to put them on a sustainable financial footing, building on the 'Pharmacy First' approach in Scotland.
- d) Conduct a government review of the pressures facing pharmacies in England to assess the impact of pharmacy closures.

Proposed by: Cllr Philippa Gray

Seconded by: Cllr Gilliam Harris

Date Submitted: 13 November 2023