

Council Meeting 12 September 2016**Motions****Motion 1 - Local Pharmacies****Proposed by Councillor Simon Wales, Seconder TBA**

This Council recognises that local pharmacies provide a range of NHS services and ensures people can get face-to-face, healthcare professional advice without an appointment and that currently 96% of people can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes making them a health and social care asset close to where people live, work and shop.

This Council is therefore extremely disappointed that the Department of Health (DH) proposed budget cuts of £170m nationally to take effect from December 2016 which could mean a cut of 12% during the financial year and lead to the loss of up to a quarter of pharmacies, putting extra pressure on GPs and hospitals

This Council believes that the Government should invest in frontline, community-based care and ensure that its plans for pharmacies will:

1. maintain patient choice, by encouraging a vibrant network of local pharmacies
2. ensure that people can continue to get face-to-face, professional advice without an appointment about medicines and health
3. increase opportunities for health improvement interventions, such as stop smoking advice
4. safeguard the interests of the most vulnerable people and populations; and reduce health inequalities
5. ensure a resilient medicines supply system, so that patients can get their medicines when and where they need them

This Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.

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