

May 2026

Dear MP

Introducing the Community Pharmacy Manifesto: A Vision for Greater Manchester

I'm delighted to share with you CPGM's Community Pharmacy Manifesto: A Vision for Greater Manchester. Our manifesto documents outline our strategic roadmap for leveraging community pharmacies to improve population health, tackle health inequalities, and relieve mounting pressures on the wider NHS system in Greater Manchester.

Our Key Achievements and Neighbourhood Support

Community pharmacies are the beating heart of local healthcare and the true "front door" of the NHS with a powerful network of 620 pharmacies in Greater Manchester situated within a 20-minute walk of all residents. Our pharmacy teams are highly accessible and trusted by the public, currently providing 4.32 million unfunded walk-in consultations and saving 2.31 million GP appointments annually across the region. We also safely dispense 67 million prescription items a year. [Read about how local pharmacies have aided early intervention with hypertension and increased uptake amongst patients with vaccine hesitancy.](#)

Additionally as accredited Healthy Living Pharmacies, we are already actively supporting local neighbourhoods and the GM Live Well programme. We connect individuals to community-based wellbeing initiatives, support lifestyle and health promotion, and provide holistic, culturally sensitive care that reaches underserved populations. [Read about how we've been supporting this programme.](#)

How We Can Support Local Communities in the Future

Pharmacists and their teams including our Pharmacy Technicians remain an underutilised asset. The enclosed GM Manifestos details how, when correctly resourced and empowered, we can provide wider support to help residents live well, prevent ill health, and meet the specific needs of patients through five key priorities:

- **Expanding Minor Illness Support:** By broadening the Pharmacy First service to include more conditions, a walk-in service, and locally commissioned minor illness support, we aim to support a further 2.37 million patients annually.

- **Preventing Ill Health (CVD & Obesity):** We aim to provide targeted screening for cardiovascular disease risk factors to the 446,080 eligible patients in GM who have missed recent health checks. We also propose delivering an NHS-commissioned weight management programme with medication supply and behaviour change interventions to tackle the £3.21 billion local cost of obesity.
- **A Broader Range of Vaccinations:** Building on our success delivering over 42 million COVID-19 vaccinations nationally, we aim to expand to routine childhood vaccinations, RSV, shingles, and pneumonia to address shortfalls in coverage.
- **Supporting Long-Term Conditions:** With all pharmacy graduates qualifying as Independent Prescribers from 2026, we will have the workforce to deliver structured medication reviews and reduce hospital admissions, particularly for the 100,000+ residents living with respiratory conditions who do not currently receive adequate care.

Working Together to Realise Our Potential

To make this vision a reality, we require collaborative action from our system partners, including sustainable multi-year investment, standardisation of locally commissioned services across Greater Manchester, and full read and write access to shared clinical records. The development of our Pharmacists as Independent Prescribers, Pharmacy technicians and the wider team is central to achieving this ambition.

I encourage you to read the documents attached to understand our key achievements and how we are currently supporting neighbourhoods and the GM Live Well programme. Further resources including key messages and a detailed report can be found on our [website](#).

I look forward to collaborating with you to ensure patients receive faster, more convenient support right in the heart of their local communities. Together, we can explore how we can support our local communities in the future to help our residents live well, prevent ill health, and provide wider support as per the specific needs of the patient.

I'd welcome the opportunity to meet you to discuss the Manifestos in more detail and arrange a visit to one of your local pharmacies. I can be contacted at luvjit@cpgm.org.uk

Best wishes,

Luvjit Kandula FRPharmS

Director of Strategy and Transformation, CPGM (On behalf of Community Pharmacy Greater Manchester)

Chair, GM Primary Care Board (PCB) and Community Pharmacy Provider Board (CPPB)