

## **Norman Lamb MP visits community pharmacy in Norfolk**

- Liberal Democrat health spokesperson witnesses key patient services first hand

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009

Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health Norman Lamb MP today visited a community pharmacy located in the town of Mundesley, in his constituency of North Norfolk. Mr Lamb met with staff, patients and members of the public, as well as local media.

The visit was co-ordinated by the All-Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group, a body of parliamentarians led by Dr Howard Stoate MP that raises awareness of pharmacy and promotes its current and potential contribution to the health of the nation. The Group arranged the visit having hosted a private meeting earlier in the year between Mr Lamb and representatives of the leading pharmacy bodies.

Mr Lamb was met by owners Lyndon and Dee Whyatt, as well as Superintendent Pharmacist Emma Saunders, at the Coastal Pharmacy in Mundesley. The pharmacy offers a wide range of services including MURs, advice on smoking cessation, and emergency hormonal contraception. Mr Lamb was able to see firsthand the growing contribution community pharmacies make to the health and well-being of the local community.

Dr Howard Stoate MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group which arranged the visit said,

‘This visit was important in demonstrating how keen the profession is to take on new services. I am delighted that Norman has taken the time to see the important role that pharmacy is playing in promoting good health, and delivering vital services in the areas in which they operate’.

Norman Lamb MP said,

‘Community pharmacy is an increasingly important resource in advancing primary care services in the UK. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of the staff that I met today, and the invaluable role they play within the community’.

‘Government proposals have outlined the roll-out of new services to community pharmacy. My visit today has demonstrated that the profession is well placed to take on these new challenges’

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The All-Party Pharmacy Group was formed in December 1999 – please visit the Groups website for further details at [www.appg.org.uk](http://www.appg.org.uk)

For further information please contact Toby Pellew at Luther Pendragon on 0207 618 9100 or email [tobyp@luther.co.uk](mailto:tobyp@luther.co.uk)