Role of Community Pharmacists in improving Health and Wellbeing

1.0 Summary

1.1 Councillors have asked for a report on community pharmacists and how they can play more of a role in the community, how their role in delivering health services can best be utilised and how different elements of the Health Service work with pharmacists in the borough.

1.2 The report makes the case that community pharmacies in the UK have a huge potential to tackle health inequalities but that these are being under-utilised. It argues that community pharmacies can contribute to Out of Hospital Care and reduce the number of inappropriate visits to health services including A&E departments.

1.3 The report outlines possible ways that community pharmacies could contribute to the Brent Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15 and claims that the commissioning of NHS minor ailment schemes and implementation of an electronic prescription service will each free up capacity in GP services by up to 20%.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the report and question representatives from Brent and Harrow Local Pharmaceutical Committee on its recommendations.

Contact Officers

Mark Burgin
Policy and Performance Officer
Tel – 020 8937 5029
Email – andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk

Phil Newby
Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement
Tel – 020 8937 1032
Email – phil.newby@brent.gov.uk