



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

## **Pharmaceutical Society Welcome CMO Praise for Pharmacy**

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, today paid tribute to the contribution of pharmacists in promoting better health in their communities.

In a special three-page section of his annual report, the Chief Medical Officer said pharmacies *“are often seen as the open door to the health service providing accessible advice and services for the public, healthy and sick alike, without the need for an appointment”*.

The CMO highlighted the growing roles of pharmacy in: providing minor ailments services to patients (such as treatments for colds, hay fever and athlete’s foot); helping people to manage complicated drug therapies through Medicines Management Services; and, leading ground-breaking community projects such as a public health education programme with street drinkers in L/Derry.

Raymond Anderson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland commented: “We are delighted that the Chief Medical Officer recognises that the pharmacy profession is at the heart of meeting tomorrow’s health challenges and we look forward to working with his policy team in the years ahead to ensure Northern Ireland keeps up with the many exciting reforms taking place within pharmacy around the world”.

**Ends**

## Editor's notes

1. The CMO's annual report is available here:  
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/cmo-annual-report-2007.pdf>
2. On average, a pharmacy in Northern Ireland serves: 110 people with diabetes; 200 people with asthma; 410 people with hypertension; 30 people with cancer; 230 people with depression; 280 people with obesity; 50 pregnant women; and, 320 people over 70 years of age
3. 99% of people in Northern Ireland say they are very satisfied with the service they receive from their community pharmacy.
4. 123,000 people visit a pharmacy every day in Northern Ireland



***Raymond Anderson, President of the  
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland***

For further information please contact Mark  
Neale, Head of Public Affairs at the  
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, on  
02890 267932 or 07854 004884  
[mark.neale@psni.org.uk](mailto:mark.neale@psni.org.uk)