



Businesses are closing due to pharmacy funding crisis

Description

Pharmacies in Northern Ireland are facing a funding crisis that is impacting their ability to provide essential services to residents. Siobhan McNulty, who runs Melvin Pharmacy in Garrison, County Fermanagh, spoke out about the challenges they are facing. She mentioned that they are dispensing prescription medicines at a loss and rely on sales of makeup and gifts to cover the costs.

The funding crisis has led to the closure of almost a dozen pharmacies in the past 18 months, according to Community Pharmacy NI. Joe McAleer, who runs pharmacies in Belcoo and Enniskillen, highlighted the impact of the crisis on patients. He mentioned that pharmacies can no longer afford to stock the volume of medicines they used to and patients are having to make multiple trips to collect their prescriptions.

The situation has become so dire that pharmacies are struggling to cover basic operational costs such as rates, utility bills, and staff wages. Many pharmacists have had to cut back on staff hours and increase their overdrafts just to stay afloat. The reliance on sales from non-essential items like beauty products to fund essential medicines is unsustainable, according to Mr. McAleer.

As the funding crisis continues to worsen, residents are starting to feel the impact. With pharmacies closing down, older people in the community who rely on these services are left without options. The Department of Health has acknowledged the challenges facing the community pharmacy sector and has pledged to increase core funding to support better health outcomes.

Despite these efforts, pharmacists are calling for more substantial investments and resources to ensure the sustainability of their services. The future of community pharmacies in Northern Ireland hangs in the balance as they struggle to stay afloat in the face of mounting financial pressures.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Funding crisis** // (noun): A situation where there is a severe lack of financial resources leading to difficulties in providing necessary services.
2. **Dispensing** // (verb): The action of preparing and giving out prescribed medications.
3. **Sustainability** // (noun): The capacity to maintain or continue operations over a long period without depleting resources or causing severe harm to the environment or society.
4. **Operational costs** // (noun): The expenses incurred in the day-to-day running of a business or organization including costs related to utilities, wages, and rent.
5. **Core funding** // (noun): The essential or primary financial support provided to an organization or sector to ensure its basic functions and sustainability.
6. **Mounting financial pressures** // (noun phrase): Increasing and intensifying challenges or demands related to financial matters.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which infectious disease is commonly known as the flu?

Option: Avian influenza

Option: Influenza

Option: Pathogenic disease

Option: Cancer

2. What term describes the process of passing something from one person to another?

Option: Synthesis

Option: Transcription

Option: Infection

Option: Transmission

3. What is the goal of maintaining a good level of physical health and well-being?

Option: Muscle Mass

Option: Sustainability

Option: Fitness



Option: Core funding

4. Which term refers to a type of cancer that begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs?

- Option: Proliferation
- Option: Carcinoma
- Option: Alarming
- Option: Aggressive

5. What is the act of preparing and giving out medication called?

- Option: Medication
- Option: Interventions
- Option: Funding crisis
- Option: Dispensing

6. Who is a person or company that makes goods for sale?

- Option: Speculation
- Option: Manufacturer
- Option: Operational costs
- Option: Surveillance

7. What term is used when a disease or illness is identified by its signs and symptoms?

- Option: Implications
- Option: Uncover
- Option: Diagnosed
- Option: Achieve

8. What biological process involves combining simple substances to form more complex substances?

- Option: Achieve
- Option: Cellular
- Option: Synthesis
- Option: Manufacturing

9. What is the term for preserving something in its existing state or condition?

- Option: Maintain
- Option: Mounting financial pressures
- Option: Aggressive
- Option: Retired

10. What term describes a substance used to treat or prevent disease?

- Option: Medication
- Option: Proliferation
- Option: Alarming



Option: Retired

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The organization faced a _____ due to lack of financial resources.
12. It is essential to secure _____ to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.
13. The company struggled to cover its _____ as expenses continued to rise.
14. The business was under significant strain due to _____.
15. His primary goal was to _____ a high level of physical fitness.
16. The recent increase in pollution levels is _____ and requires immediate attention.
17. The rapid _____ of online shopping has transformed the retail industry.
18. The investigation aims to _____ the truth behind the mysterious disappearance.
19. The discovery of new evidence has significant _____ for the ongoing case.
20. The doctor recommended a series of medical _____ to manage the patient's condition.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. It is important to consider the _____ of our actions to ensure a better future for the planet.
22. The company adopted an _____ marketing strategy to expand its market share quickly.
23. _____ respiration is the process of converting glucose into energy within cells.
24. After working for decades Jane decided to _____ and enjoy her retirement.
25. The stock market is often subject to wild swings based on investor _____.
26. Regular exercise helps maintain healthy _____ and strength.



27. Public health agencies conduct to monitor the spread of infectious diseases.
28. The automotive industry experienced a boom in output last quarter.
29. With hard work and dedication she was able to her lifelong dream of becoming a published author.
30. Early detection is crucial in improving survival rates for patients with .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Influenza 2. Transmission 3. Fitness 4. Carcinoma 5. Dispensing 6. Manufacturer
7. Diagnosed 8. Synthesis 9. Maintain 10. Medication

Gap-Fill: 11. Funding crisis 12. Core funding 13. Operational costs 14. Mounting financial pressures 15.
Achieve 16. Alarming 17. Proliferation 18. Uncover 19. Implications 20. Interventions

Matching sentence: 1. Sustainability 2. Aggressive 3. Cellular 4. Retired 5. Speculation 6. Muscle Mass
7. Surveillance 8. Manufacturing 9. Achieve 10. Cancer

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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