

A message from your Community Pharmacy Lancashire Chairman

We have always been incredibly proud of the way our pharmacy teams have provided excellent service to all the communities across our footprint of Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire. Especially so over recent years where despite the consequences of a financial imposition we have had forced upon us, you and your team have continued to go above and beyond for your patients, providing increasing numbers of services alongside a growing contractual governance burden.

In this last couple of weeks however, the levels of bravery, resilience, compassion and dedication shown by every single team member right throughout what now feels like our big community pharmacy family, is nothing short of inspirational.

Our pharmacy teams throughout the country have acted almost as if it was an honour and privilege to be the only remaining, wholly accessible provider of primary care services. I have lost count of the numbers of stories of colleagues in all roles who are cancelling annual leave, days off, coming in early, staying late and foregoing anything resembling appropriate rest periods.

It has been equally heart-warming to see many examples of how pharmacy as a whole is demonstrating a true camaraderie and support for one another in the spirit of providing uninterrupted high quality pharmacy services to our patients. Please do continue to support one another, in your own direct teams and further afield, this kindness will go a long way to supporting us all through what is going to be a lengthy and extremely challenging period.

Despite what feels like a wholesale lack of acknowledgement from those outside of pharmacy, I have no doubt you will continue to provide the incredible levels of service to your communities, and you do not need any encouragement to do so. But please do accept my heartfelt thank you for all that you are doing. I cannot put into words how proud I am of all our pharmacy teams in our footprint . We will get our communities through this, and the decision makers will simply have no choice but to accept, applaud, respect and value that Community Pharmacy was at the very heart of NHS services throughout this traumatic period, as it always has been before, and always will be in the future.

Lastly, I would just like to reassure you that Community Pharmacy Lancashire is working tirelessly behind the scenes to provide you with the support and guidance that you need, in what is a rapidly evolving challenge. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any specific query or concern, nothing is too big or small, we are all in this together.

Please do take care of yourselves and one another.

Mike Ball
Chair
Community Pharmacy Lancashire